

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**June 16, 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday After Pentecost**



**Gathering As a People of God**

**Prelude**

*Variations on Azmon*

Robert A. Hobby

Variations 1 and 2

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

**Acolyte**

**Invitation to Our Shared Ministry**

Rebecca Mattern

**\* Opening Sentences**

Julie Boyer, liturgist

**One:** We are in the third week of our “Quest” theme that is exploring our relationship with the wider world and a wider perspective of our own communities. Let us continue to imagine ourselves “far from home,” meeting each new insight with wonder, letting our experiences lead us to deeper reflection about ourselves.

**All:** **When we begin to broaden our experience of lands and peoples in our travel, or in our own towns and cities, we may encounter thoughts and practices different from our own. And yet, if we continue to reflect, what feels so different may not be as far from us as we first imagined.**

**One:** God’s Spirit exists everywhere, on every path, inviting us to move with curiosity and compassion toward each other.

**All:** **Show us how to be humble and willing to accept that all beings are sacred as created by you so that we will grow in peace, expand in love, and deepen in understanding.**

**\* Hymn #372**

*O for a World*, vs. 1-5

[Azmon]

**Prayer of Confession**

Rebecca Mattern

**One:** We come to the water again today. Today’s scripture is a powerful vision of a new creation, where the divisions are wiped away and all beings are one. It says, “To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.” Our baptism reminds us that we are already part of the spring of the water of life. And our thirst that comes from forgetting that source can be quenched even now. Let us pray:

**All:** Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves, through what we have done and left undone. Forgive us when we create boundaries of “us” and “them” and assume scarcity where you offer abundance. Guide us as we seek to turn around toward greater love. Lead us to travel in your ways. (silent prayer) Amen.

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

**One:** Know this: There is a spring of life that flows throughout creation and is available to all—to us—when we need it most. In the midst of our fear, Jesus calls us to be a new creation. He is our constant companion, inviting us to reach out to one another, traveling together toward the Kin-dom of Love.

**All:** Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

**One:** It is as a forgiven people that we share the peace of Christ. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All:** And also with you. *Please greet your fellow worshippers in ways you feel comfortable.*

\* Act of Praise #581

*Gloria Patri*

**The Word**

**Prayer of Illumination**

Julie Boyer, Liturgist

Speak to us, living God, as you have spoken to our ancestors: through the voices of your prophets, the breath of your Spirit, and the life of your Son, so that we may live according to your word; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**Children’s Message**

Rebecca Mattern

**Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 65:17-25

Julie Boyer, Liturgist

**New Testament Reading**

Revelation 21:22-26

Rebecca Mattern

**Sermon**

*The Reflection*

Rebecca Mattern

**Special Music**

*Lead Me, Lord*

Samuel S Wesley

PCO Pick-up Choir

Westin Sorrel, Choir Director

**Responding to the Word**

**Minute for Mission**

Intergenerational Mission Week

Mission Team Members

**Offering** Rebecca Mattern  
**Invitation**  
**Offertory** *Variation 3* Robert A. Hobby  
**\*Doxology #606**  
**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayers of the People** Julie Boyer, 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.**

**Sent Out As a People of God**  
**\* Hymn #375** *Shall We Gather at the River, vs. 1-4*  
[Hanson Place]

**\* Benediction** Rebecca Mattern

**Postlude** *Variation 4* Robert A. Hobby  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

*\* Please rise in body or spirit*

**Education Time:** Stories of the Early Church from Acts, led by Ewen Todd.

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

**This Morning's Fellowship Team:** Thank you to the Parish Life Committee for supplying our birthday cake to celebrate June birthdays, and to Edward Ennen and Dave Rumminger for taking care of the coffee.

**Next Week June 23, 2024: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Scripture:** Psalm 36:5-9; John 15:1-17

**Adult Education:** Laurie Hereza will share information about our mission partner, Michigan Refugee Hope.

The graphic and the liturgy this morning is adapted from *Quest* by Dr. Marcia McFee at Worship Design Studio [www.worshipdesignstudio.com/quest](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/quest).

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*Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott (she/her), Pastor/Head of Staff*  
*Rebecca Mattern (she/her), Interim Director of Faith Formation*  
*Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist*  
*Westin Sorrel (he/him), Chancel Choir Director*  
*Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director*  
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