

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
June 25th, 2023
Fourth Sunday After Pentecost



Preparation: “As creatures, we were never meant to imagine ourselves displaced. We are never meant to imagine ourselves as simply floating on top of the ground without any connection to it. To be connected to a place is crucial in order to see the possibilities of a deep ethic of belonging. A sense that what happens in this place, this city, this town, this community matters to me. What happens in this place affects me. In order to make that kind of ethic clear, we have to work against alienation, displacement.” -- Rev. Dr. Willie James Jennings

Prelude

Cantilena

Charity Boyles

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Invitation to our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship

Ewen Todd, Liturgist

One: We give praise to our God who gathers us as one people.

All: We delight in our God who has mercy upon us.

One: We seek to be one with refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants.

All: Clear our eyes that we may see the sufferings of displaced people.

One: We welcome those whose lives have been dislocated by war, famine and injustice.

All: Open our ears that we may hear the cries of those deep in despair.

One: We express our solidarity with all who search for a new life, a new home, a new promise.

All: Loosen our tongues that we might speak words of hope.

One: Give us open hearts that we may be truly welcoming to new neighbors in our midst.

All: God remind us that through our acts of hospitality we are restored to you.

* **Hymn** #761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service, vs. 1-4

[Beecher]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Creative and loving God, you have searched us out and known us and all that we are is open to you. It is in the confidence of your love for us, that we confess together:

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have put up walls between ourselves and you, closing our hearts to your gifts. We have put up walls between ourselves and our neighbors, giving in to fear, ignorance, and arrogance. We have failed to respect the gifts of all your peoples and have denied dignity to ourselves and to each other. Forgive us for what we have done to hurt others. Forgive us. Give us your blessing and help. Let us walk in your great love; through the great peacemaker, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

All: Thanks be to God: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: As a forgiven people, let us greet each other, sharing the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you. *Please greet your fellow worshippers in ways you feel comfortable.*

*** Act of Praise #581***Gloria Patri***Children's Sermon**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Children's Worship Experience

Children ages 3-8 may depart for the Children's Worship Experience in the Chapel after the Children's Sermon. Leaders: Trudy Sturk & Sophia Juarez

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scriptures

Ruth 1:1-5, 7-8, 14-22; 4:13-17

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon*Belonging: Extending Family*

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Affirmation of Faith (adapted from *The Immigrant's Creed* by José Luis Casa) (in unison)

I believe in Almighty God, who guided the people in exile and in exodus, the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon, the God of foreigners and immigrants.

I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean, who was born away from his people and his home, who fled his country with his parents when his life was in danger, and returning to his own country suffered the oppression of the tyrant Pontius Pilate, the servant of a foreign power. Jesus was persecuted, beaten, and finally tortured, accused and condemned to death unjustly. But on the third day, this scorned Jesus rose from the dead, not as a foreigner but to offer us citizenship in heaven.

Special Music*Come, Ye Disconsolate*

Rob Gardner

Dr. Colleen Chester, soloist

*Come, ye disconsolate, wher-e'er ye languish.**Come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel.**Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish;**Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.*

*Joy of the desolate, light of the straying,
Hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure!
Here speaks the comforter, tenderly saying,
“Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot cure.”*

*There is hope and joy in its pastures,
There is life and light in its stores,
There is peace and love in its meadows,
There is healing on its shores!*

*There is peace and love in its teachings.
There is comfort in its words.
Here see the bread of life; see waters flowing.
Flow from the throne of God, pure from above.*

*Come to the feast of love; come ever knowing
Earth has no sorrow but heaven can remove.
Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.*

Minute for Service

Church Library

Kathi Cook

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

arr: Emma Lou Diemer

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

Ewen Todd, Liturgist

The Lord’s Prayer “...forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors...”

*** Hymn #769**

For Everyone Born, vs. 1, 2, 3, 5

*** Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Go Forth In Faith

Franklin Ritter

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

** Please rise in body or spirit*

This Morning’s Fellowship Team: *Thank you to Kent Workman for supplying snacks and to Edward Ennen for preparing coffee.*

Ushers: *The Juarez Family*

Adult Education: *There is no Adult Ed this morning nor on Sunday, July 2. Please enjoy a time of fellowship after the service.*

Next Week's Scripture: Mark 5:1-20

The Call to Worship is adapted from the World Refugee Day Call to Worship from Church World Service. <https://worshipwords.co.uk/world-refugee-day-call-to-worship-church-world-service-usa/>
The Prayer of Confession, the Affirmation of Faith and Prayer of Illumination are adapted from the PC(USA) *Book of Common Worship*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2018.

You are in an active recording environment, and your likeness may be captured in photographs and videos. By entering, you acknowledge giving consent to The Presbyterian Church of Okemos to take, own and use images containing your likeness at its sole discretion in perpetuity. If you do not wish to convey this consent, please contact a staff member immediately.

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

2258 Bennett Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864

(517) 349-9536

Website: <https://okemospres.org>

Email: office@okemospres.org

<https://twitter.com/okemospres>

<https://facebook.com/OkemosPresbyterian>



Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott, Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Rebekah Anderson, Associate Pastor

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

Dr. Colleen Chester, Choir Director

Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director

Edward Ennen, Sexton

Anna Thiel, Office Manager