

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
November 19, 2023
Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
Agape Meal



Preparation: Agape is understanding, redemptive goodwill for all [people]. Agape is an overflowing love, a spontaneous love, which seeks nothing in return. And theologians would say that it is the love of God operating in the human heart. When you rise to love on this level you love all [people], not because you like them, not because their ways appeal to you, not because they are worthful to you, but you love all [people] because God loves them. - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Prelude *Fanfare on St. George's Windsor* Charles Callahan
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

- ❖ As you listen to the prelude, write your name on the place card at your seat. You are welcome to draw and color around it. Place it face out so that those at your table can see your name.

Choral Introit *I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table*
PCO Chancel Choir

Invitation to our Shared Ministry and Meal Pastor Lisa Schrott

*** Call to Worship** Embodied Prayer Rebecca Mattern
Praise God, Creator (reach arms straight up toward the sky)
Praise Christ, Redeemer (extend arms out to the side, parallel with the floor)
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter (wrap arms around you in a hug)

*** Hymn #367** *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*, vs. 1-4
[St. George's Windsor]

Communal Prayer of Confession Bob Boldrey, Liturgist

One: Because God is not far from each one of us, we can go to God to confess our sin and brokenness. Because God is not far from each one of us, our confession is met with grace and our sins are washed away. With that assurance let us come before God and each other.

All: **God of mercy, you have shown yourself to us, by Word and Spirit, with signs and wonders, in flesh and blood, yet we often struggle to live out and believe the good news of Jesus Christ. We confess that our lives have not always manifested the fruit of your Spirit. We struggle to love others as you have loved us. Forgive us. Cast out our fears. Reorient us to be more aware of you in our lives so we may be more aware of each other and embody your love. Amen.**

Personal Prayer of Confession

Bob Boldrey, Liturgist

One: Because God is not far from each one of us, our confession is met with grace and our sins are washed away. You are invited to release your sins by writing them on the small pieces of dissolvable paper at your table. Place them in the basket and have one person from the table bring them to the chancel and place them in the bowl of water.

All: *Prompts for your personal prayer of confession*

- ❖ Who is it hard for you to love?
- ❖ What fears keep us from loving others?
- ❖ When have you not wanted to love someone?
- ❖ Where have you failed to show up for another?

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Hear the good news of the gospel: Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Not death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: For in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven and washed away. 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

Prayer of Illumination

Dr. Barbara Fretwell-Cooke

Come, Holy Spirit, that through your word we may be guided into the love of God for all the world. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Dr. Barbara Fretwell-Cooke

Old Testament Scripture

Genesis 18:1-8

Bob Boldrey, Liturgist

New Testament Scripture

1 John 4:7-21

Reflection

Embodied Love

Rebecca Mattern

Anthem:

Thanksgiving Celebration
PCO Handbell Choir
Irene Shutt, Director

arr: Michael Helman

Time of sharing

Pastor Lisa Schrott

- ❖ When have you experienced agape love?
- ❖ What does it mean to embody agape?
- ❖ What stories of Jesus teach us how to live agape?

Blessing of the Meal

All: Come, Lord Jesus, our Guest to be, and bless these gifts bestowed by thee. Amen

- ❖ For those who are watching online, please join the Zoom meeting 878 9385 8820 and the worship leaders for the time of sharing

Prayers of the People

Bob Boldrey, Liturgist

One: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

in unison

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Minute for Giving

St. Vincent Giving Tree

Trudy Sturk

Offering

Bob Boldrey, Liturgist

Invitation

Offertory Anthem

O Taste and See

Ralph Vaughan Williams

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Bob Boldrey, Liturgist

*** Hymn #203**

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love, vs. 1-4
[Chereponi]

*** Benediction**

Rebecca Mattern

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God
[from Cantata No. 79]
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

J.S. Bach
arr. Virgil Fox

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Adult Ed: We will follow-up the conversations around the table this morning with further discussion of a biblical exploration of God's love. This will be led by Rebecca Mattern.

This Morning's Fellowship Team: We will share in some sweetbreads and fruit from the Agape Meal this morning. Thank you to Edward Ennen for taking care of the coffee.

Ushers: Morrie & Barbara Hoevel, Ron & Barbara Dorr

Next Week November 26, 2023

Reign of Christ Sunday. This is the last Sunday of the church liturgical year.

Scripture: Psalm 100, John 1:1-5 and Colossians 1:11-20

Education Hour: There will be no children, youth, or adult education as we celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Prayer of Illumination comes from Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1.

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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