

Plymouth
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



November 20, 2022

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

November 20, 2022 • Christ the King • 10 a.m.

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

Prelude

Steve Michelson

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” - arr. Mark Hayes

Greeting and Welcome

Pastor Charles

November is Native American History month, and in recognition of our Native American brothers and sisters, we will be using an Invitation to Worship from Voices: Native American Hymns and Worship Resources. And, we will start our service today with a land acknowledgement: All throughout Helena, and underneath the ground where we walk, are the ancestors of the Niitsítapi [nee-itsee-TAH-peh] and Séliš [SAY-lish] people. From the 1700's through the present, these Indigenous people have resisted and persevered over colonialism and genocide. We say land acknowledgements to remind us of the true history of this country, and we acknowledge that we benefit from these historic injustices. And in doing so, we seek to honor the unique culture and legacy of Montana's first peoples through our words and our actions.

Announcements

- Fundraiser for Gloria's niece Alayna on December 10. Alayna has a brain tumor on her brain stem, and the family needs help with medical expenses. There is a flyer on the bulletin board if you'd like more information.

- The Charity Knitting and Crochet group is meeting at 2:00 pm on Thursdays in the Fireside Room. Please talk to Cindy Holcomb for more information.
- Women’s Fellowship luncheon on Tuesday, November 22, 11:30 am, at the Overland Express. Everyone welcome!
- Hanging of the Greens: this Saturday, Nov. 26, 1:00 pm.

Invitation to Worship

Brenda Senne

From Voice: Native American Hymns and Worship Resources, 1992

One: The circle of love is repeatedly broken because of the sin of exclusion. We create separate circles: the inner circle and the outer circle, the circle of power and the circle of misery, the circle of favor and the circle of denial.

All: *Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.*

One: The circle of love is broken whenever there is hostility, whenever there is misunderstanding, whenever there is insensitivity and a closed heart.

All: *Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.*

One: The circle of love is broken whenever we cannot see eye to eye, whenever we cannot link hand to hand, whenever we cannot live heart to heart and affirm our differences.

All: *Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.*

One: Through God’s grace we are forgiven, by the mercy of our Creator, through the love of the Christ, and in the power of the Spirit. Let us rejoice and be glad!

All: *Glory be to the father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.*

Unison Prayer *(please be seated)*

Brenda Senne

Holy God, Loving Creator, we thank you for all that you provide. From the light of the sun, to the air that we breathe, we depend on you for everything. We thank you for bread, we thank you for water, and we thank you for life. We thank you for sending Jesus the Christ, who makes us whole, who taught us how to love one another, and who saves us from ourselves. [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 protecting us, just as a parent cares for their a child. Through the Word is God and with God, our Creator gives us food and water, warmth and shelter, the air we breathe, and the ground we walk on. God is the Creator of it all, and gives all of this to us with love. So, know that God is with you, and that you are loved. Amen.

Congregational Response

"Center of My Joy"

72 (Sing!)

Prayer of Illumination

Sunny Ray Mandeville

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. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:68-79

"Blessed be the God of Israel, who has looked favorably on the people and redeemed them. God has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of the servant David, as was spoken through the mouths of the holy prophets of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus, God has shown the mercy promised to

our ancestors, and has remembered the holy covenant, the oath that God swore to our ancestor Abraham, so that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve God without fear, in holiness and righteousness for all our days. And you, [John], will be called the prophet of the Most-High; for you will go before God to prepare the way, to give knowledge of salvation to the people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Musical Interlude

Robie Culver & Nancy Michelson

“Lamb of God”

Reading from the Epistles

Colossians 1:11-20

Pastor Charles

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from God’s glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Creator, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the realm of the beloved [Christ], in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. [The Christ] is before all things, and in [Christ] all things hold together. [Jesus] is the head of the body, the church; the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile

all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of the cross.

Pastoral Reflection

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People

Pastor Charles

God of Creation, we come to you in recognition of the sacred covenant that you made with our ancestors. You are our God, and we are your people. Help us to live into the hope that you have for us by building community, building relationships, and making sure that all people are nurtured and cared for. Help us to be a community of love, friendship, and sharing. And, show how we can right the wrongs of the past, and move in us to heal the wounds that we have inflicted on neighbor, earth, and sky. And, let the warmth of your light mark the path of the in-breaking of your realm here on Earth, so that we might rejoice in your glory.

Mother and Father of us all, we ask that you be with all of those for whom no one ever prays. And, we offer special prayers for all who are experiencing war or natural disaster. We pray for those without shelter as the weather grows cold. We pray for the hungry and the sick. 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, Nancy Michelson, Gus and Brenda Byrom, and Jay Sheldon as they go through cancer treatment. We pray for Mike McWilliams, Anna Demaree, Dave Weaver, and for Karen Hays-Cushings.

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.

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 *“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”* 252 (NCH)

*Charge & Benediction Pastor Charles

People of God, remember that there is nothing that you or anyone can do to separate you from God’s love. We are God’s children, and God’s love is unconditional. I ask you to be ambassadors of that love. Help those who need help. Comfort those who need comforting. Love those who need love.

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



YOU'RE INVITED!

Sunday, November 20th after worship—Giving Thanks Potluck—Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, November 22nd at 11:30 a.m.—PCC Women's Fellowship—Overland Express

Stewardship is what you do with what you have.



God Widens the Narrow Door

Luke 13: 22-30

Rev. James D. Ross II (he, him, his)
Minister for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Southern New England Conference UCC

The frequent human inclination to operate as though resources and opportunities are scarce presents itself in the question of someone Jesus encountered during his journey to the Passover in Jerusalem.

"Lord, will only a few be saved," the man asked.

Many scholars agree the man was someone who felt certain of his own salvation – whether because he was following the rules, because of his connection to the lineage of Abraham, or for other reasons. But how many would be saved along with him?

Jesus responded with a parable about people arriving at a house for a party and being denied entry by the owners, who said they did not know the visitors, despite the visitors' claims of a friendship with them. The message, perhaps, is that none of us should assume that our connection to God is stronger or that our relationship with God is more special than that of anyone else.

Jesus follows the parable with the promise that far from “a few” being saved, “people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God.”

Our God is one of abundance. Just as God welcomes people from all directions to the kingdom (and kindom) of God, so has God created the earth with enough resources for us all. We need only remember that everyone is deserving of them.

How is your stewardship reflected in this parable? Do you operate as though there is only enough for you, or do you model generosity and gratitude for God’s provision?

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.



— TODAY'S MINISTERS —

*The People of Plymouth Congregational Church, assisted by
Rev. Charles Wei, Pastor
Brenda Senne and Sunny Ray Mandeville, Liturgists
Robie Culver and Dr. Steve and Nancy Michelson, Music
Carol McKerrow, Liturgical Art*

— ANNOUNCEMENTS —

PCC Women's Fellowship is meeting on Tuesday, November 22nd at 11:30 a.m. at the Overland Express. All are welcome!

New officers needed! We are in need of nominations and volunteers to fill Council roles and to provide Committee leadership. Please let the Nominating Committee, Carol McKerrow and Gail Tronstad, know if you're interested.

Charity Knitting and Crochet group is meeting on Thursdays at 2:00 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.

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.

PCC Office Phone—406-442-9883

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