

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
August 23, 2026
Thirteenth 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.

Preparation: Here is an interesting metaphor for a person of faith: *a midwife who fears God*. A person who is prepared to walk hand in hand with others who are laboring. ...What if that is what we are supposed to be for one another, in these days? What if that is what we are supposed to be for the church, the nations, the earth itself? What if everything that is waiting to be born in you and in me is totally dependent on our willingness to walk with one another, behind the scenes, as a witness and another set of hands.” – Rev. Dr. Anna Carter Florence in *A is for Alabaster, 52 Reflections on the Stories of Scripture*, 2023, p66.

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prelude

Romanze: Adagio non troppo from Trio Suite in d minor

Hans Koessler

Barbara Fretwell-Cooke, cello

(1853-1926)

Gaile Griffore, flute

Connie Detjen, piano

*** Call to Worship** (adapted from Isaiah 51)

Deb Major, Liturgist

One: Hear O Israel! I am calling! Are you listening?

All: We are here and we are ready.

One: Beloved Children, who do you say that I am?

All: You are our rock and our redeemer. Our trust is in you. Our hearts, minds and souls belong to you!

One: I created you, named you and have a calling for your life.

All: We give thanks with our whole hearts for your steadfast love!

*** Hymn #330**

Our Help Is in the Name of God, vs. 1-3

[Old 124th]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Aaron Punt

One: You call out to us, Lord, but we struggle to listen. As we come before you with our hearts open, quiet the noise of the world, of our pressing thoughts and fears, so that we may hear your Spirit fully.

All: God of truth, like a moth that gnaws at wool, our brokenness eats away at our souls. We allow the cacophony of greed, selfishness, apathy and ignorance to drown out your voice as you call us to see the suffering in our world and respond to the needs of your children. In our busy lives, we convince ourselves that there is no time to help, no space for prayer and no

need for justice. Forgive us. Remind us that only when we slow down and breathe deeply of your Holy Spirit and holy Word can our ears hear your voice. Inspire us to greater love for you and for one another. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Aaron Punt

One: The prophet Isaiah wrote, "Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me." Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys to the kingdom." We know love and forgiveness because God first loved us and has been calling out to us forever, "You are my beloved!" May we respond to such abundant grace with deep gratitude for God's unending forgiveness.

All: God loves me, heals me, strengthens me and calls me by name. Through Jesus I am made whole! Thanks be to God!

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

Deb Major, Liturgist

God of light, your wisdom is right here, speaking truth to us in love. We pray for you to open our eyes, our ears and our hearts so we may drink in all that you have for us to learn today. Amen.

Children's Sermon and Time of Wonder

Pastor Lisa Schrott

First Scripture Reading

Psalms 124

Pastor Aaron Punt

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading

Exodus 1:15 - 2:10

Pastor Lisa Schrott

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Deliverance From & Deliverance For

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Special Music

Andante un poco mosso from *Trio Opus 99-D898*

Trio

Franz Schubert

(1797-1828)

Offering

Pastor Aaron Punt

Invitation

Offertory

Andante Espressivo

Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Hedwige Chrétien

(1859-1944)

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

Deb Major, 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 #372

O For a World, vs. 1-5
(Azmon)

* Charge & Benediction

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Allegro from Trio in b minor
Trio

Jean-Baptiste Loeillet de Gan
(1688-c. 1720)
Harmonized by Alexandre Beon

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

Ushers: Dave & Kathi Cook, Barbara & Ron Dorr

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Laurie Harkema and Barbara Hoevel for supplying snacks. Thank you to Edward Ennen for preparing the coffee and washing the dishes.

Next Week August 30, 2026

Scripture: Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b and Exodus 3:1-15

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

This morning's liturgy was written by the Rev. Jeny Carlson and provided by the Presbyterian Outlook, 2026 for free distribution. Available online at https://pres-outlook.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Outlook-Order-of-Worship-8_23.pdf

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