

Plymouth
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



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August 7, 2022

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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.

August 7, 2022 • Ninth Sunday after Pentecost • 10 a.m.

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

Prelude

Greeting and Welcome

Pastor Charles

Announcements

- We are starting to plan for Plymouth's 60th anniversary next year, so let us know if you'd like to help out with that.
- Breakfast by the Lake – Sunday, Aug 14, 9:00am at Hilger Ranch. Still need a liturgist and volunteers to help set-up and clean-up for that day. We will not be having a worship service at 400 S. Oakes on that day.

Invitation to Worship *adapted from Psalm 33:12-22* Gail Tronstad

One: God looks down from the heavens, and sees all of humankind

All: God is in our hearts, and watches all of our deeds.

One: God's eye is on those who hope for God's steadfast love.

All: Our soul waits for God, our help and our shield.

One: Our heart is glad in you, oh God, because we trust in your holy name.

All: Let your steadfast love be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Gathering Hymn

"Come to the Waters"

3 (Sing)

Unison Prayer (*please be seated*)

Gail Tronstad

God of Mystery and Wonder, you bless us with the glory and majesty of your presence. Open our eyes to the abundance and grace that surrounds us. Help us to remember that you are the God of peace, joy, and light. Give us the strength and the courage to share your love, justice, and compassion with all of the people of 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 always close to us, no matter where we go or what we do. Creation is imbued with God's blessing and God's grace, in the mountains and the sky, the rivers and the trees, in the very air we breathe, God is there. So, trust that God is with you, and truly knows who you are. Each of you are a precious child of God, loved and admired, respected and adored. Amen.

Congregational Response

21 (NCH)

"God Reigns O'er All the Earth"

Prayer of Illumination

Gail Tronstad

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 Prophets

Isaiah 1:16-20

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Come now, let us argue it out, says God: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like

wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of God has spoken.

Musical Reflection

Reading from the Epistles Hebrews 11:1-3 & 8-16

Pastor Charles

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their

God; indeed, God has prepared a city for them.

Pastoral Reflection

Musical Reflection

Invitation to the Table

Pastor Charles

No matter who you are, or what you believe, God invites you to this table.
Jesus has prepared the meal, and the table is ready.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (*responsively*)

Brenda Senne

God be with you.

And also with you.

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.

God of our Ancestors, help us to live into the mystery of your love and your grace. We are surrounded with so many examples of your light in the world; help us to recognize them, and appreciate them. Let us be your instruments to your people, so that the in-breaking of your kingdom will come into its fullness, and everything around us will be a reflection of your light and your love.

We ask you to move in us, to help us grow and be more sympathetic, more generous, and more justice-minded. We thank you for walking with us and for drawing us ever closer together, 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 to empower us, so 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, all of the victims of gun violence. We pray that you move in us to work for a safer and more compassionate world. We pray for Ed Canty, Giles Walker, Evelyn Nelson, Marlyce “Marliss” Taylor, Art and Clara Gilreath, and Lorraine Hopgood. We lift up Ken and Margy “Marghee” Kohl, Nathan Schreder “Schrader”, Greg Bolin, and Jay Sheldon as they go through cancer treatment. We pray for Anna Demaree,

Ben Sweeney, Lily Ascheim, Sarah Ehrhardt, Saige & James Blanchard,
Alex, Bruce Warren, Synda & Josh Savage, and Michelle Lelevica.

Creator of all things and all people, great
is your name,
You are everywhere and within every-
one,
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.

Oh God in heaven, holy is your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
On Earth, as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses, as we for-
give those who trespass against us,
And do not bring us into the time of trial,
But, deliver us from the evil one,
For the kingdom, and the power, and the
glory are yours 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.

Prayer after Communion Prayer

May we carry in our hearts the peace embodied in this bread and cup. Strengthen our love for one another and for all creation and let us be peace in the world. Amen.

Doxology (*unison*)

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

Prayer of Dedication

Departing Hymn

"Dance into Joy"

205 (Sing)

Charge & Benediction

Pastor Charles

The mystery of God is difficult to understand. From the beginning of time, we have tried to know God, and to understand our relationship to God and God's creation. This is the nature of faith. But, God doesn't require perfect understanding. Like any relationship, it's about being present and trying our best. So, know that your efforts do not go unnoticed. God sees you and loves you, and cherishes every minute with 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. Go in peace. Amen.

Congregational Blessing *“Go Out Now in Peace”*

Postlude



YOU'RE INVITED!

Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m.—Lunch on the Lawn with Pastor Charles—Plymouth Lawn

Wednesday, August 10th at 9:00 a.m.—Fishing Tips, Group II, Session 4—Fireside Room

Sunday, August 14th—Breakfast Under the Big Sky—PCC Worship at Hilger Ranch

Monday, August 22nd—Pastor Charles' Birthday

*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

Gail Tronstad and Brenda Senne, Liturgists

Dr. Steve and Nancy Michelson, Music

Carol McKerrow, Liturgical Art

—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.

August 10th, Wednesday morning, 9:00 to 10:30 AM; held in the Fireside Room.

September 11th, potluck luncheon after worship to wrap-up the Fishing Tips program. Sign-up is on the table in the narthex (outside the sanctuary). Everyone is welcome to join, whether or not you read the book.

Breakfast Under the Big Sky. Worship on Sunday, August 14th, will be held at Cathy Campbell's Hilger Ranch (Gates of the Mountains). There will be no worship at Plymouth that day.

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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