

*Plymouth*  
Congregational Church  
*United Church of Christ*



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***The Essence of the Gospel***

# ***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.*

**September 12, 2021 • Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost • 10 a.m.**

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

*The places where people may stand [as able] are indicated with an asterisk [\*].*

Prelude Charlotte Dike

Words of Welcome Steve Brehe

\*Invitation to Worship (*responsively*) Boyce Fowler

*(The people respond with the words in boldface italic type.)*

King of Kings, we love to sing praises to you.

***We rejoice in you, our maker. We exalt you, our King.***

***We praise your name, for you delight in your people.***

We do not deserve to come into the presence of the Holy God of the Universe but you have crowned the humble with victory, you have lifted up those who are bowed down, you have clothed us in your righteousness.

***We come before you with confidence, not based on ourselves,  
but based on your love.***

Let your praises be in our hearts and on our lips.

***Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.***

Silence for Reflection

\*Gathering Hymn

*“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

(NCH #252)

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

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Boyce Fowler

***Lord Jesus Christ, Your name above every other name, we praise you. We pray that your name is blessed now and forever, in good times and in bad, from east to west. Your name is worthy of praise. Your name is powerful. Your name rules over the nations. Your glory is higher than the heavens. Your name is beautiful. Let us praise the name of the Lord together. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, AMEN.***

Scripture Readings

Boyce Fowler

Psalm 89:19-20 NRSV (*responsively*)

Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said: "I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people.  
***I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him.***

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1-3

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion —  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

## New Testament Readings

### Luke 2:9-12

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

### Romans 1:1-4

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### 2 Timothy 2:8-9

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David — **that is my gospel.**

Sermon "The Essence of the Gospel" Mark Wilson

*A time of silence occurs after the readings and the sermon.*

Prayers and Thanksgivings Steve Brehe

Friends in Christ, God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs. Loving our neighbors as ourselves, we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions on behalf of the church and the world.

*The congregation offers personal prayers aloud or silently.*

Hear our prayers, God of power, and through the ministry of your Son free us from the grip of the tomb, that we may desire you as the fullness of life and proclaim your saving deeds to all the world. Amen.

Response Hymn "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" NCH #304

*-We Share Our Gifts-*

An Invitation to Share Our Gifts Steve Brehe

Offertory Hymn "There is a Name I Love to Hear" NCH #52

*(The ushers pass the plates during the hymn.)*

\*Doxology

*(The ushers bring the gifts forward and the congregation sings the Doxology below.)*

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God all creatures here below;***

***Praise God above you heavenly host;***

***Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen***

Prayer Over the Gifts Received

Steve Brehe

\*Departing Hymn

*“Rejoice the Lord is King”*

NCH #303

Benediction

Mark Wilson

May God’s blessing be upon us and free us to be a blessing to others.  
May the light of God’s truth shine from us like a flame. We have gathered  
as God’s people, let us go forth in God’s name!

\*Congregational Blessing (*unison*)

***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. (repeat)***

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Postlude

Charlotte Dike

*Everyone is invited to sit and enjoy, or to depart, as you choose.  
Join us for fellowship on the patio at the front of the church.*





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— TODAY'S MINISTERS —

*The People of Plymouth Congregational Church, assisted by*

*Mark Wilson and Steve Brehe, Interim Pastors*

*Boyce Fowler, Liturgist*

*Charlotte Dike, Music*

— ANNOUNCEMENTS —



**NAMI Walk is September 19th.**

Plymouth has been a long-standing participant in this event. While we have not registered a team this year, you are all encouraged to participate. Join the walk or donate to advocate for the mentally ill in Montana.

**There's a prayer card** in your pew rack, which you can use to let us know of prayer and thanksgiving concerns. Place your card in the offering basin when the plates are past.

**Welcome visitors today.** 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.

**You are invited** to participate in these activities at Plymouth Congregational Church this month; please call the church office at 442-9883 for details:

Tuesday, September 14th at 10:00 a.m.—Plymouth Women's Fellowship—Fireside Room

Thursday, September 23rd at 4:00 p.m.—Plymouth Council Meeting—Fireside Room

— INTERIM PASTORS' OFFICE HOURS —

Steve Brehe (Mondays and Wednesdays from 9-12 and by appointment.)

Steve's cell is 431-5134.

Mark Wilson (Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-12 and by appointment.)

Mark's cell is 439-0024.