

Plymouth
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

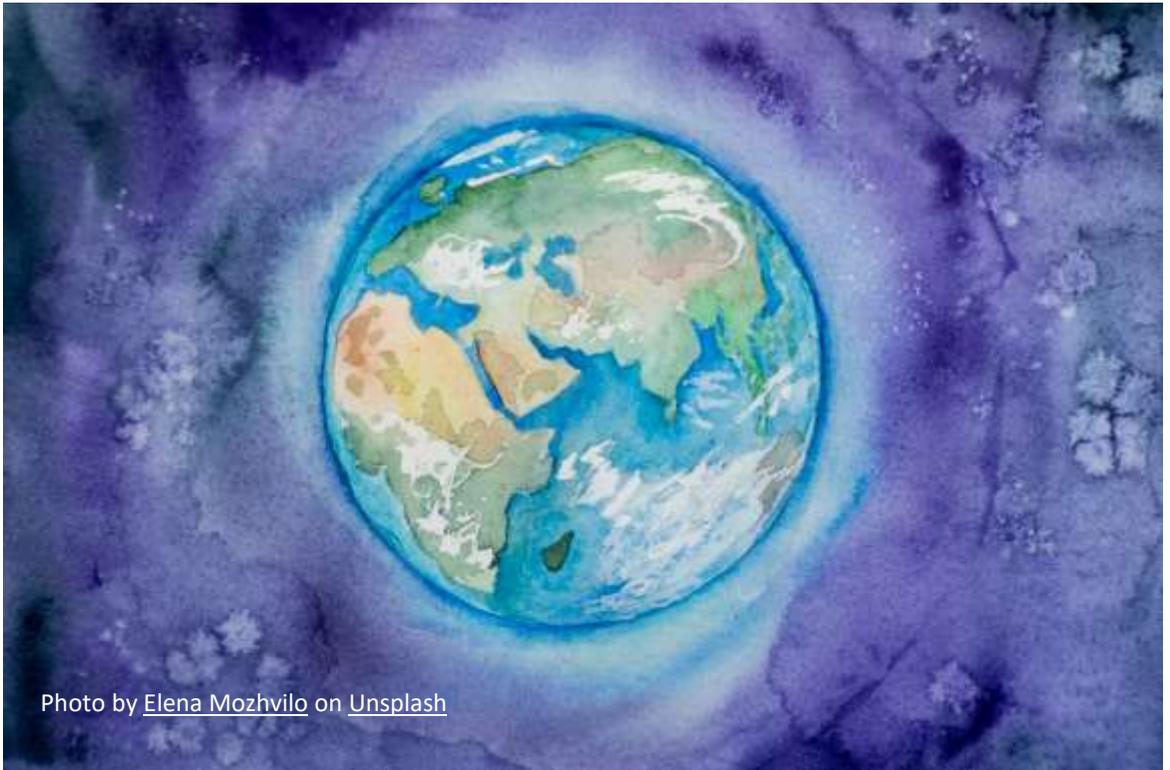


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May 1, 2022

Plymouth Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

Welcome! We are glad you have chosen to worship with us this morning.

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

We pray that the Spirit will move through your heart.

May 1, 2022 • Third Sunday of Easter • 10 a.m.

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

Prelude

Greeting and Welcome

Pastor Charles

Announcements

- New sign-up sheet in the narthex for liturgists for May & June.
- Weekly prayer group currently on pause, trying to find a new time.
- Silent Auction fundraiser: Ed Field has generously donated a beautiful photograph of Lake McDonald.
- Next Sunday we're going to have a Jazz Sunday with some wonderful jazz hymns.

Invitation to Worship

Lynn Bolin

One: We gather to celebrate the gift of creation!

All: We celebrate the God of earth, air, and water!

One: Our God has created a wonderous world!

All: Let us celebrate and praise God!

Gathering Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

26 (NCH)

Unison Prayer (*please be seated*)

Lynn Bolin

God of All Creation, we thank you for this beautiful green world. We

thank you for the miracle of life, and for the bounty of life all around us. Help us to take care of this wonderful world of flowers and trees, mushrooms and animals. Give us insight and understanding, to see you in everything living. And, give us the strength and courage we need to protect and renew our world, so that it can protect and renew us, and all the generations that come after. [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 set us to be the caretakers of the Earth. God would only do that if we were capable of being the caretakers of the Earth. So, know that it is in us to be good stewards, to love and care for all of creation. To do the task that God has set before us, to maintain a world that will provide for and protect all of the creatures in it, including ourselves. God has faith in us, and is our strength. Amen.

