

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
October 1, 2023
Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
World Communion Sunday



Preparation: “Prayer is taking a chance that against all odds and past history, we are loved and chosen, and do not have to get it together before we show up. The opposite may be true: We may not be able to get it together until after we show up in such miserable shape.” — Author Anne Lamott

Prelude

Pues Si Vivimos
[When We Are Living]
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Charles Callahan

Choral Introit

Eat This Bread
PCO Chancel Choir

Invitation to our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship

Sally Belloli, Liturgist

One: We gather from the west to the east,

All: from the south to the north,

One: to celebrate the God of peace

All: who accompanies us in our acts of peace.

One: This God of peace accompanies us

All: in each and every circumstance around us. We praise God’s name! Amen!

(Written by Rev. Gloria Ulloa, Presbyterian Church of Colombia)

* **Hymn #317**

In Christ There Is No East or West, vs. 1-4
[Mc Kee]

Prayer of Confession

Sally Belloli, Liturgist

One: Faced with God’s goodness we recognize our failings. In the knowledge of God’s mercy, we dare tell the truth about ourselves and our world. In the confidence of God’s children let us confess our sins.

All: Gracious Lord, creator of this universe, in your generosity you have given us a world of abundance and diversity, yet we live guided by greed and selfishness. We confess that we have defaced your creation and poisoned our environment through our consumerist behavior and for personal gain. In Christ, you made us siblings and intended for us to be united, and yet we have built walls to separate us from those who are different from us. We love war rather than strive for peace. We ignore the poor and the weak and honor the rich and powerful. In all this we have not lived according to your will.

Forgive us, Lord, for daring to boast in our human achievements and for failing to recognize that you alone are worthy of praise. In your mercy, forgive us our sins. Amen.

(Adapted from words by Near East School of Theology students Shant Agoushian, Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East and Jameel Maher Khadir, Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Holy Land)

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Sally Belloli, Liturgist

One: God accepted us simply because of our faith in Christ, through whom our sins were forgiven. May Christ help us to continue to “preach peace to those who are near and far.”

All: Let us 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

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Special Music

Come, Thou Fount of Ev’ry Blessing

arr: Cathy Moglebust

PCO Handbell Choir

Irene Shutt, director

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Holy Spirit, grant us openness and give us understanding of what each one of us needs to receive through Holy Scripture. When we are facing a difficult choice between the easy and the right decision, help us to choose the narrow path. We also pray for all who are about to set on an adventurous journey of faith anywhere in the world. Amen.

(Written by Magdaléna Trgalová, Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren)

New Testament Scripture

Philippians 2:1-13

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

Lifelong Journey of Faith

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Affirmation of Faith

Apostles’ Creed

(in unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic

church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

Ukuthula

Traditional Zulu Prayer

In this sinful world, through the blood of Jesus,
We find peace, we are saved, we are filled with gratitude
We find faith, we will conquer, we are consoled

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy Communion

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give both thanks and praise.

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

Breaking of the Bread

Communion Prayer

*** Hymn #822**

When We Are Living, vs. 1-4
[Somos Del Señor]

*** Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

At The Name of Jesus Every Knee Shall Bow
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

King's Weston
arr: Michael Bedford

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Music Notes: *Ukuthula* is an African Prayer for peace. The song originated in churches in the townships of pre-democratic South Africa. The content of the song is unashamedly emotional. The structure of this prayer is a call and response between soloist and choir. The music is strophic, meaning it repeats for each new line of text as it relates to what we gain through the blood of Jesus.

Adult Ed: Stephanie Nawyn continues a 4-week study on *Welcoming the New Neighbor: A Christian Dialogue on Refugees and Immigrants*.

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Mickey Martin and Shirley Rumminger for supplying snacks and to Edward Ennen for preparing the coffee.

Next Week Service @PCO: Welcome Rebecca Mattern - Interim Director of Faith Formation!

Sunday, October 8 we will officially welcome Rebecca Mattern to our staff! Rebecca will be preaching and serving as a worship leader. After the service, we will have an extended time of fellowship. You will have an opportunity to learn more about Rebecca and her sense of call to us at PCO and to extend your welcome to her.

The Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Prayer of Illumination are adapted from the PC(USA)'s Peace and Global Witness Liturgy for World Communion Sunday <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/resource/2023-world-communion-sunday-liturgy/> The Affirmation of Faith is from *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