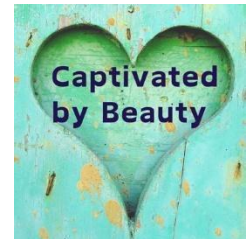


**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**July 28, 2024**  
**Tenth Sunday After Pentecost**



**Preparation:** “Beauty reminds us of a world that exists beyond our concerns. And this is the beginning of an awakening to beauty – but not the end. ... Creatures inhabiting different kingdoms (fungi and alga) marry and become lichen. The roots of trees form an extended family of support and – perhaps, who knows? – mutual affection, in some tree-form we will never know anything about. We are all bound together in the great dance of existence, nothing apart and separate. We are in the lineage of the stardust billions of years old. We are aunts and uncles to whatever unimaginable life forms might dwell somewhere in a galaxy a billion years hence.” – Theologian Wendy Farley, author of *Beguiled by Beauty*, 2020

**Gathering As a People of God**

**Prelude**

*Largo from Sonata in G Major*  
Gaile Griffore, flute  
Connie Detjen, piano  
Barbara Fretwell-Cooke, cello

Antonio Lotti  
(1667-1740)

**Invitation to Our Shared Ministry**

Rebecca Mattern

**Minute for Service**

Collection for EVE (End Violent Encounters)

Becca Boldrey

**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**

Lance Boldrey, 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**

Lance Boldrey, liturgist

One: Jacob made an ornate robe of many colors and fabrics for his son Joseph. The Israelites placed fringe on the corners of their garments. John the Baptist’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. Lydia was a purveyor of highly valued purple cloth. Throughout scripture we see a rich array of textures making up the fabric of the faithful. Touch the fabric samples you picked up as you entered. Feel the diversity of the textures. Trade with someone around you to expand your sense of beauty.

\* Hymn #403

*Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*, vs. 1-3

[Unser Herrscher]

**Prayer of Confession**

Rebecca Mattern

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: Compassionate God, through your Word, you have set promises before your people: promises for good and not for evil; promises for care and not for harm; promises fulfilled through life and death; promises realized through sorrow and joy.**

*Silent prayer of gratitude*

**Compassionate God, your Word says love is patient and kind. We confess the times when we have been impatient and unkind. Your word tells us that love does not envy, that it does not boast, and that it is not proud. We confess that sometimes we have been envious, boastful, and proud. Forgive us.**

*Silent prayer of confession*

**Compassionate God, your word says that love is not rude, and that it is not self-seeking. We confess that in many ways we have been inconsiderate of those around us, thinking only of ourselves. Your word tells us that it keeps no record of wrongs. We confess how carefully we keep score when we have been wronged. Forgive us.**

*Silent prayer of confession*

**Compassionate God, remind us of that love which knows no bounds. Guide us in your desire for justice and forgiveness. And teach us to give, even as you are giving. Help us to choose the way of trusting you, knowing that your love never fails.**

*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**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

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** Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Old Testament Reading** Psalm 103 Rebecca Mattern  
Translation from: *Psalms of Wonder* by Carey Wallace & Khao Le, 2023

**Special Music** *Andante un poco mosso from Trio, Opus 99* Franz Schubert  
Gaile Griffore, flute  
Connie Detjen, piano  
Barbara Fretwell-Cooke, cello

**New Testament Reading** 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13 Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Reflection** *Captivated by Beauty: Love & Compassion* Pastor Lisa Schrott  
*The Daily Examen (see insert)*

### **Responding to the Word**

**Offering** Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Invitation** *Building Our Offering Tree: Beauty & Compassion*

On your leaf, we invite you to share a moment of beauty or act of compassion that has touched your heart. For those worshipping online, you may email your response to Pastor Lisa, and we will add it to the tree. You may place your financial offering in the basket next to the tree. Please signal an usher if you need assistance.

**Offertory** *Andante Espressivo* Hedwige Chrétien  
Marlene Brewbaker, organ

**\*Doxology #606**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayers of the People** Lance Boldrey, liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy

All: **Hear our prayer.**

**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.**

### **Sent Out As a People of God**

**\* Hymn #436** *God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us*, vs. 1-3  
[O Quanta Qualia]

**\* Benediction** Pastor Lisa Schrott

## Postlude

## *Shout All Over God's Heaven*

Allegro molto e marcato from Afro-American Suite for Flute, Cello & Piano

### Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting following worship for the purpose of electing Zach Krawczyk to the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. All are encouraged and welcome to stay for the meeting. As a reminder, only PCO members are able to vote. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/434304558>

*\* Please rise in body or spirit*

**This Morning's Fellowship Team:** Thank you to Shirley Rumminger for providing snacks this morning and to Edward Ennen and Juan Carlos Roy a for taking care of the coffee.

**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 August 4, 2024: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost; Communion Sunday

**Scripture:** Isaiah 52:7-10

**Worship Prompt:** *Justice* Share a photo, painting, poem that evokes justice, compassion, and/or the well-being of people or the earth. this week, please email your submissions to [rebecca@okemospres.org](mailto:rebecca@okemospres.org)

Inspiration for the service, order of worship and some liturgy are adapted from *Beguiled by Beauty* by Dr. Marcia McFee <https://worshipdesignstudio.com/beauty>. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from words by the Litany of Confession: 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8 by Randall Wilkens online at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/01/litany-of-confession-1-corinthians-13-4.html> and Prayer: Psalm 103 by Lutheran World Relief <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/07/prayer-psalm-103.html>

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<https://facebook.com/OkemosPresbyterian>

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

Edward Ennen, Sexton

Anna Thiel, Office Manager

Gabrielle Shelton (she/her), Media Specialist

**The Daily Examen. Use the space below to jot notes.  
Doodle or draw your reflections.**

**Review:** Become aware of God's presence. Look back on the events of the week. When did I feel most alive? When did I feel life draining out of me?

**Gratitude:** Review the week with gratitude. Walk through the week. Note its joys and delights. Pay attention to small things—the food you ate, the sights you saw, and other seemingly small pleasures. God is in the details.

**Prayer:** Choose one feature from the week for focused prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you. It may involve a feeling—positive or negative. It may be a significant encounter with another person or a vivid moment of pleasure or peace. It may be something that seems rather insignificant. Look at it. Pray about it. It may be a prayer of intercession, praise, repentance, or gratitude.

**Looking Ahead:** Look toward the next week. Ask God to give you light for next week's challenges. Pay attention to the feelings that surface as you survey what's coming up. Pray for hope.



### **What is a labyrinth?**

A labyrinth is not a maze, there is only one path to the center with no “dead ends”. It is an ancient figure and was used by Christian cathedrals in medieval Europe as a symbol of the journey of faith, and the journey of life. It was walked by those who could not afford the spiritual practice of going on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It was and is also used by Christians as a prayer tool, a way to focus the mind upon God and reflect upon God’s presence in all the twists and turns of our journey. Labyrinths are designed for walking – and tracing them allows those with mobility issues to engage in the practice, as well as a way to bring the practice to everyday spaces.