

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**August 11, 2024**  
**Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost**



**Preparation:** “There’s a certain temptation [as you go down the spiritual path] to say, “I’m out of here. I know it’s a troubled world, but I’m a mystic in the making. Don’t disturb me. See, I’m out of here.” There’s a temptation to think you’re finding your way into a realm of divinity or inner peace [or healing], removed from the brokenness and sadness of this world, which is really then to betray the path.” – Author and Psychologist James Finley from the *Center for Action and Contemplation*

**Gathering As a People of God**

**Prelude**

*Sonata in C Minor for Organ*

Giovanni Battista Pescetti

*Moderato*

*Allegro ma non presto*

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

**Invitation to Our Shared Ministry**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**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.*

**Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 34:1-5, 14)

Connor Haskell, liturgist

One: I will bless the Lord at all times; praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**All: My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.**

One: O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt God’s name together.

**All: I sought the Lord, and God answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.**

One: Look to the Lord, and be radiant, so your faces shall never be ashamed.

**All: Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.**

One: I will bless the Lord at all times;

**All: praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

\* **Hymn** #301

*Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome), vs.1, 2, 4, 5*

[Two Oaks]

**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:** God of mercy, you feed us the bread of life and provide the living water that quenches our thirst. We give you thanks that we can come to you and speak the truth that weighs in our hearts. We can release these sins, and rebuild our relationships with you and with others.

*Silent prayer of gratitude*

**God of mercy, we confess to you and to each other that we are rarely just in all our ways, and far from being kind in all our doings. What we want to be and what we actually are, are two different things. Forgive us.**

*Silent prayer of confession*

**God of mercy, our lives are a mix of astuteness and stupidity, of moral strength and cowardice, of kindness and meanness, of openness and cunning, of sincere love for you, yet also of conniving self-interest. Forgive us.**

*Silent prayer of confession*

**God of mercy, we need both your justice and your kindness to convict us of our sins and to forgive us. Please grant to us, loving God, the grace of a new beginning and the joy of an enlarged love for you. Give us a passion for all your loving ways. Through Christ Jesus our redeemer we pray.**

*Silent prayer of commitment (Amen)*

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

**One:** Holy Scripture says: “The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all.” In the name of the living God, through the grace of Christ Jesus we are forgiven.

**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

Holy God, as we hear your gracious Word, make us hungry for the bread which nourishes our souls. Illumine our understanding by your Holy Spirit, that we may grow in your wisdom and draw nearer to your vision for us and our world. Amen.

#### **Children’s Message**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

#### **Old Testament Reading**

1 Kings 19:4-8

Rebecca Mattern

#### **New Testament Reading**

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Pastor Lisa Schrott

#### **Sermon**

*Imitators of Christ*

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Special Music** *Blessed Assurance* arr. Mark Hayes  
Julie Boyer, piano

### **Responding to the Word**

**Minute for Service** Cass Mission Trip Ellen Hoekstra

**Offering** Rebecca Mattern

**Invitation**

**Offertory**

*Jesus Calls Us*

Setting by Emma Lou Diemer

**\*Doxology #606**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayers of the People** Connor Haskel, 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 #720**

*Jesus Calls Us, vs.1-4*

[Galilee]

**\* Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Postlude**

*Sonata in C Minor*

Giovanni Pescetti

*Presto*

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

*\* Please rise in body or spirit*

**This Morning's Fellowship Team:** Thank you to Mickey Martin for providing snacks this morning and to Edward Ennen and Dave Rumminger for taking care of the coffee.

**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 intergenerational education, and imagine how Christian Education at all ages might look. Lunch is provided.

**Next Week August 18, 2024: Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Pulpit Exchange with North Westminster Presbyterian Church.**

The Rev. Timothy Chon will be preaching at PCO and Pastor Lisa will be preaching at North Westminster.

**Scripture:** Ezekiel 37:15-23

**Education Hour:** DMZ Peace Walk. Rev. Chon will make a presentation on a peace walk he participated in on the demilitarized zone (DMV) in Korea in 2023.

The Prayer of Confession is adapted from words by the Rev. Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Home Page. <http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocC/C62sun32.htm>

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**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**

2258 Bennett Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864

(517) 349-9536

Website: <https://okemospres.org>

Email: [office@okemospres.org](mailto:office@okemospres.org)

<https://www.instagram.com/okemospres/>

<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