

Plymouth
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



Goodbye from Steve and Mark

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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 10, 2021 • Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost • 10 a.m.

~ We Gather to Praise God ~

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

Prelude Charlotte Dike

Words of Welcome Mark Wilson

*Invitation to Worship (*responsively*) Rosana Skelton

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

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ***even when we were dead through our trespasses,*** made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. (Eph 2:4-10, NRSV)

Silence for Reflection

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

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Rosana Skelton

In a world with much wrong, God continues to work for good. In a culture that worships foolishness, God still offers wisdom as a gift. In a time filled with lies, God's promises are true. In a society filled with apprehensiveness and anxiety, God's love is constant. Let us trust in the One who offers abundant life and the grace of forgiveness. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Rosana Skelton

Psalms Reading

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills —
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore. (*NRSV*)

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them. *(NRSV)*

New Testament Reading

Acts 20:17-21, 32, 36-38

From Miletus (Paul) sent a message to Ephesus, asking the elders of the church to meet him. When they came to him, he said to them:

"You yourselves know how I lived among you the entire time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears, enduring the trials that came to me through the plots of the Jews. I did not shrink from doing anything helpful, proclaiming the message to you and teaching you publicly and from house to house, as I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus.

And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified.

When he had finished speaking, he knelt down with them all and prayed. There was much weeping among them all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, grieving especially because of what he had said, that they would not see him again. Then they brought him to the ship. *(NRSV)*

Sermon

"Goodbye from Steve & Mark"

Steve and Mark

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

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

"Great is Your Faithfulness"

NCH #423

-We Share Our Gifts-

An Invitation to Share Our Gifts

Mark Wilson

Having received new life through the generosity of God and the hope Christ brings, let us give thankfully and abundantly that we may be called generous people.

Offertory Hymn

"If You But Trust In God"

NCH #410

(The ushers pass the plates during the hymn.)

*Doxology

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

Praise God, the Source of life and birth.

Praise God, the Word, who came to earth.

Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame.

All glory, honor to God's name. Amen

Prayer Over the Gifts Received

Mark Wilson

O God, most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty we have all received: we pray that you accept this offering from your people. May you remember through your love, those who have given and those for whom this has been given. Bless this gift that it may promote peace and goodwill among all people and advance the realm of our savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

*Departing Hymn *“God Be With You Until We Meet Again”* NCH #81

A Special Thank You Jan Clinard

Benediction Steve Brehe

The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you.

(THE MESSAGE - 2 Corinthians 13:14)

*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.





— TODAY'S MINISTERS —

*The People of Plymouth Congregational Church, assisted by
Steve Brehe and Mark Wilson, Interim Pastors
Rosana Skelton, Liturgist
Charlotte Dike, Music*

— ANNOUNCEMENTS —

Columbarium Niche Owners: In accordance with our flower guidelines, we will be cleaning the Columbarium area and removing the flowers near loved ones' niches in October. Please pick up your pots, etc. if you want to save them. Placing appropriate fresh arrangements can return in November. Thanks for your help.

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, October 12th at 10:00 a.m.—PCC Women's Fellowship—Fireside Room

Tuesday, October 12th at 6:00 p.m.—Plymouth Singers—Sanctuary

Wednesday, October 13th at 9:30 a.m.—Plymouth Council Meeting—Fireside Room

Thursday, October 14th at 7:00 p.m.—City of Helena Candidate Forum —Sanctuary

Sunday, October 17th at 10:00 a.m.—Transition Sunday: Rev. Charles Wei—Sanctuary

Tuesday, October 19th at 10:00 a.m.—Columbarium Committee Meeting—Fireside Room

— INTERIM PASTORS' OFFICE HOURS —

Steve Brehe will be unavailable this week.

Please contact Mark Wilson for pastoral concerns.

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

Mark's cell is 439-0024.