

– Instructions for accessing our Virtual worship service –

The worship service begins at 10am on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. Go to Plymouth's web-site ([www.plymouthmontanaucc.org](http://www.plymouthmontanaucc.org)) and click on the "Plymouth Worship on YouTube" button at the top of the main page, which will take you directly to the service on our YouTube channel.

# ***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.*

February 21, 2021 • 10 a.m.

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

Prelude & Opening to the Presence of God

Charlotte Dike

Words of Welcome

Invitation to Worship (unison)

Robie Culver

In this season of Lent we journey through the wilderness...

...the wilderness of our lives

...the wilderness in our church

...the wilderness in our world

In the midst of the wilderness we see God's guidance, and we discover God's grace.

Come, let us worship the God who is always walking with us.

Gathering Hymn

*"My Life Flows On"*

*My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,*

*I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.*

*Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing.*

*It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?*

*What though my joys and comforts die? My Savior still is living.*

*What though the shadows gather round? A new song Christ is giving.*

*No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.*

*Since Love commands both heaven and earth, How can I keep from singing?*

*I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it;*

*And day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it,*

*The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing;*

*All things are mine since I am Christ's. How can I keep from singing?*

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A Lenten Haiku (unison)

sometimes we feel lost  
afraid we will not be found  
but God always does

Silence for Reflection

Congregational Response

*Gathered here in the mystery of this hour. Gathered here in one strong body.*

*Gathered here in the struggle and the power. Spirit draw near.*

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

Special Music

*"Prelude in E minor"*

Charlotte Dike

Chopin

Witness of the Scripture

*“Luke 4: 1-13”*

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only God.’” Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘God will command God’s angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every test, the devil departed from him until an opportune time.

Pastoral Reflection

*“Spending Time in the Wilderness”*

Roger Lynn

Response Hymn

*“Wherever You Go”*

*Wherever you go, God is with you. Wherever you go, God is there.*

*Wherever you go, whatever you do, you are in God’s care.*

*Wherever we go, God is with us. Wherever we go, God is there.*

*Wherever we go, whatever we do, we are in God’s care.*

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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](http://www.plymouthmontanaucc.org)) and click on the “Donate” button.

A Doxology

*Praise God who gives us each new day. Praise Christ who leads us on the way.*

*Praise Holy Spirit with us here. Life is a gift – we need not fear. Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

O God of Life, help us to be faithful as we seek to respond to your ongoing grace in our lives. Use us and use our gifts to transform the world. Amen.

Departing Hymn

*“May the Blessing of God”*

*May the blessing of God go before you. May her grace and peace abound.*

*May her Spirit live within you. May her love wrap you ’round.*

*May her blessing remain with you always. May you walk on holy ground.*

*May the blessing of God go before us. May her grace and peace abound.*

*May her Spirit live within us. May her love wrap us ’round.*

*May her blessing remain with us always. May we walk on holy ground.*

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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



*Under normal circumstances, when we are worshipping in the sanctuary, 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 not worshipping in the sanctuary, 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.*