

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
September 10, 2023
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost



Preparation: “The relationship to what is outside [the Christian faith] should be governed by love. “For God so loved the world” ... and sent Jesus Christ into the world to save it. Similarly the followers of Jesus Christ are sent into this world as he was sent, to love friends and enemies, co-religionists and infidels, and to rejoice in everything that is true, good, and beautiful wherever they encounter it.” -- Theologian Dr. Miroslav Volf

Prelude

Prelude on *Slane*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

John G. Barr

Choral Introit

Come and Fill Our Hearts
PCO Chancel Choir
Westin Sorrel, director

Invitation to our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship

Jennifer Gordon, Liturgist

One: Together we are the body of Christ,

All: and we belong to each other.

One: We can share our joy, laughter, and hope,

All: We can share our fears, overwhelm, and sadness.

One: When we share what is good,

All: It is multiplied.

One: When we share what is hard,

All: The load is divided.

One: Together we are the body of Christ,

All: And we belong to each other.

* Hymn #450

Be Thou My Vision, vs. 1-4
[Slane]

Prayer of Confession

Jennifer Gordon, Liturgist

One: Amid the countless things that human beings cannot fully comprehend about God, there stands this: God so loves us as to bathe us with grace and feed us with mercy and forgive us our sins. Confident in the love of God, let us pray together.

All: Merciful God, you have called us by name and have redeemed us. Yet we still worship the false gods of the world, forgetting that you are Lord. Loving worldly wealth, we have not loved you with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Trusting worldly strength, we have not trusted your word nor followed the Word-made-flesh. Forgiving by worldly norms, we have not shown mercy to others as you have shown mercy to us. Forgive us yet again, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Jennifer Gordon, Liturgist

One: Friends, hear the good news of the gospel: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. And Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

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 - Blessing of the Backpacks

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Students of all ages, teachers, faculty, school administrators and all of those who nurture us in our study are invited to come forward with your backpacks or school bags for a special blessing.

Anthem

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you another comforter,
That he may 'bide with you forever;
E'en the sp'rit of truth.

John 14:15-17

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Holy Spirit, as your word is read and preached, pass among your gathered people, opening minds to increase understanding, and opening hearts to bind us together in your love. In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.

Old Testament Scripture

Psalms 119:33-40

Pastor Lisa Schrott

New Testament Scripture

Romans 13:8-10

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

Study That Seeks to Understand God: Love as Fulfillment of the Law

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Affirmation of Faith

PCO Mission Statement

in unison

As members of The Presbyterian Church of Okemos,
We believe that in life, in death, and life beyond death,
We belong to God.

The Church exists to invite everyone to join the
lifelong journey of faith that is life in Jesus Christ.

Through Worship that glorifies God,

Study that seeks to understand God,

Service to a world that needs God,

We desire to build a network of caring relationships

Between families, friends, and strangers

By offering welcome, healing, justice and peace to all in the name of Jesus Christ.

Offering Pastor Lisa Schrott
Invitation
Offertory Tallis' Canon Setting by Paul Manz
***Doxology #606**
***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People Jennifer Gordon, Liturgist
One: Lord in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.

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

*** Hymn #772** Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak, vs. 1-4
[Canonbury]

*** Benediction** Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude Fantasia Orlando Gibbons
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Ushers: Gary & Trudy Sturk, Jeff & Michele Arbour

Flowers: The flowers beautifying our sanctuary today are from Jennifer Gordon.

Fall Kick-Off Event: Youth who participated in the Praying Pelicans Mission Trip in Chicago will share about their experiences. This will be followed by a fellowship lunch featuring foods Chicago-style hot dogs and pizza in celebration of the youth mission trip.

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to the Parish Life and Children & Youth Christian Education committees for supplying the Fellowship Lunch and to Dave Rumminger for preparing the coffee.

Next Week Scripture: Genesis 50: 15-21; Matthew 18:21-35

Next Week Adult Education: Stephanie Nawyn will begin a 4-week study on Welcoming the New Neighbor.

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 is adapted from the Together Back to School Liturgy from Vibrant Church Communications. The Prayer of Confession and Promise 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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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