Congregational Response

283 (NCH)

"Touch the Earth Lightly" (verses 1, 3, & 4)

Prayer of Illumination

Jan Clinard

Eternal God, you are our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Be with us now as we listen for your word. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

New Testament Reading

Acts 9:1-9

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven

flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Anthem

"Lamb of God"

insert

Gospel Reading

John 21:1-17

Rev. Robyn Morrison

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So, they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for the beauty of creation, for the blessings and miracles of everyday life, and for the gift of life. You set us in this world to be truth-tellers and peacemakers, living in harmony with all of creation. We give thanks that when we turn from the ways of peace, you call us back with love.

We see the light, we know of love, through you.

Jesus shows us the way to a new world community, one in which the last is first, justice prevails, and resources are shared, so that all people may lead lives of dignity and feel valued. The world rebelled against his message, and he was crucified out of fear. But death cannot defeat life. Jesus breathed the Spirit upon his followers and gave birth to the church, Christ's body in the world.

Living Christ ever present; we welcome you in our lives.

The Communion Prayer

Pastor Charles

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and grapes from the earth. By your Spirit make us one with all who share this feast. Unite us in love, and energize us to work for a world of peace and justice for all.

Creator of All Things, we thank you for your renewing spirit. We thank you for your blessings of creation, and wonder, thought and imagination. You have been so generous with the abundance and diversity of the

world; help us to appreciate it, to welcome it and grow from it. Let us learn from all you have given to us, from the truth and light spoken through your prophets, to the challenges of our everyday lives. Pull us outside of our comfort zones, so that we might be a more understanding, more empathetic, and more open to those who are different from us. Thank you, Jesus, for the blazing fire of hope that you have kindled within us, and for moving in us to be more sympathetic, more generous, and more justice-minded. Thank you, Holy Spirit, for walking with us and for drawing us ever closer together, to be one family of God. Help us to take care of each other, and to love each other the way that you love us. 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.

God of All, we offer special prayers for the people of Ukraine, Ed Canty, Giles Walker, and Lorraine Hopgood. We lift up Margy “Marghee” Kohl, Nathan Schreder “Schrader”, and Jay Sheldon as they go through cancer treatment. We pray for Ben Sweeney, Evelyn Nelson, Marlyce “Marliss” Taylor, and Art and Clara Gilreath.

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.

God's People Receive the Gifts of God

Bread

On the night that Jesus was arrested, he was celebrating the Passover with his friends, to remember the time that God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The Israelites had to leave so quickly that their bread didn't have time to rise, and so the bread became a symbol of freedom. But, this Passover was different, because Jesus said that he was the bread, because he would free them from sin and from death. And, after he blessed it, he broke it saying, "This is my body, broken for you. Whenever you eat of it, remember me."

Cup

In the same manner after supper, he took the cup. And, after he poured into it, he blessed it saying, "This cup is the new covenant, sealed in my blood. I am the vine, and you are the branches, cut off from me, you can do nothing. Whenever you drink of it, remember me."

For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the saving life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ until he comes again.

Communion Hymn *"Jesus Calls Us" (verses 1, 3-5)* 172 (NCH)

An Invitation to Share Our Gifts Pastor Charles

Offertory

Doxology (*unison*)

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,***

— TODAY'S MINISTERS —

The People of Plymouth Congregational Church, assisted by

Rev. Charles Wei, Pastor

Rev. Robyn Morrison—Guest Speaker

Lynn Bolin and Jan Clinard, Liturgists

Dr. Steve and Nancy Michelson, Music

—ANNOUNCEMENTS —

Plymouth's Women's Fellowship, Tuesday, May 10th at 10 a.m. PCC's Women's Fellowship is meeting on Tuesday, May 10, at 10 a.m. in the Fireside Room. At this meeting we will assemble newborn gifts for the Afghan families who currently or until quite recently live in Helena. If you would like to purchase something for the four newborns, due from May through November, consult the "wish list" on the table in the narthex. You are welcome to join the fun whether or not you come with a gift.

Tuesday's Morning Prayer Group—on hold. There will be no morning prayer group on Tuesday. Group is working to find a new time.

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.

Child care is available during worship; please speak with an usher.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Today at 11:15 a.m. —Plymouth Singers—Sanctuary

Tuesday, April 10th at 10:00 a.m.—PCC Women's Fellowship—Fireside Room

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Office Manager e-mail—pccofficemgr@gmail.com

Office Hours—Monday through Thursday—9am to 1pm

Pastor Charles' e-mail—pastorplymouthmt@gmail.com

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