

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.*

October 18, 2020 • 10 a.m.

~ We Gather to Praise God ~

Prelude & Opening to the Presence of God

Charlotte Dike

Words of Welcome

Invitation to Worship (responsively)

Robie Culver

The LORD *is* my shepherd;

I shall not want.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil:

for thou *art* with me;

thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Gathering Hymn

“Like a Healing Stream”

Like a healing stream in a barren desert, Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth.

God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,

promising revival and rebirth ... like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden, Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,

God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation,

yearning for an end to want and need ... like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with a restless current, Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,

God is carving out a channel in a new direction,

calling for an end to hate and war ... like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons, Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,

God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:

God will always challenge and provide!

Like a mighty sea ... Like a river strong ... Like a gentle rain ... Like a healing stream.

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Prayer of Approach & Acknowledgment of Need (unison)

The world seems a fearful place, O God, we need strength, perspective and guidance beyond our own. Make Yourself known to us in this hour that we might make known to the world, Your challenge, Your direction, Your love. Amen.

Silence for Reflection

Congregational Response

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God.

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~ We Listen to Hear God's Word ~

"He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd"

G.F.Handel

Special Music

Charlotte Dike

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. Come unto Him, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and He shall give you rest. Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him; for He is meek and lowly of heart: and he shall find rest unto your souls.

Witness of the Scripture

"Psalm 23"

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

God makes me lie down in green pastures, and leads me beside still waters;

God restores my soul. God leads me in right paths for God's name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Pastoral Reflection

"Pursued by God"

Ed Stevenson

Response Hymn

"My Shepherd, You Supply My Need"

My Shepherd will supply my need – most holy is your name.

In pastures fresh you make me feed, beside the living stream.

You bring my wand'ring spirit back when I forsake your ways.

You lead me, for your mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

When through the shades of death I walk, your presence is my stay.

One word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.

Your hand, in sight of all my fears, does still my table spread.

My cup with blessings overflows, your oil anoints my head.

Your sure provisions, gracious God, attend me all my days.

O may your house be mine abode, and all my work be praise.

Here would I find a settled rest while others go and come.

No more a stranger nor a guest, but like a child at home.

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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) and click on the "Donate" button.

A Doxology

Praise God whose love surrounds us all. Praise God who lifts us when we fall.

Praise God for hope in times of fear. Praise God who always holds us near.

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Our gifts come from You, O God. We share them that You might bless them and return them to us and others as Your very presence. Amen.

Departing Hymn

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

*Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
The people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended.
The fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
To work for God's realm and to answer the call.*

*With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
Embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us,
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.*

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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. Allison will be delighted to send one to you. Be well. Stay safe. Keep reaching out.

All of the information and resources related to our on-line worship services (including links and the bulletin) can be found on the front page of Plymouth's web-site (www.plymouthmontanaucc.org).