

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
June 14, 2026
Third Sunday After Pentecost



At PCO we strive to be a faithful, open, and inclusive community. We welcome the full participation of all people of any age, ability, gender identity, race, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Bill Given, Liturgist

Prelude

Aria

Flor Peeters

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organ

*** Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 100)

Leone White, Liturgist

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

All: Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

One: Know that the Lord is God. It is the Lord who made us, and we are God's people.

All: We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

One: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and courts with praise. Give thanks to God; bless God's holy name.

All: For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever and God's faithfulness is to all generations.

*** Hymn # 733**

We All Are One in Mission, vs. 1-3

[Es Flog Ein Kleins Waldvögelein]

Prayer of Confession

Bill Given, Liturgist

One: If you are looking for proof of God's love, here it is: at the very moment we realize we cannot help ourselves, that is the time we discover God has saved us in Christ Jesus. Join me as we pray to our God, saying,

All: How easily we pat ourselves on the back, God of Love, for the lives we lead. We welcome the praise of others, but have little compassion for those who have failed us. We assume that a comfortable life is our birthright, yet believe poor choices produce suffering for those around us. We boast of the good we do, but forget to thank you for all that you have given to us. Forgive us, God of Compassion, for disappointing your hopes for us. As we seek to follow Christ, may we be in companionship with those whose lives are shaped by feelings of emptiness, with those who know little laughter in their day, with those who have received no love from others. We lift up these prayers in the name of the one who taught Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. *Silent prayer. Amen.*

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Bill Given, Liturgist

One: In Paul's letter to the Romans, we hear that since we are justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. It is through Christ Jesus that we have obtained access to God's grace which shapes us into a new creation.

All: Thanks be to God for the new creation we are in Christ.

One: It is as a forgiven people that we extend the peace of Christ to each other. May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you. *Please greet your fellow worshippers in ways you feel comfortable.*

* Act of Praise #581

Gloria Patri

Prayer of Illumination

Leone White, Liturgist

O God, you have the power to make the desert a place of renewal and a cross a sign of redemption. Send your Holy Spirit so that we can hear you and entrust ourselves to you. Empower us to be agents of love, sharing Good News of the gift of the grace of Jesus Christ to those we meet each day. Amen.

Children's Sermon and Time of Wonder

Ewen Todd

First Scripture Reading

Exodus 19:2-8a

Leone White, Liturgist

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 9:35 – 10:23

Rev. Dr. Kit Carlson

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

What We Carry with Us

Rev. Dr. Kit Carlson

Special Music

I'll Fly Away

Tammy Waldrop

PCO Handbell Choir

Irene Shutt, director

Offering

Bill Given, Liturgist

Invitation

Offertory

Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me

Arr. K. Lee Scott

PCO Summer Pick-Up Choir

Shelby Laird, Director

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Leone White, Liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer

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.

* Hymn # 462

I Love To Tell the Story, vs. 1-3

[Hankey]

* Charge & Benediction

Rev. Dr. Kit Carlson

Postlude

Laudation

Gilbert M. Martin

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

We welcome the Rev. Dr. Kit Carlson, former Rector of All Saints Episcopal Church, to the PCO pulpit this morning. She was rector of All Saints Episcopal Church in East Lansing from 2007 to 2024. She holds an M.Div. and D.Min. degrees from Virginia Theological Seminary. In retirement, she writes lectionary reflections for *The Christian Century* and personal essays about life, the body, and mortality.

Ushers: Gary & Trudy Sturk, Jeff & Michele Arbour

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Edward Ennen for making the coffee and washing the dishes.

Education Hour is on Summer Break. Enjoy an extended time of fellowship this morning.

Next Week: June 21, 2026

Scripture: Psalm 42:1-8 and Mark 10:23-31

This Prayer of Confession this morning was adapted from the words of the Rev. Thom Shuman published in *Lectionary Liturgies*. Online at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2023/06/liturgy-wcommunion-for-june-18-2023.html>

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Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott (she/her), Pastor/Head of Staff

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

Shelby Laird (she, her), Chancel Choir Director

Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director

Edward Ennen, Sexton

Anna Thiel, Office Manager

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