

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**October 15, 2023**  
**Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost**



**Preparation:** “When Christ invites us to be his disciples, and when he invites us to share the feast that he prepares, we are called to respond—expressing our commitment, sharing our gifts, offering our lives to God in thanksgiving and praise. The sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s Supper embody and enact this dynamic relationship, conveying God’s gracious invitation and our grateful response.” -- Rev. Dr. David Gambrell, Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Mission Agency.

**Prelude** *A Kingsfold Suite* David P. Dahl  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

**Choral Introit** *Love God with All Your Soul and Strength*  
PCO Chancel Choir

**Invitation to our Shared Ministry** Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Call to Worship** (adapted from Isaiah 25:1-9, *The Message*) Laurie Harkema, Liturgist

One: God, you are our God.

**All: We celebrate you. We praise you.**

One: You’ve done your share of miracle-wonders,

**All: well-thought-out plans, solid and sure.**

One: You take care of the poor and shelter us from the storms.

**All: You wipe the tears from every face.**

One: You are the God we have waited for!

**All: Let’s celebrate and sing the joys of your salvation.**

\* Hymn #774 *There is Now a New Creation*, vs. 1-4  
[Stuttgart]

**Prayer of Confession** Rebecca Mattern

One: In his day, people would murmur that Jesus associated with sinners. So it is in this day, for in Christ Jesus, God has come to us who are sinners. Let us not judge the company which Jesus keeps, else we convict ourselves. Let us confess our sin in God’s presence, using the prayer you see before you...(brief pause)

**All: God of hospitality and grace, you invite us, and all who long to know you, to gather in your presence. You call us to make room for neighbor, stranger, friend, and even**

**enemy. On one hand we claim the table where you make a feast of rich food for all people is your table, and yet we make it ours by judging who is worthy of welcome within and beyond our community. We feel threatened by “otherness” and fail to embrace your abundant welcome that makes our food and our lives richer by extending your welcome. Forgive us, Compassionate One, and turn us back to you. Remind us that your invitation is for all and that in our forgiveness we are called to forgive and welcome others. Amen**

(moment of silence for personal confession)

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

Rebecca Mattern

**One:** Great is our sin and all which threatens to separate us from God, and greater still is God’s love for us shown through Jesus Christ’s invitation to follow.

**All:** **As far as east is from west, so far has God removed our sin from us. 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**

Rebecca Mattern & Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Special Music**

*Thou Knowest, Lord, the Secrets of Our Hearts*  
PCO Chancel Choir

Henry Purcell

**Prayer of Illumination**

Rebecca Mattern

Spirit of Love, you not only whisper to us in the stillness of the night, but also in the busyness of active days. Quiet the noise around us and in our minds so that we might hear your invitation to us - an invitation full of grace, and also an invitation to respond. Amen

**Old Testament Scripture**

Isaiah 25:1-9

Rebecca Mattern

**New Testament Scripture**

Matthew 22:1-10

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Sermon**

*The Church Exists to Invite*  
Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Affirmation of Faith**

PCO Mission Statement

in unison

As members of The Presbyterian Church of Okemos,  
We believe that in life, in death, and life beyond death,  
We belong to God.

The Church exists to invite everyone to join the

lifelong journey of faith that is life in Jesus Christ.  
Through Worship that glorifies God,  
Study that seeks to understand God,  
Service to a world that needs God,  
We desire to build a network of caring relationships  
Between families, friends, and strangers  
By offering welcome, healing, justice and peace to all in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Minute for Gratitude**

Gratitude for the Past

Jill Tribell

**Offering**

**Invitation**

**Offertory**

*Voluntary and Fughetta on Stuttgart*

Charles Callahan

\*Doxology #606

\*Prayer of Dedication

**Prayers of the People**

Laurie Harkema, Liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

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

\* Hymn #182

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*, vs. 1-3  
[Kingsfold]

\* **Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Postlude**

*Bourrée in F Major*  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

George Philipp Telemann

\* *Please rise in body or spirit*

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

**This Morning's Fellowship Team:** Birthday Cake Sunday! Celebrate our October birthdays with a piece of cake in Fellowship Hall after the service. Thank you to Parish Life for supplying the cake and to Edward Ennen for preparing the coffee.

**Ushers:** Morrie & Barbara Hoevel, Ron & Barbara Dorr

**Next Week's Scripture:** Isaiah 45:1-7; Matthew 22:15-22

**Next Week's Education Hour:** Intergenerational Service Project in Fellowship Hall. All ages invited and welcomed as we assemble hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

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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