

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**August 27, 2023**  
**Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost**



**Preparation:** Jesus' words, "In my Father's house there are many rooms," gives whole new meaning to the familiar saying, There's no place like home. Whether our homes in this world have been safe and happy or filled with turmoil, as believers in Christ we are assured of welcome to a home where we will dwell daily in God's presence. Should we not strive then to invite others until every room is filled?

**Prelude**

*Trumpet Prelude*  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Johan Helmich Roman  
(1694-1758)

**Invitation to our Shared Ministry**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Call to Worship**

Ron Dorr, Liturgist

One: This is the day the Lord has made!

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

One: Today and every day we are welcomed into God's presence.

**All: God has been our dwelling place throughout the generations.**

One: In God, we come home,

**All: to rest, to wrestle, to love, to be loved.**

One: Today and every day we invite all people into God's presence.

**All: In God we are called to let love be known in all the world.**

One: This is the day the Lord has made!

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

\* Hymn #301

*Let Us Build a House*, vs. 1, 2, 4, 5  
[All Are Welcome]

**Prayer of Confession**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: In the world there are many claims on our lives. We take this time to remember that in our baptism, Christ claimed us as his own, that God loves us and calls us each by name. Knowing we are eternally forgiven and infinitely loved, let us go boldly before God.

**All: Merciful God, you have made for us a home with many rooms. Instead of extending abundant generosity, we build walls between us and our neighbors. Forgive us, O God. We harbor resentments and hold onto prejudices rather than issuing invitations to the feast you prepare for us. Forgive us, O God. We are called to be Christ's body here on earth and yet too often we fail to follow in his footsteps of love and grace. Forgive us, O God. We pray that you will nudge us toward greater hospitality and opening the gate of welcome to all your people. By the power of your Holy Spirit help us to love as you have loved us, so that our lives may testify to your abounding grace through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Promise of the Gospel**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

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! Hear these words of scripture:

**All: Neither death nor life, powers nor rulers, things present nor future, nor anything else in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Believe the Good News, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia. Amen.**

**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

**Prayer of Illumination**

Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence

**Scripture**

John 14:1-3

Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence

**Sermon**

*Come On Into This House*

Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence

**Special Music**

*Count Your Blessings*

PCO Handbell Choir

Irene Shutt, director

arr: Linda Lamb

**Offering**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Invitation**

**Offertory**

*Andante*

Johan Roman

**\*Doxology #606**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayers of the People**

Ron Dorr, Liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

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

**\* Hymn #767**

*Together We Serve*, vs. 1-4

[San Anselmo]

**\* Benediction**

Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence

**Postlude**

*Bourrée*

Johan Roman

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

*\* Please rise in body or spirit*

**Ushers:** *Brett & Lynn Cone; Deb & Joel Major*

**This Morning's Fellowship Team:** *Thank you to Edward Ennen for preparing the coffee and to Kathi Cook for supplying our snacks.*

**Adult Education:** The Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence will be sharing information about how at the denominational level the PC(USA) is called to be repairers of the breaches created by systemic racism. Rev. Lane-Lawrence served on the PC(USA)'s Special Committee on Racism, Truth, and Reconciliation, which presented a report and made recommendations to the General Assembly in 2022. She has recently been appointed to serve on a special committee exploring and exposing where white supremacy is "embedded institutionally and foundationally" in the PC(USA), as well as its governing documents.

**Next Week:** The scripture for Sunday, September 3 will be Romans 12:1-8. We will be sharing together in the Lord's Supper. There will be no Adult Education programming, as we celebrate the Labor Day Weekend.

**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.

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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*