

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**September 1, 2024**  
**Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**



**Preparation:** “You know what changes the world? Committees change the world. It’s true. People getting together to figure out what needs to be worked on, who’s going to do what, when we’re going to meet again to make sure we did it. That really is how the world changes.” -- Presbyterian activist, songwriter and author David LaMotte in discussing the difference between "hero work" and "movement work" in a Tedx Asheville talk, 2024.

**Gathering As a People of God**

**Prelude**

*Moment Musical in D Flat*  
Gail Lytle Lira, piano

Sergei Rachmaninoff

**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 Micah 6, *The Message*)

Jeff Conroy-Krutz, liturgist

One: How can I stand up before God and show proper respect?

**All: Should I bring an armload of offerings?**

One: Would God be impressed with thousands of rams, with buckets and barrels of olive oil?

**All: God has already made it plain how to live, what to do.**

One: It’s quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor,

**All: be compassionate and loyal in your love.**

One: And don’t take yourself too seriously— take God seriously.

**All: Let us worship God with open hearts and open minds.**

**\* Hymn #708**

*We Give Thee but Thine Own*, vs. 1-4  
[Schumann]

**Prayer of Confession**

Jeff Conroy-Krutz, liturgist

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: Merciful God, we give thanks that we can speak to you from our hearts. Your love for us is so broad and so deep and nothing can separate us from your love.**

*Silent prayer of gratitude*

**Merciful God, we are not careful with words and deeds and we do not watch closely our intentions. We abandon your commandments to hold fast to our self-serving traditions. We excuse ourselves from studying your instructions, not learning what is wrong and right, and why. Mostly, we are hearers of your word, seldom doers. Forgive us.**

*Silent prayer of confession*

**Merciful God, we have named sins and asked for forgiveness in honest repentance. We also recognize there are sins that remain unnamed and we ask you to help us name the places we fall short. As hearers of God's mercy, let us be inspired by the Holy Spirit that we might be faithful to your call to be both hearers and doers of the word.**

*Silent prayer of commitment (Amen)*

**Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace** Jeff Conroy-Krutz, liturgist

One: God chooses us as God's own people to show the light of salvation to the world. Jesus Christ is revealed to us, and for his sake our sins are forgiven. God's mercy is alive in thought, word and deed, by the power of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

One: Friends, believe the good news. In Jesus Christ you are forgiven. Now extend this same grace to your neighbors around you. May the peace of the Lord be with you.

**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

Living God, by your Holy Spirit, open our eyes to see the new light of this day; open our hearts to believe the Good News; open our lips to share the invitation to the table of grace and proclaim the precious love we have received through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Children's Message**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Old Testament Reading**

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Jeff Conroy-Krutz, liturgist

**New Testament Reading**

James 1:17-25

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Sermon**

*Doers of the Word*

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Responding to the Word**

**Offering**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Invitation**

**Offertory**

*Daisies*

Sergei Rachmaninoff

**\*Doxology #606**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Holy Communion**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Invitation**

**The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

One: The Lord be 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.**

**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**

**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**

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

arr. Greg Howlett

*Morning Has Broken*

arr. Larry Shackley

Gail Lytle Lira, piano

**Communion Prayer**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Sent Out As a People of God**

**\* Hymn #526**

*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*, vs. 1-3

[Linstead]

**\* Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Postlude**

*Gavotte*

Bach

Gail Lytle Lira, piano

trans: Sergei Rachmaninoff

*\* Please rise in body or spirit*

**This Morning's Fellowship Team:** Thank you to Tom Schaberg and Juan Carlos Roya for taking care of the coffee, and to Ron and Barbara Dorr for bringing refreshments.

**Education Hour:** No classes for children, youth and adults. Enjoy the Labor Weekend holiday.

**Next Week September 8, 2024: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Fall Back into Rhythm & Confirmation Sunday**

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 18:1-6

**Education Hour:** The Rhythms of Prayer; Intergenerational Education Hour with prayer practices for all ages.

The Prayer of Confession and Promise of the Gospel are adapted from words by the Rev. Bill Wessner at *Confession RCL*. Available online at <https://confessionrcl.blogspot.com/2015/08/cycle-b-lectionary-22-proper-17.html>

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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