

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
August 20, 2023
Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost



Preparation: “We too are chosen not *instead of*, but *for the sake of* the world’s outsiders. We are chosen not to *escape from* a godless and godforsaken world with all of its sinfulness and suffering, but to be *sent into it and live for it*. ... We are chosen so that those who are excluded from the benefits of God’s loving justice and just love may be included. For we too are chosen not to be served, but to serve, to take up our crosses as we follow the Chosen One of God who was crucified because he cared for all of the wrong people.” - Theologian the Rev. Dr. Shirley C. Guthrie

Prelude

Antiphon III

Marcel Dupré

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Invitation to our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship

Kent Workman, Liturgist

One: Come and worship, proclaim God's ways of faithfulness and steadfast love.

All: We will tell of God's love, which unfolds in our lives.

One: Come and worship, for we are God's people, rejoicing in God's graciousness.

All: God is always with us, there is nothing which can keep us apart.

One: Come to the One who tells stories and who invites us to share our stories.

All: We come to worship our God who is with us always.

* **Hymn #749**

Come! Live in the Light!, vs. 1-3

[We Are Called]

Prayer of Confession

Kent Workman, Liturgist

One: It is not our past which keeps us from God, for that is behind us. It is not our present, for God is with us on this day. And our future is held tight in God's hands. It is true - there is absolutely nothing which can separate us from God. Whatever sins we have committed, God's forgiveness and love take them away forever. Join me as we pray together, saying,

All: What can we say about our foolish lives, God of Love? Too often, we choose to worship power when we could serve others in humility. We toss and turn at night, all those things over which we have no control keeping us wide awake, when we could turn them over to you. For believing that our sins are more powerful than your mercy, forgive us. You cast out your net of grace so that all might be gathered into your kingdom and know they belong to you. Your Spirit carries the whispers of our hearts to you, and we are embraced with your hope, blessed with your love through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Promise of the Gospel

Kent Workman, Liturgist

One: Who has the right to judge us? Only Christ. Yet Christ died for us, Christ was raised for us, Christ reigns in power over us - Christ even prays for us!

All: This is the love which binds us to God forever. There is nothing in this world, or beyond, which will keep us from being God's children. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Kent Workman, 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

Westin Sorrel, Chancel Choir Director

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Holy God, you have made us in your image, and we belong to you alone. Nothing can separate us from your love, which was made manifest in your son Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit. May the Spirit open us to your Word so we may embrace the love and grace you pour out on us and respond with gratitude and service. Amen.

Scripture

Romans 8: 26-39

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

Belonging to God: Chosen and Called for a Purpose

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Affirmation of Faith Question 1 from the Heidelberg Catechism

(in unison)

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way to that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Special Music

Morceau De Concours

Anabel Hulme Brieff

Cari Cravotta, flutist

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, pianist

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

Pavane

Gabriel Fauré, arr: David Paxton

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Kent Workman,, Liturgist

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

* **Hymn #293**

Loving Spirit, vs. 1-5
[Omni Die]

* **Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Dialogue Sur Les Mixtures
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Jean Langlois

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

Ushers: Morrie & Barbara Hoevel, Ron & Barbara Dorr

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to the Parish Life Committee for supplying the birthday cake and to the Worship and Music Committee for supplying a welcome cake for Westin. Thank you also to Edward Ennen for preparing the coffee.

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.

Next Week: We welcome the Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan to PCO. Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence will be preaching on John 14:1-3. During the Adult Education hour she will be sharing her experiences of serving on the PC(USA) Special Committee on Racism, Truth, and Reconciliation.

Stewardship Note: As of July 31, 2023 the General Fund Balance for the operating budget stood at a healthy \$92,118. Giving as of July totaled \$277,362, (62% of the budgeted giving of \$446,470). The Stewardship Committee wishes to thank the congregation for its continued support of our staff, property, programs and mission giving.

The Call to Worship, The Prayer of Confession and Assurance of the Gospel are adapted from texts by the Rev. Thom Shuman at Lectionary Liturgies. They can be found online at https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2020/07/alternate-texts-liturgy-with-communion_21.html. The Affirmation of Faith is from The Heidelberg Catechism (4.001) in *The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Part I. Book of Confessions*. Office of the General Assembly 2016/

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

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

Westin Sorrel, Chancel Choir Director

Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director

Edward Ennen, Sexton

Anna Thiel, Office Manager