

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**September 17, 2023**  
**Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost**



**Preparation:** “God’s justice moves toward restoration, reintegration, and redemption. God’s justice is inherently connected to healing the harmed, restoring what has been lost, and reconciling those who are estranged from God and community. God’s heart and justice are inherently restorative.” --- Dominique DuBois Gilliard, Director of Racial Righteousness and Reconciliation for the Evangelical Covenant Church.

**Prelude**

*Avinu Malkeinu*  
*Our Father, Our King*  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Christina Harmon

**Choral Introit**

*Peace I Leave You*  
PCO Chancel Choir

**Invitation to our Shared Ministry**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Welcome 2023-2024 Choir Scholarship Recipients**

Westin Sorrel, Chancel Choir Director

Eleanor Barbour, Soprano  
Amira Coleman, Alto  
John Herzog, Tenor  
Tyrell Harris, Bass

**Call to Worship**

Ellen Hoekstra, Liturgist

One: In sacred times of word, wonder, and awe, in ordinary days of work and play:

**All: in every moment, God is with us.**

One: Whether we are stuck in doubt's mud, or standing on faith's shoreline:

**All: in every place, God is with us.**

One: In those who teach us and those who trouble us; in those who surprise us,  
and those who forgive us:

**All: in every person, God is with us.**

**\* Hymn #316**

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*, vs. 1-5  
[Twenty-Fourth]

**Prayer of Confession**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: As we stand before God, we think of all the times we have not shown mercy and grace to those around us. Let us bow our hearts and confess our sin to God, as we pray together and individually in silence.

**All:** God of mercy, it is never easy for us to confess but deep down inside, we know that while we have received grace, we have trouble being grace-full to others. *(silent prayer)*  
While we are forgiven, we are eager to judge and punish all who hurt us. *(silent prayer)*  
While we are freed, we find ways to put restrictions on people we fear. *(silent prayer)*  
Forgive us, God. Remind us that you forgive us more times than we can count. Teach us to be more like you, merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Amen.

**Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace** Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: God's hand of mercy is stretched out to us, making a way through all that threatens us, to touch us with grace and hope.

**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**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Anthem**

*Ubi Caritas*

Where charity and love are, God is there.  
Christ's love has gathered us into one.  
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.  
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.  
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.

**Prayer of Illumination**

Ellen Hoekstra, Liturgist

God of wisdom and mercy, by the power of your Spirit, open our eyes and hearts to your Word of love, mercy, healing, and blessing, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Old Testament Scripture**

Genesis 50:15-21

Ellen Hoekstra, Liturgist

**New Testament Scripture**

Matthew 18:21-35

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Sermon**

*Building a Network of Care and Shalom*

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Affirmation of Faith**

*From the PC(USA) Brief Statement of Faith*

in unison

In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,



**Next Week Adult Education:** Stephanie Nawyn continues the study on *Welcoming the New Neighbor*.

The Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession are adapted from liturgy by the Rev. Thom Shuman from Lectionary Liturgies. It can be found online at <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2017/09/liturgy-with-communion-for-september-17.html>. The Affirmation of Faith of Affirmation of Faith is from The Brief Statement of Faith (11.4) 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