

**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 Ministry** Elder 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.

**All: 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.**

**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

One: Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in 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*  
Amira Coleman, soloist  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, pianist

Franklin Sheppard

**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 Presbyterian Church of Okemos*

2258 Bennett Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864

(517) 349-9536

Website: <https://okemospres.org>

Email: [office@okemospres.org](mailto:office@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*