

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 2, 2021 • 10 a.m.

~ We Gather to Praise God ~

Prelude & Opening to the Presence of God

Charlotte Dike

Words of Welcome

Invitation to Worship (responsively)

Ed Stevenson

Sisters and brothers – Arise!

Lift up your hearts. Lift up your eyes. Lift up your voices.

The living God, the living, moving Spirit of God has called us together –
in witness, in celebration, in struggle.

Reach out toward each other. Our God reaches out toward us!

Let us worship God!

(written by Elizabeth Rice)

Gathering Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love.

Hearts unfold like flowers before You, opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of fear and sadness. Drive the storms of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround You, earth and heaven reflect Your rays.

Stars and angels sing around You, center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,

Chanting bird and flowing fountain teach us what our praise should be.

You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed.

Wellspring of the joy of living. Ocean depth of happy rest.

Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to You.

Teach us how to love each other. By your love our joy renew.

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An Affirmation of Faith (responsively)

by David Beebe

We are the People of God. We are a sign of God's New World. We are the sisters and brothers of Jesus.

We believe in God. We believe in the goodness of God, the presence of God in human history, and the nearness of God's love.

We believe in Christ. We believe that God was and is revealed in human life, that out of human suffering may come rescue and healing, that out of death comes new life.

We believe in the Eternal Spirit, who moves among God's people and invites the world into God's reign.

We believe that the world can change, that peace and wholeness can come, and that God's New World can arrive.

We are the People of God. We are the sign of God's New World. We are the brothers and sisters of Jesus.

Silence for Reflection

Congregational Response

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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~ We Listen to Hear God's Word ~

Special Music

"I Remember April"

Gene de Paul

Charlotte Dike

Witness of the Scripture

"John 14: 1-3 & 1 Peter 2: 4-6 & 9-10"

(John 14: 1-3) "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In God's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

(1 Peter 2: 4-6 & 9-10) Come to Christ, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in this one will not be put to shame." . . . You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called you out of darkness into the marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Pastoral Reflection

"A House of Living Stone"

Roger Lynn

Response Hymn

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing,
Our present help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe with craft and power great,
and armed with cruel hate, on earth without an equal.*

*Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
But there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus sets us free!
With mighty power to save, victorious o'er the grave, Christ will prevail triumphant.*

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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 Communion

An Invitation to the Table & Words of Christ

All who hunger and thirst for God are welcome at Christ's table.

God's People Receive the Gifts of God's Grace

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

O Eternally Creating God, you call us together to be One people. You feed and nourish us around One table. You send us out to live in your One world. And gratitude is our response. Amen.

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) 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 abundant blessings, help us to remember that we have been given much, and are called to respond with gratitude and generosity. Inspire us to share our gift freely so that others might experience your love in tangible ways. Amen.

Departing Hymn

“Called as Partners in Christ's Service”

Called as partners in Christ's service. Called to ministries of grace.
We respond with deep commitment, fresh new lines of faith to trace
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend.
Equal partners in our caring, to fulfill God's chosen end

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer poorer, all God's people young and old,
Blending human skills together, gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission in a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith thus giving, hope and confidence and peace.

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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 (everyone is invited to sit and enjoy, or to depart, as you choose)



Under normal circumstances 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 engaging in safe practices designed to keep us all safe, 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. Gloria will be delighted to send one to you. Be well. Stay safe. Keep reaching out.