The Presbyterian Church of Okemos October 8, 2023 Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost



Preparation: "Something people say is 'nothing is wasted.' The more complicated truth is 'we lose every day,' which is why we will never have enough endless love, friends, and carbs." - Kate Bowler - professor, author & podcaster.

Prelude I Want Jesus to Walk with Me African American Spiritual

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist arr: Lynn L. Peterson

Invitation to our Shared MinistryElder Angie Boldrey

Introduction of Rebecca Mattern, Interim Director of Faith Formation Elder Angie Boldrey

Minute for Service Thanksgiving Baskets Becky Gillespie

Call to Worship Elder Angie Boldrey

One: God, our gentle shepherd, you have chosen us by name.

All: Lead us, your children, by the still waters.

One: God, our gentle shepherd, your rod and staff bring comfort.
All: Guide us, your people, through the darkest valleys.
One: God, our gentle shepherd, you have prepared a great table.

Restore us, your church, with goodness and mercy.

* **Hymn** #407 Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers, vs. 1-4 [Nun Danket All' Und Bringet Ehr']

Prayer of Confession Rebecca Mattern

One: The act of confessing our sin is not simply a recitation of our faults and wrongs, but also an opportunity to receive God's mercy and share in that abundant grace. Confident of God's

love for us, let us offer our prayers..

All: O Lord, you are our shepherd,

And yet we want.

All:

We lie down when we could act,

We stir the pot when we could offer peace,

We wander tempting paths instead of following you.

We see courage and comfort in earthly things rather than in you.

We hate our enemies and refuse to break bread with them,

We see scarcity even when you offer us abundance.

We pray for forgiveness, for your goodness and mercy, So that we might dwell in You, in your grace, forever. Amen.

(moment of silence for personal confession)

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Rebecca Mattern

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in One:

that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve.

All: Thanks be to God! 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 Rebecca Mattern

Special Music This is My Father's World Franklin Sheppard

Amira Coleman, soloist Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, pianist

Prayer of Illumination

Rebecca Mattern

Holy One, open our minds, our hearts, and our spirits to receive your word and learn something more of you, and something more of us, so that we may grow in faith and service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23 Rebecca Mattern

Sermon Through It Together

Rebecca Mattern

Offering Beth Layhe, Liturgist

Invitation

Offertory My Shepherd Will Supply Tune: Resignation

setting: David N. Johnson

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Beth Layhe, Liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

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

* **Hymn** #802 The King of Love My Shepherd Is, vs. 1-4 [St. Columba]

* Benediction Rebecca Mattern

Benediction Response: Hymn #853

We Are Marching in the Light of God

[Siyahamba]

Please join in singing the Benediction Response as we bless and send those participating in today's CROP Walk out to serve Christ.

Postlude Marche Royale Jean Baptiste Lully

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Welcome Rebecca Mattern - Interim Director of Faith Formation!

Following the worship service, join us for an extended time of fellowship. The Personnel Committee will host a Meet and Greet. Come learn more about Rebecca's background and sense of call to us at PCO and to extend your welcome to her. Please wear your nametags to help Rebecca get to know you.

Adult Ed: There will be no Adult Education this morning. Those participating in the CROP Walk are invited to a pizza lunch in Room 108 at Noon.

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to the Haskels for providing snacks, the Personnel Committee for supplying a cake to welcome Rebecca Mattern and to Edward Ennen for preparing the coffee.

Ushers: Gary & Trudy Sturk, Jeff & Michele Arbour

Next Week's Scripture: Isaiah 25: 1-9; Matthew 22: 1-14

Next Week's Adult Ed: Stephanie Nawyn will conclude a 4-week study on *Welcoming the New Neighbor: A Christian Dialogue on Refugees and Immigrants*.

The Call to Worship is adapted from https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/82/20588. The Prayer of Confession was written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

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^{*} Please rise in body or spirit

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

2258 Bennett Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864

(517) 349-9536

Website: https://okemospres.org
https://twitter.com/okemospres
https://facebook.com/OkemosPresbyterian



Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott, Pastor/Head of Staff
Rebecca Mattern, Interim Director of Faith Formation
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist
Westin Sorrel, Chancel Choir Director
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director
Edward Ennen, Sexton
Anna Thiel, Office Manager