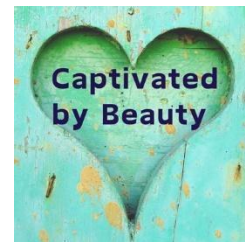


The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
July 7, 2024
Seventh Sunday After Pentecost



Preparation: “Julian [of Norwich], like other contemplatives, acknowledges that there is a great deal of suffering that is simply part of being human. But what makes this suffering so soul-destroying is that we cannot see how beloved we are. We no longer remember that we are adored and cherished by God. . . Just as divinity itself is immutable, our identity as beloved of God is immutable.” - Theologian Wendy Farley, author of *Beguiled by Beauty*

Gathering As a People of God

Prelude

Etude Op. 10 No. 3
Gail Lytle Lira, pianist

Frederic Chopin

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Rebecca Mattern

Centering Our Minds and Candle Lighting

*You are invited to a moment of quiet rest,
a time of slowing the pace of your body and mind so that the spirit can settle.
We invite those at home to light a candle and become centered for worship.*

Opening Prayer

Siri Rainone, liturgist

One: Holy One, pause us for this moment, bear us up in this time, hold us for eternity. We offer ourselves in connection with you. We allow ourselves this love from you. We release ourselves into your presence.

All: Amen

Engaging Our Bodies

Siri Rainone, liturgist

One: Let us embrace God’s love through worship with our whole bodies. You are invited to exit your pew to the left, walk to the front, and return by the right aisle. You are welcome to make a full lap around your pew section, if you feel so moved. If you are watching on-line you are invited to walk around the room you are in. You may also stay seated and trace a path on your arm from the inside of your elbow to the center of your palm, then make circles on your palm.

All: We move along the path of God.

* Hymn #821

My Life Flows On, vs. 1-4

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: God never forgets God's promises. God's covenant endures in each new generation. We are free to speak the truth about our lives because God's faithfulness embraces us as we examine our hearts.

All: **God of mercy, we remember with gratitude that you have created us for relationship with you; that you never leave us or forsake us.**

Silent prayer of gratitude

God of mercy, so often we forget our identity in you and accept the identity that we are given by others: at school, at work, at home, at church, in society.

Silent prayer of confession

God of mercy, we confess that we easily measure our worth in dollars and belongings, by our strivings and doings, by our reputation and status, rather than your love for us. We confess too, that we use the same measures to judge others.

Silent prayer of confession

God of mercy, we confess that we mistake undervaluing ourselves for humility and do not live fully into the gifts that you have given us.

Silent prayer of confession

God of mercy, we confess that we fail to recognize that when we deny our own belovedness, we deny the belovedness of others. We also fail to recognize that when we deny the belovedness of others, we deny our own belovedness too.

Silent prayer of confession

God of mercy, turn us back to you. Help us to embrace your love for us so that we might live fully into our identity as your beloved children. Help us to embrace your love for others, so that they, too, may live fully into their identity as beloved. Help us to remember the depth and breadth of your love for all your creation and to live our lives in the fullness of your presence and the sharing of your love.

Silent prayer of commitment (Amen)

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

One: This is what good news means: There is nothing we can do to make God love us any more and there is nothing we can do to make God love us any less.

Beloved of God, know and believe:

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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

Siri Rainone, liturgist

Enlightening God, the unfolding of your Word gives light and provides wisdom to all who seek your truth. Open our minds and hearts by the presence of your Holy Spirit, that the mystery of your heavenly realm is made evident here on earth. Amen.

Children's Message

Rebecca Mattern

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 16:7-11 (Inclusive Bible)

Siri Rainone, liturgist

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 3:14-21

Rebecca Mattern

Reflection

Captivated by Beauty: We Are Made for the Beloved

Rebecca Mattern

Audio Divina

As you hear the music, you are invited to consider how you are made for the beloved.

How do you, or might you, remember that you are adored and cherished by God?

What identities might you need to let go in order to more fully embrace your identity as one who loves and is loved by God through Christ Jesus?

What beautiful things do you hope God is making out of you? PCO? The world?

Responding to the Word

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Building Our Offering Tree

Write a time you have experienced joy on one of the leaves provided. Place the leaf on the tree as an act of gratitude. You may place your financial offering in the basket next to the tree. Please signal an usher if you need assistance. For those worshipping online, you may email your time of experiencing joy to Pastor Lisa and we will add it to the tree.

Offertory

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

arr: Jack Schrader

Gail Lytle Lira, piano

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Holy Communion

Invitation

Rebecca Mattern

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Divine Goodness and Love is with you!

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give both thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, ...
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join
their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, Divine Goodness in the flesh come to love
our flesh. ... in remembrance of your beautiful acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a holy
and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and wine. ...
Through your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is
yours, Beloved and Beloving God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Communion of the People

Communion will be served by intinction. Please take a piece of bread and dip into the cup
of juice. The bread is gluten, soy, nut and dairy free so all may partake together.

Communion Music

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Gail Lytle Lira, piano

arr. Victor Lapenske

Communion Prayer

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Commissioning Montreat Youth Retreat Participants

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Becca Boldrey, Lucas Meland and Maddie Pearson (youth)

Jennifer Gordon and Rebecca Mattern (adults)

Sent Out As a People of God

* Hymn #840

When Peace Like a River, vs. 1-4

* **Benediction**

Rebecca Mattern

Postlude

Etude (Harp) Op. 25 No. 1

Frederic Chopin

Gail Lytle Lira, piano

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Shirley Rumminger for providing snacks and to Tom Schaberg and Wayne Scott for taking care of the coffee.

Flowers: The flowers beautifying our sanctuary today are from Ewen and Zora Todd and from Pastor Lisa Schrott and Brian McWilliams in honor of their respective wedding anniversaries.

Play and Pray July: No education hour through August 4. Enjoy a time of extended fellowship this morning. Walk the labyrinth. Enjoy the playground. Invite someone to join you for a walk or lunch.

Next Week July 14, 2024: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16 and Psalm 147:1-11

Worship Prompt: World/Earth

Inspiration for the service, order of worship and some liturgy are adapted from *Beguiled by Beauty* by Dr. Marcia McFee <https://worshipdesignstudio.com/beauty>

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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
Edward Ennen, Sexton
Anna Thiel, Office Manager
Gabrielle Shelton (she/her), Media Specialist