

*Plymouth*  
Congregational Church  
*United Church of Christ*



Photo by Andrea Lightfoot on Unsplash

# **A Natural History of the Chicken**

**November 14, 2021**

# ***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.*

**November 14, 2021 • Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost • 10 a.m.**

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

*The places where people may stand [as able in body or spirit]*

*are indicated with an asterisk [\*].*

Prelude Charlotte Dike

Greeting and Welcome Pastor Charles

Announcements

\*Invitation to Worship Boyce Fowler

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

*From Voices: Native American Hymns and Worship Resources, 1992*

The circle of love is repeatedly broken because of the sin of exclusion. We create separate circles: the inner circle and the outer circle, the circle of power and the circle of misery, the circle of favor and the circle of denial.

***Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.***

The circle of love is broken whenever there is hostility, whenever there is misunderstanding, whenever there is insensitivity and a closed heart.

***Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.***

The circle of love is broken whenever we cannot see eye to eye, whenever we cannot link hand to hand, whenever we cannot live heart to heart and affirm our differences.

***Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.***

Through God's grace we are forgiven, by the mercy of our Creator, through the love of the Christ, and in the power of the Spirit. Let us rejoice and be glad!

***Glory be to the father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.***

\*Gathering Hymn    *"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"*    459 (NCH)

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

Unison Prayer (*unison*)

Boyce Fowler

***Merciful and mighty God, we have fallen short of your expectations for us. Help us to be more generous. Help us to be more courageous. Help us to be more kind, and loving, and forgiving. Help us to grow into the people we were meant to be, and let us be your hands and feet in the world. [Please take a moment to listen to God's loving message for you this day.] Amen.***

Assurance of Grace

Pastor Charles

\*Congregational Response

*"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"*

43 (NCH)

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Charles

Psalm 31a (*sing responsively*)

640 (NCH)

Plymouth Singers

Reading from the Epistles

Hebrews 10:11-25

Rosana Skelton

And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ

had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,” God also adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Pastoral Reflection      *A Natural History of the Chicken*      Pastor Charles

Musical Reflection      *“My Life Flows on in Endless Song”*      476 (NCH)

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer      Pastor Charles

*The pastor will introduce the Prayers of the People. After the pastor opens the prayer, all are invited to offer spoken prayers of joys, concerns, and sorrows.*

*We close our time of prayer by saying the Lord's prayer. (In recognition of Native American month, we have printed in the bulletin today the version of the Lord's prayer written by Hattie Corbett Enos, of the Nez Perce tribe, published in Gifts of Many Cultures, 1995.)*

***O Great Spirit, Creator of the universe,  
You are our Shepherd Chief in the most high place.  
Whose home is everywhere, even beyond the stars and moon.  
Whatever you want done, let it, also be done everywhere.  
Give us your gift of bread day by day.  
Forgive us our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us.  
Take us away from wrong doings.  
Free us from all evil.  
For everything belongs to you.  
Let your power and glory shine forever.  
Amen.***

*~ We Share Our Gifts ~*

An Invitation to Share Our Gifts

Pastor Charles

Offertory

*Instrumental*

Charlotte Dike

*(God's grateful people respond through giving.)*

Doxology (***unison***)

***Praise God, the Source of life and birth,  
Praise Christ, the Word, who came to Earth,  
Praise the Spirit, holy flame,  
All honor, glory to God's name. Amen***

Prayer of Dedication

\*Departing Hymn      *“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*      42 (NCH)

\*Charge and Benediction      Pastor Charles

\*Congregational Blessing (congregation sings in unison, 2x through)

***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)***

Postlude      Charlotte Dike

*Everyone is invited to sit and enjoy, or to depart, as you choose.  
Join us for fellowship in the Fireside Room.*



## **“Let’s Talk About It: Creation Care”**

Landscape photographer, Jeff Van Tine, will be the final speaker in the “Let’s Talk About It” series, scheduled for **Thursday, December 2, at 7:00 PM**. Using some of his images of beautiful as well as endangered Montana scenes, Jeff’s power point presentation will take place in the church sanctuary. As usual reservations are preferred by calling the church office, 442-9883, so that distancing requirements due to Covid can be anticipated. Some of Jeff’s photographs will also be exhibited in the church building until the end of the year.

This series is made possible by the generous contributions given in memory of Jim Erickson.



— TODAY'S MINISTERS —

*The People of Plymouth Congregational Church, assisted by  
Rev. Charles Wei, Pastor  
Boyce Fowler and Rosana Skelton, Liturgists  
Charlotte Dike, Music*

— ANNOUNCEMENTS —

**WE NEED YOU!** Plymouth is getting back to full-swing, and in light of that, we need you. There are several ways to get involved in congregational life, including serving on committee, or volunteering to assist with special projects.

- Do you enjoy physical work or have skills with minor home updates? Consider the Building and Grounds Committee or the Columbarium Committee.
- Are you good with numbers and want to help guide the future of the church? Maybe Endowment Committee or Memorial and Special Gifts Committee.

Have a creative idea for the congregation, but aren't sure to where to start or how to get rolling, let us know! Please reach out to Pastor Charles or the office manager, Gloria Soja, so we can begin gathering these groups together.

**There's a prayer card** in your pew rack, which you can use to let us know of prayer requests. Place your card in the offering plate as they are passed.

**Welcome visitors!** 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 upcoming activities at Plymouth Congregational Church; please call the church office at 442-9883 for details:

Tuesday, November 16th at 6:00 p.m.—Plymouth Singers—Sanctuary

Sunday, November 21th at 10:00 a.m.—Worship—Sanctuary

— PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS —

Pastor Charles will be available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.,  
and by appointment.