

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**September 24, 2023**  
**Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost**



**Preparation:** “For when we see each other not as rivals but rather as fellow beneficiaries of God’s merciful gifts, equally “un-entitled” and equally beloved, the whole idea of “us vs. them” begins to fall away. The report that “you have made them equal to us” becomes a cause for delight and celebration, not complaint. And what emerges, in the end, is an ever-widening “we”: children of God in the image of God, the One who turns the world rightside-up, humbling the “first” and lifting the “last.” -- Salt Project’s Commentary for the Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

**Prelude**

*Canon in D*  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Johann Pachelbel  
1653-1706

**Choral Introit**

*O Come, Ye Servants of the Lord*  
PCO Chancel Choir

**Invitation to our Shared Ministry**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Call to Worship**

Doug Paterson, Liturgist

One: Whether we embrace God’s call in our lives or try to avoid it,

**All: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

One: Whether we are longtimers or latecomers in the life of faith,

**All: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

One: Whether our lives in Christ are comfortable or bring hardship,

**All: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**We praise God’s name forever!**

**\* Hymn #727**

*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*, vs. 1-4

[The Servant Song]

**Prayer of Confession**

Doug Paterson, Liturgist

One: Into this space we bring our weights and burdens— the things we have done or not done, said or not said. Trusting in God’s mercy, let us lay down those burdens before God.

**All: God of abundant goodness, we confess that we want your grace for ourselves but often wish punishment or exclusion on others. We judge the efforts and motives of others while ignoring the faults of our own. Forgive us, we pray, when we are petty even in the presence of your generosity. Forgive us, we pray, when we feel slighted by you. We once again ask for your mercy. Help us to be more merciful toward one another. We pray in the name of Christ Jesus, in whose grace we dwell. Amen.**

**Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace**

Doug Paterson, Liturgist

One: God extends to us mercy beyond our deserving, grace beyond our ability to earn it.

**All: God has granted us the privilege of believing in Christ; therefore we will live as grateful and forgiven people! Thanks be to God!**

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 and Old Testament Scripture**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Jonah 3:10 - 4:11

**Anthem**

*Prayer of St. Francis*

Allen Pote

PCO Chancel Choir

**Prayer of Illumination**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Gracious God, your Word surprises, challenges, upsets, and overturns our way of seeing and thinking. Come, find us today wherever we are, however we are. By the power of your Holy Spirit, cause that which is withering in us to blossom and that which is exacting in us to broaden until we see as you see, and thereby glimpse the kingdom you are bringing. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

**New Testament Scripture**

Matthew 20:1-16

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Sermon**

*Service To A World That Needs God*

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Affirmation of Faith**

*From the PC(USA) Confession of 1967*

in unison

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.

**Minute for Service**

Cass Community Social Services

Ellen Hoekstra

**Offering**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Invitation**

**Offertory**

*Fugue in d minor*

Pachelbel

**\*Doxology #606**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayers of the People**

Doug Paterson, 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**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Postlude**

*Toccata in F*

Pachelbel

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

*\* Please rise in body or spirit*

**Music Notes:** German composer Johann Pachelbel was best known for his works for organ and was considered to be one of the great organists of the generation before Johann Sebastian Bach. During his lifetime, he composed more than two hundred pieces for organ. His contributions to the development of the chorale prelude and fugue earned him a place among the most important composers of the middle Baroque era. Among his best known compositions is the Canon in D, and is one of the most widely performed pieces of Baroque music.

**Adult Ed:** Stephanie Nawyn continues a 4-week study on *Welcoming the New Neighbor: A Christian Dialogue on Refugees and Immigrants*. This morning we will consider trends in migration and hear stories from some of our newest neighbors.

**Flowers:** The flowers on the organ are in honor of Beth Weidenaar's birthday today. Beth was the organist for many years at PCO, and she and her husband Pete were loyal choir members prior to moving to Grand Rapids.

**This Morning's Fellowship Team:** Thank you to Jack and Laurie Harkema for supplying snacks and to Edward Ennen for preparing the coffee.

**Ushers:** Brett Cone, Lynn Cone

**Next Week Scripture:** Philippians 2:1-13

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

The Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Prayer of Illumination are adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2014. The Affirmation of Faith is from the *Confession of 1967 Inclusive Language Version (9.32)*;  
[https://www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/confess67.pdf](https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/confess67.pdf)

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Westin Sorrel, Chancel Choir Director

Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director

Edward Ennen, Sexton

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