

Plymouth
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



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June 19, 2022

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

June 19, 2022 • Second Sunday after Pentecost • 10 a.m.

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

Prelude Steve Michelson

Greeting and Welcome Pastor Charles

Announcements

- Meatless Mondays—Extended through July, sign-up sheets in narthe

Invitation to Worship *adapted from Psalm 22:19-28* Brenda Senne

One: O God, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!

All: Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog! Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen, you have rescued me.

One: I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

All: Praise God! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify God; stand in awe of God, all you offspring of Israel! For God did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; and did not hide their face from me, but heard when I cried out.

One: From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear God.

All: The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek God shall find God. May your hearts live forever!

*Gathering Hymn

6 (NCH)

“Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good” (verses 1-3)

Unison Prayer (*please be seated*)

Brenda Senne

Merciful One, you are loving, and generous, and kind. Let your healing hands lift us up out of the shadows, and bless us with your light. As all of the injustice, sadness, and violence in the world threaten to leave us in despair, we look to you for hope. Kindle a flame of courage and joy within us, so that we might be a beacon, and help us to spread the Good News of your love to the world. [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 is like a great light, pushing back the shadows. In God’s light, we can find shelter. In God’s light, we can find hope. We are never alone when we face the challenges of life. We have been blessed with family and friends, a community of support, and we always have God. The Holy Spirit is always with us, loving us, and lifting us back to our feet when we stumble. So, know that God is with you, and that God has surrounded you with people who care about you. Amen.

Congregational Response

553 (NCH)

“There is a Balm in Gilead”

Prayer of Illumination

Sunny Ray Mandeville

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.

Reading from the Epistles

Galatians 3:23-29

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Musical Reflection

Gospel Reading

Luke 8:26-39

Pastor Charles

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As Jesus stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me" — for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake

and was drowned. When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

Pastoral Reflection

*Musical Reflection

Steve Michelson

Prayers of the People

Pastor Charles

Miraculous Healer, we lift up our ailments, our worries and concerns to you. Help us to allow your healing light into our lives, and let it be a balm for our sorrows. Help us to find healing in the rustle of the leaves, in the sound of water on stone, in the smells of the forest, and the mountaintop vistas. Help us to find solace in the company of friends, in hugging our family, in our prayers, and in the stillness of quiet places.

[pause]

We ask you to move in us to be kinder, more giving, and more justice-minded. Thank you for being with us, and for drawing us ever closer to-

gether, to be one family, united in love. 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 all of the people in war-torn countries around the world, and all of the victims of gun violence. We pray that you move in us to work for a safer world. We pray for Ed Canty, Giles Walker, and Lorraine Hopgood. We lift up Margy “Marghee” Kohl, Nathan Schreder “Schrader”, Greg Bolin, and Jay Sheldon as they go through cancer treatment. We pray for Lee Murphy, Anna Demaree, Ben Sweeney, Evelyn Nelson, Marlyce “Marliss” Taylor, and Art and Clara Gilreath.

Creator of all things and all people, great is your name,
You are everywhere and within everyone,
May your hope for the world be done.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And free us from bondage,
As we free those whom we have bound,
And lead us away from that which would harm us,
And rescue us from the evils of the world,
May your peace and justice and glory shine forever and ever.
Amen.

Offertory

Nancy Michelson

*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 Pastor Charles
- *Departing Hymn *“In Christ there is no East or West”* 395 (NCH)
- *Charge & Benediction Pastor Charles

As you leave this place, I pray that you take the love and solace that you find here out into the world. Let God’s love be as a balm for you, and share it with those outside of this space, so that you can be a balm of healing, solace, and love for those around you.

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. Amen.

- *Congregational Blessing *“Go Out Now in Peace”*

Postlude

YOU’RE INVITED!

Mondays in June and July at 6:00 p.m.—Meatless Mondays—Sign up sheet in the narthex.
Tuesday, June 21st at 5:30 p.m.—Fishing Tips, Group I, Session 2—Fellowship Hall
Thursday, June 23rd at 11:00 a.m.—PCC Worship Committee Meeting—Stockade Room

*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
Brenda Senne and Sunny Ray Mandeville, Liturgists
Dr. Steve and Nancy Michelson, Music*

— ANNOUNCEMENTS —

Fishing Tips Book Group. You are heartily invited to participate in the summer read, "Fishing Tips". Written by Rev. Dr. John Pentland, pastor of Hillhurst United Church, Calgary, the book is an open invitation to be curious and to think about workable ideas that may help our church grow. There are two opportunities to participate, each four weeks long, lasting about 1 ½ hours.

Group I Tuesday evenings, 5:30 to 7:00 PM, June 14 through July 5; held at the church with a simple supper included; discussion led by Rev. Charles Wei and Liz Gundersen.

Group II Wednesday mornings, 9:00 to 10:30 AM, July 20 through August 10; held in the Thompson backyard, 609 Holter St. with beverages provided; discussion led by Jennifer Thompson.

Sign-ups and books are provided on the table in the narthex (outside the sanctuary); participation is limited because of the nature of the discussion. Donations are gladly accepted to cover the costs of the books and postage.

Meatless Mondays. Join Pastor Charles Monday nights for a delicious vegetarian meal! Sign-up in the Narthex.

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.

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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