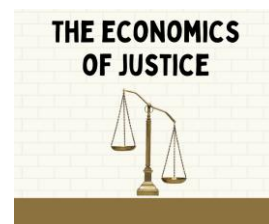


**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**September 14, 2025**  
**Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost**



**Gathering As a People of God**

**Preparation:** "We who are now the richest nation are today's main coveters. We never feel that we have enough; we have to have more and more, and this insatiable desire destroys us. Whether we are liberal or conservative Christians, we must confess that the central problem of our lives is that we are torn apart by the conflict between our attraction to the good news of God's abundance and the power of our belief in scarcity -- a belief that makes us greedy, mean and unneighborly. We spend our lives trying to sort out that ambiguity." – Walter Brueggemann, *Christian Century*, March 24-31, 1999.

**Invitation to Our Shared Ministry**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Introduction of Choir Scholarship Singers**

Shelby Laird, Chancel Choir Director

Amira Coleman, Janae Washington  
Jonathan Dahn, Calvin Aupperlee

**Prelude**

*Cantilena*

Josef Rheinberger

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

**Lighting the Candles**

**Choral Introit**

*Worship Him as One*

C.O.Beck

PCO Chancel Choir

Shelby Laird, director

**\* Call to Worship**

Judi Harris, Liturgist

One: When hope is high, abundance surrounds us, and we bask in the goodness of God's provision,  
God calls to us...

**All: open our heart and our hands.**

One: When disaster strikes, need overwhelms the senses, and we carry the weight and worry of a  
perilous present and unknown future, God calls to us...

**All: open our heart and our hands.**

One: When we are moved with compassion, our hearts urging us to reach out to support our siblings  
in Christ, God calls to us...

**All: open our heart and our hands.**

One: Children of God, as we gather for worship today, listen! God call us to open our hearts and our  
hands to one another in need and in abundance.

**All: May our worship open our hearts and our hands to one another as we learn to share with  
one another in all seasons, for we are all one in the Body of Christ.**

\* Hymn #687

*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*, vs. 1, 3-6  
[St. Anne]

**Prayer of Confession**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: God is at work, nurturing our growth and showing us the ways that lead to life. God is at work, reconciling us to one another and teaching us the paths of love. We come before our God, who is full of compassion, to ask forgiveness and mercy. Let us pray together:

**All: We fill our lives with the fear of scarcity, assuming there is not enough money, time, patience or love. We turn away when a stranger asks for nourishment, claiming there isn't enough even for ourselves. Forgive us when we doubt your abundance and ignore the possibilities in what we have been given. Forgive us when we reject your abundance and neglect the possibilities in what we have been given. We easily give thanks for the good things in life, turning away from those which lead us to deeper community or second-guessing blessings as too good to be true. Open our eyes to the wonders that surround us. Help us surrender to the loving embrace that enfolds us. (Silent Prayer). Amen.**

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

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Take comfort: we, and the whole world with us, are always embraced in Christ's love. In Christ, there is always enough. Thanks be to God!

**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

Holy God, your word is a light in darkness and a source of blessing. Your word is a living word and you still have many things to say to us. Speak, and we will open ourselves to hear them. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us; enliven our hearts and minds as we hear your word for us today. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

**Children's Sermon & Time of Wonder**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**First Scripture Reading**

1 Kings 17:7-16

Judi Harris, Liturgist

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Second Scripture Reading**                      Ephesians 2:14-22                      Pastor Lisa Schrott  
One: The Word of God for the people of God.  
All: Thanks be to God.

**Sermon**                      *The Economics of Justice.*                      Pastor Lisa Schrott  
   *Theologies of Scarcity & Abundance*

**Anthem**                      *Seek Ye the Lord*                      J.V. Roberts,  
   PCO Chancel Choir                      arr. Cuthbert Buckner  
   Shelby Laird, director

### **Responding to the Word**

**Minute for Gratitude**                      Celebrating Anna Thiel's Fifth Anniversary                      Pastor Lisa Schrott  
   Kelly Locke, Chair Personnel Committee

**Offering**                      Pastor Lisa Schrott  
**Invitation**  
**Offertory**                      *Praeludium in g minor*                      Johann Krieger  
\*Doxology #606  
\*Prayer of Dedication

**Prayers of the People**                      Judi Harris, 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 #346                      *For the Healing of the Nations*, vs. 1-4  
   [St. Thomas]

\* **Benediction**                      Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Postlude**                      *Postlude on St. Anne*                      Charles Callahan  
   Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

\* Please rise in body or spirit

**Ushers:** Gary & Trudy Sturk, Deb & Joel Major

**This Morning's Fellowship Team and Education Hour:** Thank you to Shirley Rumminger for providing snacks for this morning, to Tom Schaberg for making coffee.

**Education Hour:**

- Elementary Education in Room 116
- Intergenerational Bible Study (Middle School, High School and Adults): Colaborate New Testament Series with Roy Meland in the Board Room
- Adult Education: Economics of Justice led by Ewen Todd and Sean Clark in Room 108
- New Member Class in Fellowship Hall led by Pastor Lisa

**Next Week:** September 21, 2025 We welcome the Rev. Dan Lewis to the PCO pulpit.

**Scripture:** Psalm 46 & Matthew 14:22-33

The Call to Worship is adapted from words by Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, April 2024. The Prayer of Confession is adapted From Stone Soup, a liturgy from the Seekers Church: A Christian Community. Both are online at <http://umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/open-your-heart/sixth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-b-lectionary-planning-notes/sixth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-b-liturgical-resources>

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Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist  
Shelby Laird, Chancel Choir Director  
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director  
Edward Ennen, Sexton  
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