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.

December 5, 2021 • Second Sunday of Advent • 10 a.m.

~ We Gather to Praise God ~
*An asterisk invites you to stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

Prelude
Steve Michelson

Greeting and Welcome
Pastor Charles

Announcements

*Invitation to Worship
(The people respond with the words in boldface italic type.)
Lynn Bolin

We dream God’s dream, of a world at Peace,
Where enemies are reconciled, and children play in safety;
Where the poor and the powerless find justice.
We remember God’s promise of a Ruler of Peace,
Filled with the Spirit of God, with wisdom and understanding.
Come Lord Jesus! Open our lives to the Peace which you bring!

*Gathering Hymn “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” 126 (NCH)

~ We Listen to Hear God’s Word ~

Unison Prayer (unison) Lynn Bolin
Everlasting Father, Reassuring Mother, Great Spirit of Peace, we pray to you on this Day of Peace. Through all of the turmoil and uncertainty of our lives, we seek your calm, steady, foundational presence. Settle us, ground us, help us to be at Peace with what we have, with where we are, and with who we are. [We invite you to rest in this brief moment of silence to listen to God’s loving message for you this day.] Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Pastor Charles

*Congregational Response

“Comfort, Comfort, O My People” 101 (NCH)

Prayer of Illumination

Lynn Bolin

Lighting the Candle of Peace (responsively)

The Skelton Family

There is a light in the storm.

It is the light of Peace.

Today is the second Sunday of Advent, the time of reflection and reconciliation as we await the birth of the Christ, who brings Peace to the world.

We light the candle of Peace, as a reminder of the Peace that Christ brings us.

We proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light, there is Peace, for Christ is called the “Prince of Peace.”

O God, we thank you that through all the years, you have given Peace to your people. Help us to have your Peace in our lives. We pray that in this Advent season, we may, by what we do, show your presence to the sick, to the hungry, and to the lonely, so that they too may have Peace in their lives. Amen.

Reading from the Epistles

Philippians 1:3-11

Lynn Bolin
I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Anthem

“Long Time Ago”
Plymouth Singers

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:68-79
Pastor Charles

“Blessed be the God of Israel, who has looked favorably on the people and redeemed them. God has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of David, the servant, as God spoke through the mouths of the holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus, God has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered the holy covenant, the oath that God swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve God without fear, in holiness and righteousness before God all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most-High; for you will go before God to
prepare God’s ways, to give knowledge of salvation to God’s people by
the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn
from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Pastoral Reflection  

Broken Tiles  

Pastor Charles

Musical Reflection  “Great is Your Faithfulness (verses 1-3)”  

423 (NCH)

(Please remain seated.)

~ We Break Bread Together ~

Invitation to the Table  

Pastor Charles

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (responsively)  

Brenda Senne

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for the beauty of creation, for the blessings
and miracles of everyday life, and for the gift of life. You set us in this
world to be truth tellers and peacemakers, living in harmony with all of
creation. We give thanks that when we turn from the ways of peace, you
call us back with love.

We see the light, we know of love, through you.

Jesus shows us the way to a new world community, one in which the last
is first, justice prevails, and resources are shared, so that all people may
lead lives of dignity and feel valued. The world rebelled against his mes-
sage, and he was crucified out of fear. But death cannot defeat life. Jesus breathed the Spirit upon his followers and gave birth to the church, Christ’s body in the world.

Living Christ ever present; we welcome you in our lives.

The Communion Prayer & Prayers for the People 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 the spirit of diversity, use the words most familiar to you.)

Our Father, in heaven, Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
On Earth, as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors,
And do not bring us to the time of trial,
But, rescue us from the evil one,
For the kingdom, and the power, and the glory are yours forever.
Amen.

God’s People Receive the Gifts of God

As you are able, please come forward to receive the communion elements, return to your seat, and wait for the invitation to consume the elements.

Raise your hand if you would like the elements brought to you.

~ We Share Our Gifts ~

A Moment for Stewardship Jan Clinard

An Invitation to Share Our Gifts Pastor Charles
Offertory

Instrumental

(God’s grateful people respond through giving.)

