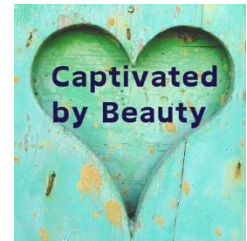


The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
August 04, 2024
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost



Preparation: “The celebration of this beauty of beings, their communities and ecosystems, cannot exist without mourning assaults on them. . . Beauty does not remain in the rapture of presence, but in this rapture the journey toward others is animated. Emptying ourselves for beauty we become instruments of the Good. Eros weds kenosis. Because of our delight in beings we join the drum corps of bodhisattvas and lovers of the gospel by embracing their commitment to relieve suffering and seek justice for all.” – Theologian Wendy Farley, author of *Beguiled by Beauty*, 2020

Gathering As a People of God

Prelude

Aria

Flor Peeters

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

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

Deb Major, 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

Deb Major, liturgist

One: Our whole bodies were made for perceiving the beauty of the world. In the last five weeks we have encountered sight, sound, smell, and touch. This morning, with communion in mind, we engage our sense of taste. Take a moment to notice what you taste. Consider what taste you enjoy the most, be it sweet, salty, sour, or spicy. Give thanks for your sense of taste, and for all of the ways our senses make us present in our bodies and in the world.

* **Hymn #401**

Here in this Place, vs. 1-4
[Gather Us In]

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: **Redeeming God, through the life and ministry of Jesus you set for us an example of how to be with you: from time in prayer alone with you to doing your work in the world.**

Silent prayer of gratitude

Redeeming God, you call us into relationship with you, and yet too often we avoid spending intentional time with you in prayer, allowing the distractions of the world and our lives to pull us away. Forgive us.

Silent prayer of confession

Redeeming God, you call us into relationship with neighbor and stranger, and yet too often we choose to stay in the comfort of our church, our families, our friends, our selves. Forgive us.

Silent prayer of confession

Redeeming God, remind us that being in relationship with you and with others requires both self-reflection and movement in the world. When we come to the table in communion with you, remind us that we are fed to serve you and all of your creation. Move us from inward focus and beauty to outward focus and proclaiming your peace and justice in the world.

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

Deb Major, 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

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

Rev. Dan Lewis

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 Prayer

Rebecca Mattern

Sent Out As a People of God

* **Hymn #529**

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether, vs. 1-3
[Union Seminary]

* **Benediction**

Rebecca Mattern

Postlude

Trumpet Tune in G

Noel Rawsthorne

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Deb Major and Lynn Cone for providing snacks and to Edward Ennen for doing all things coffee.

Next Week August 11, 2024: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: 1 Kings 19:4-8, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8,13

Education Hour: Christian Education Retreat, 11:30am-2:00pm. All are welcome to join the Adult and Children & Youth Christian Education Committees to consider how our

vision statement impacts our educational programs, learn about inter-generational education, and imagine how Christian Education at all ages might look. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to the church office by August 7. See Rebecca Mattern for more information.

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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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