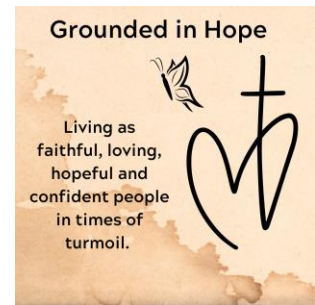


**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos  
November 10, 2024  
Twenty Fifth Sunday After Pentecost  
Service of Scripture and Song**



**Preparation:** Included in this morning's bulletin is a blank page. You are invited to use it for reflection and response throughout the service. You may want to doodle, draw, write words that catch your attention or a prayer. During the offertory, you will be invited to offer your confidential prayers and reflections to God. They will not be read by anyone else. The pastor will shred these pages after the service.

**Gathering As a People of God**

**Prelude**

*Adagio in A Minor*  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker

J.S. Bach

**Choral Introit**

*The Lord is in His Holy Temple*  
PCO Chancel Choir

The Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.  
O come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker.  
Amen

**Lighting the candles**

**Invitation to Our Shared Ministry**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**\* Call to Worship (Psalm 46)**

Rebecca Mattern

**One:** God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**All:** **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**  
*Selah (pause in the presence of God)*

**One:** There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**All:** **God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.**

**One:** The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; God utters their voice; the earth melts.

**All:** **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.**  
*Selah (pause in the presence of God)*

*One:* Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

**All:** **He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
she breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
they burn the shields with fire.**

*One:* “Be still, and know that I am God!

I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth.”

**All:** **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

*Selah (pause in the presence of God)*

\* **Hymn #414** *Be Still and Know That I am God* (repeated)

### **Prayer of Confession**

Rebecca Mattern

*One:* Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy to find grace to help in time of need. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

**All:** **Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, to set ourselves above our neighbor. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ (silent prayer)**  
Amen.

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

*One:* Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

**All:** **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

*One:* As forgiven people, hear a reading from Ephesians 4:1-6.

Having received God’s grace, let us extend grace to others through the passing of the peace. 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 #582**

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

*World without end, without end. Amen.*  
*World without end, without end. Amen.*  
*World without end, without end. Amen.*  
*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

## **The Word**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

Doug Paterson

God of possibility, you have spoken hope to us through the gift of your Son. You know the words we need to hear to be grounded in this hope. Open our eyes to see the new light of this day and open our hearts to believe the Good News. Amen.

### **Children's Message**

Rebecca Mattern

### **Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 40:27-30

Pastor Lisa Schrott

### **Old Testament Reading**

Jeremiah 29:10-14

Doug Paterson

### **Hymn #43**

*On Eagles Wings*, vs 1, 2

### **Reading from the Psalms**

Psalm 146

Rebecca Mattern

### **Hymn #772**

*Live into Hope*, vs. 1, 3, 4

### **Gospel Reading**

Matthew 5:38-48

Pastor Lisa Schrott

### **New Testament Reading**

Romans 12: 9-21

Doug Paterson

### **Hymn #727**

*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*, vs 1, 5, 6

## **Responding to the Word**

**Affirmation of Faith** (From A Brief Statement of Faith, full text on pgs. 37-38 of *Glory to God*)

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**In life and in death we belong to God.**

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,**

**and the communion of the Holy Spirit,**

**we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,**

**Fully human, fully God.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,**

**Jesus was crucified,**

suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.

We trust in God,  
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
In everlasting love,  
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people  
to bless all families of the earth.  
Hearing their cry,  
God delivered the children of Israel  
from the house of bondage.  
Loving us still,  
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 42

Rebecca Mattern

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**The Lord's Prayer** (ecumenical version). We invite you to recite the version of the Lord's Prayer that is closest to your heart.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Offering

Rebecca Mattern

Invitation

Offertory

*As Pants the Deer for Living Streams*  
[Psalm 42]



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