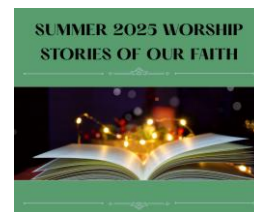


The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
August 10, 2025
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost



Gathering As a People of God

Preparation: "We have no more thought of using our own powers to escape the arm of authorities than had the Apostles of old. No more are we ready to keep silent at man's behest when God commands us to speak. For it is, and must remain, the case that we must obey God rather than man."---
Theologian and Pastor Martin Niemöller – from *Religion in the Reich* by Michael Power, (p. 142), 1939.

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prelude

Voluntary in A minor
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Maurice Greene
(1695 – 1755)

*** Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 33, CEB)

Sean Clark, Liturgist

One: All you who are righteous, shout joyfully to the Lord!

All: It's right for those who do right to praise God.

One: Because the Lord's word is right, God's every act is done in good faith.

All: The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the Lord's faithful love fills the whole earth.

One: The Lord overrules what the nations plan; God frustrates what the peoples intend to do.

All: But the Lord's plan stands forever; what God intends to do lasts from one generation to the next.

One: We put our hope in the Lord. God is our help and our shield. Our heart rejoices in God because we trust God's holy name.

All: Lord, let your faithful love surround us because we wait for you.

*** Hymn #731**

Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm, vs. 1-4
[Repton]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: The God who demands justice from us is the God who pours out mercy upon us. Trusting in that gracious love and the promises given at our baptism, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

All: Merciful God, throughout the ages you have led your people as they struggled to be a voice of justice, mercy and humility in a world that rewards power, intolerance and pride. Just as those who came before us too often failed to live with your love and grace as guides, we too struggle to always stand up to the voices of the world. When we are

hesitant to follow your will, forgive us. When we make excuses for why we can't stand up for what is right, forgive us. When we let our fears prevent us from showing up and speaking out, forgive us. Give us courage to trust you and your word. Give us wisdom to know that you will walk with us. Take us by the hand and strengthen our faith.

(Silent prayer) Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: In the waters of baptism we receive abundant mercy, flowing like a spring that never runs dry.
Forgiven and freed, we are reconciled with God and with one another.

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

Sean Clark, Liturgist

God of Hope, through trust and faith our ancestors stepped out in bold witness to your love. As we hear their stories read and proclaimed, open our eyes to your presence. May we hear your Word with clarity and a sureness of hope, as we seek to follow you in our lives. Amen.

Children's Sermon & Time of Wonder

Pastor Lisa Schrott

First Scripture Reading

Genesis 15:1-6

Sean Clark, Liturgist

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Special Music

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

arr: Tammy Waldrop

PCO Handbell Choir,

Irene Shutt, Director

Second Scripture Reading

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Pastor Lisa Schrott

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

A Faith Lived Out

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Affirmation of Faith (adapted from *The Theological Declaration of Barmen, PC(USA) Book of Confessions* (8.11, 8.12, 8.15, 8.18),

in unison

- **Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death.**

- We reject the false doctrine, as though the church could and would have to acknowledge as a source of its proclamation, apart from and besides this one Word of God, still other events and powers, figures and truths, as God's revelation.
- We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords—areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him.
- We reject the false doctrine, as though the church were permitted to abandon the form of its message and order to its own pleasure or to changes in prevailing ideological and political convictions.

Responding to the Word

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

God So Loved The World

comp. J. Stainer

Bell Trio

arr. L. Dorgan

Linda Cravotta, Lou Cravotta & Sarah Mayhew

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Sean Clark, 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 #684

Faith Begins by Letting Go, vs. 1-3

[Lux Prima]

* Benediction

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Voluntary in D Major

William Selby

Marlene Brewbaker, organist

(1738 – 1798)

* Please rise in body or spirit

Ushers: Michele Arbour, Gary & Trudy Sturk

This Morning's Fellowship Team and Education Hour: Thank you to Barbara Scott and Becky Gillespie for supplying snacks for fellowship time, to Edward Ennen for making coffee and to Dave Rumminger for washing the dishes.

Flowers: The flowers beautifying our sanctuary this morning are from Barbara and Wayne Scott in thanksgiving for the beauty of the summer.

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

Next Week: Worship at Eastminster - Sunday, August 17 at 10:00 a.m.

Special Worship at Eastminster Presbyterian Church We will join our siblings in Christ in worship at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1315 Abbot Road in East Lansing. Rebecca Mattern and Rev. Kristin Stroble will speak about their experience walking on the Camino de Santiago (The Way of St. James) during the worship service.

The worship service will include a Blessing of the Backpacks and Back to School blessing for all children and youth. Please bring backpacks to the service. There will be a time of fellowship after the worship service. This will be followed by additional reflections by Rebecca and Kristin, and time for questions.

Please note: there will be no worship service at PCO on that morning. If you are unable to attend in person, you can watch the livestream of the service at <https://www.youtube.com/c/eastminsterpresbyterianchurcheastlansing>. While the livestream will be available at PCO in Fellowship Hall, we do hope that you will make every effort to attend the service in person.

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Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist
Shelby Laird, Chancel Choir Director
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director
Edward Ennen, Sexton
Anna Thiel, Office Manager
Gabrielle Ghosh (she/her), Media Specialist