Doxology *(unison)*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,*
*Praise God, all creatures here below,*
*Praise God above, ye heavenly host,*
*Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication

*Departing Hymn* “As with Gladness, Men of Old” *(insert)*

*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 “Fernandole” by Bizet

Everyone is invited to sit and enjoy, or to depart, as you choose.

Join us for fellowship in the Fireside Room.

PCC Office Phone—406-442-9883
Office Manager e-mail—pccofficemgr@gmail.com
Office Hours—Monday through Thursday—9am to 1pm
Pastor Charles’ e-mail—pastorplymouthmt@gmail.com
Pastor Office Hours—Tuesdays and Thursdays—9am to 4pm
As With Gladness Men of Old

And they sang praises with gladness and bowed their heads and worshipped.
— II Chronicles 29:30

William C. Dix

Conrad Kocher

1 As with gladness men of old Did the guiding
2 As with joyful steps they sped To that lowly
3 As they offered gifts most rare At that manger
4 Holy Jesus, every day Keep us in the

1 star behold; As with joy they hailed its light,
2 manger bed, There to bend the knee before
3 rude and bare, So may we with holy joy,
4 narrow way; And when earthly things are past,

1 Leading onward, beam ing bright, So, most gracious
2 Him Whom heaven and earth adore, So, may we with
3 Pure and free from sin’s alloy, All our costliest
4 Bring our ransomed souls at last Where they need no

1 Lord, may we Evermore be led to Thee.
2 willing feet Ev er seek the mercy seat.
3 treasures bring, Christ, to Thee our heavenly King.
Women’s Christmas Fellowship Brunch

Women’s Christmas Fellowship will meet at the church on Tuesday, December 14, at 10:00. A catered brunch will be provided, and Rev. Gloria Soja will be our speaker. Cost is $10; reservations kindly requested. See the sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex.

 Caroling on Helena’s West Side

Join Plymouth Singers on Tuesday, December 14th, as they carol in Helena’s westside historic district. We will meet at 6:00 PM at Jennifer Thompson’s (609 Holter St.) for a quick beverage and warm up by the fire; carol two blocks until arriving at Hal Fossum’s house (631 Monroe) for refreshments; then proceed on to Mary Lou Weddle’s home (520 Stuart) for warmth and hospitality. Making the return trip to Holter Street we will pass some of Helena’s grandest old houses, decorated for the season.

There is on-street parking in and around Hawthorne School. If streets are slick, be sure to bring grippers and to dress appropriately. The total walk is approximately 8 blocks, with only a small portion an uphill climb. Allow approximately 2 hours for the walk and warm-ups. Song books are provided; bring your own flashlights, horses or sleighs. Invite friends; it will be fun!

Welcome Charles, Merry Christmas to All, Brunch

PCC will be hosting a potluck brunch after worship on Sunday, December 19th to welcome Pastor Charles and to celebrate Christmas together. Please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex.

Longest Night Service

PCC will be partnering with First Christian Church (311 Power Street) for a Longest Night Service, December 21st at 7:00 p.m. This service is celebrates the darkest night of the year and will be a safe space for those struggling dur-
— TODAY’S MINISTERS —

*The People of Plymouth Congregational Church, assisted by*
*Rev. Charles Wei, Pastor*
*Lynn Bolin and Brenda Senne, Liturgists*
*Steve and Nancy Michelson, Music*

— ANNOUNCEMENTS —

**We need your photos!** We would like to put together a new directory. Please e-mail or bring your photos to the office manager, Gloria Soja by January 31st, and include your contact information. Portraits are preferred.

**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’RE INVITED!**

Tuesday, December 7th at 6:00 p.m.—Plymouth Singers—Sanctuary
Wednesday, December 8th at 1:30 p.m.—PCC Council Meeting—Fireside Room
Sunday, December 12th at 10:00 a.m.—Worship—Sanctuary
Tuesday, December 14th at 10:00 a.m.—PCC Women’s Fellowship—Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, December 14th at 6:00 p.m.—PCC Caroling—see insert
Sunday, December 19th at 10:00 a.m.—Worship—Sanctuary
Sunday, December 19th after worship—Welcome/Christmas Brunch—Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, December 21st at 7:00 p.m.—Longest Night Service—First Christian Church