

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
July 20, 2025
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost



Gathering As a People of God

Preparation: “Phrases like Worship Service or Service of Worship are tautologies. To worship God means to serve him. Basically there are two ways to do it. One way is to do things for him that he needs to have done—run errands for him, carry messages for him, fight on his side, feed his lambs, and so on. The other way is to do things for him that you need to do—sing songs for him, create beautiful things for him, give things up for him, tell him what's on your mind and in your heart, in general rejoice in him....” Author and theologian Frederick Buechner; from *Wishful Thinking* (1973)

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prelude

Rhosymedre
Charles Frost, organ

R. Vaughan Williams

*** Call to Worship**

Judi Harris, Liturgist

One: All week long,

All: we are asked to be many things to many people.

One But here, now,

All: we are simply your children, O God.

One: All week long,

All: we are pushed and pulled, torn in many directions.

One But here, now,

All: we find our center, O Christ.

One: Here, now,

All: ready our hearts for worship, O Holy Spirit.

*** Hymn #410**

God Is Calling through the Whisper
[W Żłobie Leży]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: We come before the font knowing that in the baptismal waters we are cleansed of our sins. We come before the font knowing that we too often fail to uphold the promises that are made in baptism. We come before the font to confess and repent, assured of our forgiveness, praying together and individually:

All: Loving God, you are always speaking, giving us instructions, directing our attention, and telling us your love. We confess that sometimes we are not very good listeners. We aren't sure what is your voice, and what is ours, and what is just noise. We are easily distracted.

We like our own ways. But even when we are too busy, you still call. We admit that we find you difficult to hear, and we ask for your help. Open our minds and hearts. Tune our ears to your voice. Help us to listen to what you have to say, and then help us to follow wherever you lead. (Silent Prayer). Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Hear the Good News. God cleanses us from all that separates us from God and each other. We have received the grace that helps to push aside the distractions of the world and allows us to focus on God's love for us and the world.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

One: As a forgiven people, let us greet each other, sharing the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ 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

Judi Harris, Liturgist

Illuminating Spirit, break into the uncertainty, anxieties, and the distractions of our lives. May we hear your voice with clarity so that we may be encouraged in our walk with God. Meld us and mold us into your servant people, Christ's body in this world. Amen.

Children's Sermon & Time of Wonder

Pastor Lisa Schrott

First Scripture Reading

Genesis 18:1-10a

Judi Harris, Liturgist

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 10:38-42

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Stories of Our Faith: Distractions & Anxieties

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Affirmation of Faith (from the *Brief Statement of Faith*, 11.3)

(in unison)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. 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. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

Responding to the Word

Special Music

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee
Charles Frost, organist

Phillip Barnette McIntyre

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

Fairest, Lord Jesus

Diane Bish

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

Judi Haris, Liturgist

One: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

in unison

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 #543**

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me
[Green Tyler]

*** Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Celebration
Charles Frost, organist

Charles Callahan

* Please rise in body or spirit

Ushers: Brett & Lynn Cone,

This Morning's Fellowship Team and Education Hour: Thank you to the Parish Life Committee for supplying birthday cake to celebrate members and friends born in July; to Edward Ennen for making coffee, and to Joel Major for washing the dishes.

Education Hour: Education Hour is on summer break. Enjoy extended & intentional fellowship time.

Guest Musician: We welcome Charles Frost to our organ!

Frost is a native of Red Bank, New Jersey and began his music studies at an early age. He began playing the organ in churches and directing choirs as a sophomore in high school. Frost attended Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey where he received both the Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Church Music. Frost currently resides in Beaufort, South Carolina. Frost has served as Minister of Music in churches in California, Long Island, New York, and Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 2018 he retired as Minister of Music at Sea Island Presbyterian Church in Beaufort, South Carolina where he served for sixteen years. In May, 2023, he retired as the organist at First Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina after five years.

Frost is active as an organ recitalist and workshop clinician. He is a member of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) and The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada where he is President. He was a member of the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song (PCOCS) which developed *Glory to God*, the Presbyterian Hymnal.

Next Week: July 27, 2025 We welcome Jonathan Townley to the pulpit.

Scripture:

The Call to Worship is adapted from words by Rev. Scott V. Cervas and the Prayer of Confession from the words of Rev. Teri Peterson through Liturgy Link. They are available online at <https://www.liturgylink.net/2012/07/17/ctw-here-now/> and <https://www.liturgylink.net/2018/09/18/confession-not-very-good-listeners/>. The Affirmation of Faith is from the Brief Statement of Faith in *Part I of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Book of Confessions*. Office of the General Assembly, 2016. Louisville, KY

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Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

Westin Sorrel (he/him), Chancel Choir Director

Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director

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