

*Plymouth*  
Congregational Church  
*United Church of Christ*



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**January 29, 2023**

# ***Plymouth Congregational Church***

## ***United Church of Christ***

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!*

**January 29, 2023 • 4th Sunday after Epiphany • 10 a.m.**

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*\*An asterisk invites you to stand as you are able, in body or spirit.*

### **Prelude**

### **Greeting and Welcome**

Pastor Charles

### **Announcements**

- We are sad to report that Kay Burkhardt passed away last week. Kay was the wife of Bill Burkhardt, who served as minister here from 1962 to 1982. Kay was well-loved by the congregation and she will be missed.
- Our Annual Meeting will be after the service today. We'll go over the Annual Report, pass the budget, and to elect the council members for 2023, so please plan on being here for that. Lunch afterwards.
- Later today day, Judy Fjell of Big Sky UU is inviting us to watch her musical Ordinary Bird, 4:00pm, right here in the sanctuary.
- Sunday, February 5 - Souper Bowl, bring canned or dried food to show your support for your team! All food will be given to Helena Food Share.
- March 19 - One Great Hour of Sharing.

### **Invitation to Worship**

Matthew 5:1-12

Robie Culver

One: When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

***All: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

One: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

**All: *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.***

One: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

**All: *Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.***

One: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

**All: *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.***

One: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**All: *Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.***

One: Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**\*Gathering Hymn**                      *"Blesses Are the Poor in Spirit"*                      180 (NCH)

**Unison Prayer** *(please be seated)*                      Robie Culver

***Creator God, we thank you for the multitude of gifts that you have bestowed upon us. Help us to be brave enough to use them to make the world a better place. Let us shine brightly and confidently, so that we might inspire those around us, spreading your love, hope, and peace to all people. [We invite you to rest in this brief moment of silence to listen for God's loving message for you this day.] (30 seconds) Amen.***

**Assurance of Grace**                      Pastor Charles

People of God, hear the good news! God has blessed you with many gifts. From love, peace, and patience, to your beautiful singing, the wonderful foods that you share, and your green thumbs, we can use them all to

proclaim the Good News of God's love to the world. So, share your gifts, for they are indeed gifts from God. Amen.

**Congregational Response**      *"Blessed Are You"*      77 (Sing!)

**Prayer of Illumination**      Brenda Senne

Creator of all things, we come to you seeking understanding. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

### **Psalm 15**

O God, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;

Who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

In whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who revere God; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

Who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.

### **Musical Interlude**

**Reading from the Epistles**    1 Corinthians 1:18-30      Pastor Charles

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the

wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. God is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

### **Pastoral Reflection**

Pastor Charles

### **Musical Reflection**

### **Prayers of the People**

Pastor Charles

God of Creation, Imagination, and Hope, we thank you for all of the blessings you have given to us. We thank you for your blessings of life and discovery, wonder and imagination. You have blessed us with shelter and food, water and safety. Help us learn from all that you have given to us. Help us to accept scientific truth, the truth of story, and the truth of one another's experiences. Help us to grow as we overcome the challenges we face in our lives. Give us the courage to try new things, to go to new

places, and to meet new people. Give us the courage to speak of your great love for the world.

Mother and Father of us all, we ask that you be with all of those for whom no one ever prays, and move in us, that we might work to heal this world that is our home before it is too late. We offer special prayers for all who are experiencing war or natural disaster. We pray for Ed Canty, Giles Walker, Evelyn Nelson, Marlyce “Marliss” Taylor, Art and Clara Gilreath, and Lorraine Hopgood. We lift up Margy “Marghee” Kohl, Nathan Schreder “Schrader”, Greg Bolin, Gus and Brenda Byrom, and Jay Sheldon as they go through cancer treatment. We pray for Karen Hays, Al, and Dianne Senne, for Dave Weaver, Dianne Zimmerman, Jim Beran, and Anna Demaree. We pray for the family of Kay Burkhardt, as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

Heavenly Father, Heavenly Mother, holy and blessed is your true name.

We pray for your reign of peace to come,

We pray that your good will be done,

Let heaven and earth become one.

Give us this day the bread we need,

Give it to those who have none.

Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,

From each one to each one.

Lead us to holy innocence beyond the evil of our days — Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.

For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy: Forever your name is All in One.

~ Parker J. Palmer

## Tithes and Offerings

### \*Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessing flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below,  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

### \*Prayer of Dedication

**\*Departing Hymn**      *“Tis Winter Now; the Fallen Snow”*                      432 (NCH)

### \*Charge & Benediction

Pastor Charles

To know God is to know awe, and wonder, and mystery. God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. We can never fully understand the majesty and power of our God. But, through Jesus Christ, God sought to know us and teach us. To let us know that we are loved and that we matter. So, embrace the awe, and wonder, and mystery that is our God, and let that knowing be your guide in this world.

And now, may our Creator God instill within you a spirit of creativity. May Jesus the Christ live inside of you, and help you to remember to love and forgive others, as well as yourself. And, may the Holy Spirit always be with you as you make your way on this journey that we call life, so that you will never be alone. Go in peace. Amen.

**\*Congregational Blessing**      *“Go Out Now in Peace”*                      212 (Sing!)

### Postlude

*Plymouth’s Mission is to nurture our congregation and the wider community with acts of love and a vision of God’s image in all things.*

— TODAY'S MINISTERS —

*The People of Plymouth Congregational Church, assisted by*

*Rev. Charles Wei, Pastor*

*Robie Culver and Brenda Senne, Liturgists*

*Dr. Steve and Nancy Michelson, Music*

*Carol McKerrow, Liturgical Art*

— ANNOUNCEMENTS —

**Souper Bowl** will be Sunday, February 5th after worship. Please bring canned or dried food to show your support for your team! All food will be given to Helena Food Share.

**Charity Knitting and Crochet** group is meeting on Thursdays from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Please talk to Cindy Holcomb for more information.

**60th Anniversary!** We will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the groundbreaking for Plymouth Congregational Church on Sunday, May 28, 2023. To help us do that, you are invited to share recipes for a church cookbook, as well as stories and memories for a booklet we can hand out. Also, if you have any pictures you would like to share, or if you have any other ideas of how we can celebrate, we welcome all of that! Please send your recipes, stories, and pictures to [pccofficemgr@gmail.com](mailto:pccofficemgr@gmail.com).

**There's a prayer card** in your pew rack, which you can use to let us know of prayer requests. Place your card in the offering plate as they are passed.

**Welcome visitors!** We are delighted to have you worshipping with us today. You are invited to fill out a Visitor Card, which you will find on the back of the pew next to the hymnals.

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

Sunday, January 29th after service—PCC Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 29th 4:00 p.m.—Judy Fjell's "Ordinary Bird"—Sanctuary

Sunday, February 5th after service—Souper Bowl Sunday

**PCC Office Phone—406-442-9883**

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**Pastor Charles' e-mail—[pastorplymouthmt@gmail.com](mailto:pastorplymouthmt@gmail.com)**

**Pastor Office Hours—Tuesdays and Thursdays—9am to 4pm**