

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
August 13, 2023
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost



Preparation: “It is part of faith to strive, to struggle, to wrestle, to get dusty. ... It is both our gift and our responsibility as complex creatures to stay awhile in unresolved places and question whether there is a deeper and more complicated truth - or multiple truths - to be discovered and held and honored.” --
Rev. Layton E. Williams

Prelude

Prelude on *Duke Street*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Setting by Michael Burkhardt

Invitation to our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship

Matt Pearson, Liturgist

One: We gather here in anticipation,

All: seeking an encounter with our Holy God,

One: who comes among us when we least expect it,

All: who invites us to wrestle with our questions and doubts,

One: who richly blesses us,

All: and calls us each by name. Let's worship God together!

* Hymn #846

Fight the Good Fight, vs. 1-4
[Duke Street]

Prayer of Confession

Matt Pearson, Liturgist

One: God makes no distinctions among us—the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous. Indeed, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved as we depend on God's generosity and grace. Let us confess our sins in the presence of the One who blesses us and meets our need.

All: God of compassion, you are the God of present trouble and promised triumph. And yet too often we find ourselves wrestling all night with worry instead of resting in you. We have relied on our own capacities instead of awakening to yours. We have turned away those hungry for your help instead of trusting you and feeding them from your limitless supply of blessings. Forgive us, heal us, and help us to hold on to you. Open our eyes to see you in the midst of our struggles. Open our ears to hear your words of invitation and assurance. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel

Matt Pearson, Liturgist

One: The God of steadfast love is our refuge and Savior. In Christ, we who are broken are healed, forgiven, filled, and transformed.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia. Amen!

Passing of the Peace

Matt Pearson, Liturgist

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

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Spirit God, in you we have dwelled with God throughout all generations. In you we come home— to rest, to wrestle, to love, to be loved. Circle our hearts, center our minds, still our bodies and be present to us now. Speak to us through the holy words of scripture. Amen.

Scripture

Genesis 32:22-31

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

Wrestling

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Special Music

He Will Hold Me Fast

Matthew Merker, Ada R. Habershon

Amira Coleman, mezzo soprano

Jean Sibelius

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail,
He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold
Through life’s fearful path;
For my love is often cold;
He must hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight,
Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight,
He will hold me fast.
He’ll not let my soul be lost;
His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost,
He will hold me fast.

For my life He bled and died,
Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied,
He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life,
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight,
When he comes at last!

*He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.*

Refrain

Refrain

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

Arioso

James H. Rogers

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

Matt Pearson, Liturgist

The Lord's Prayer "...forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors..."

* **Hymn #684**

Faith Begins by Letting Go, vs. 1-3
[Lux Prima]

* **Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Go Forth in Faith
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Franklin Ritter

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

Ushers: Jeff & Michele Arbour

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Shirley Rumminger and Mickey Martin for supplying snacks and to Edward Ennen for preparing the coffee.

Adult Education: Pastor Lisa will conclude the study on the book of Revelation. We will consider chapters 17-22 and discuss how this book applies to our life today.

Next Week's Scripture: Romans 12:1-8

Next Week's Adult Education: The Adult Education Committee will be doing a brainstorming session on topics for the next year. Please add your voice to the conversation.

The Call to Worship is by the Rev. Christine Longhurst. It can be found at re:Worship online at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/07/call-to-worship-genesis-32.html>. The Prayer of Confession and Assurance of the Gospel are adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A*, Volume 2; Westminster John Knox Press. 2014.

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