

– *Instructions for accessing our Virtual worship service* –

The worship service begins at 10am on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. Go to Plymouth's web-site ([www.plymouthmontanaucc.org](http://www.plymouthmontanaucc.org)) and click on the "Plymouth Worship on YouTube" button at the top of the main page, which will take you directly to the service on our YouTube channel.

## ***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.*

January 17, 2021 • 10 a.m.

### *~ We Gather to Praise God ~*

Prelude & Opening to the Presence of God

Charlotte Dike

Words of Welcome

Invitation to Worship (unison)

Pat Christian

May the peace of God rest upon our stress-filled lives, so that we might be quieted into prayer.  
May the love of God flow through our worship, so that our hearts might be filled with compassion.  
May the grace of God seek out our every need, so that we might be inspired to reach out.  
May the God of peace and love and grace meet us here!

Gathering Hymn

*"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"*

*Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven on earth be found;  
Fix in us a humble dwelling; all your faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, you are all compassion, pure unbounded love impart;  
Visit us with your salvation; enter every trembling heart.*

*Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit, into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in you inherit; let us find your promised rest.  
Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its Beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all your life receive;  
Suddenly return and never, never more your temples leave.  
You we would be always blessing, loving as your angels love,  
Pray and praise you without ceasing, glory in your perfect love.*

*Finish, then, your new creation; pure and spotless may we prove.  
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in you.  
Changed from glory into glory, 'til in heaven we take our place,  
Crowned as saints, we ever shall be lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

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A Blessing for These Days (unison)

Blessed are you who bear the light in unbearable times,  
who testify to its endurance amid the unendurable,  
who bear witness to its persistence  
when everything seems in shadow and grief.

Blessed are you in whom the light lives,  
in whom the brightness blazes —  
your heart a chapel, an altar where in the deepest night  
can be seen the fire that shines forth in you  
in unaccountable faith, in stubborn hope,  
in love that illumines every broken thing it finds.

(© Jan Richardson from *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*.)

Silence for Reflection

Congregational Response

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu. Alleluia!*

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~ *We Listen to Hear God's Word* ~

Special Music

*"Concerto in A minor I. Allegro"*  
Luna Gude, violin / Charlotte Dike, piano

Antonio Vivaldi

Witness of the Scripture

*"1 Corinthians 8: 1-10 & Mark 1: 21-27"*

*1 Corinthians 8: 1-10* Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by God. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols?

*Mark 1: 21-27* They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."

Pastoral Reflection

*"Love in Practice"*

Roger Lynn

Response Hymn

*"I'm Gonna Live so God Can Use Me"*

*I'm gonna live so God can use me anytime, Lord, and anywhere!*

*I'm gonna live so God can use me anytime, Lord, and anywhere!*

*I'm gonna love so God can use me anytime, Lord, and anywhere!*

*I'm gonna love so God can use me anytime, Lord, and anywhere!*

*I'm gonna sing so God can use me anytime, Lord, and anywhere!*

*I'm gonna sing so God can use me anytime, Lord, and anywhere!*

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Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (in the spirit of diversity use the words most familiar to you)

~ *We Act to Show God's Love* ~

A Time of Offering

An Invitation to Share Our Gifts

## God's Grateful People Respond through Giving

Having received the abundant gifts of God's grace, we are invited to respond by sharing our time, our talents, and our treasures. You are invited to spend a few moments reflecting on the ways you have been blessed, and the ways in which you can share those blessings with the world around you. And please consider mailing a check to the church (400 S. Oakes St., Helena, MT 59601). You can also make a donation using our secure PayPal site. Go to our web-site ([www.plymouthmontanaucc.org](http://www.plymouthmontanaucc.org)) and click on the "Donate" button.

## A Doxology

*Praise God for love in all its forms. Love sees us through both calm and storms.  
God's love is meant for us to share. May we, in love, reach out with care. Amen.*

## Prayer of Dedication (unison)

O God of Love, in these moments as we reflect on the blessings which fill our lives and ponder the ways in which we might reach out beyond ourselves to touch the world, inspire us to expand our understanding of love and sharing. Teach us to live our whole lives with grateful generosity. Amen.

## Departing Hymn

*"Weave"*

*Weave, weave, weave us together. Weave us together in unity and love.*

*Weave, weave, weave us together. Weave us together, together in love.*

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## Blessing for Sending Forth

*May the flame of God's presence go with us into the world to serve.*

## Congregational Blessing

*"Go Out Now in Peace"*

*Go out now in peace, with Spirit anew, for surely God's grace is living in you.*

*Reach out with God's love through joy or pain; the Shepherd will keep you till we see you again.*

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## Postlude



*Under normal circumstances, when we are worshipping in the sanctuary, you would be invited to adjourn to the Fireside Room for refreshments and a time of fellowship where you could share in conversation and connection with each other. These are not normal circumstances, and we are not worshipping in the sanctuary, but we are still in need of conversation and connection. So, you are invited to reach out and make contact with someone. Make a phone call. Text a friend. Hug someone in the house with you. If you need a Church Directory please call the church office (442-9883) and request one. Allison will be delighted to send one to you. Be well. Stay safe. Keep reaching out.*