

Plymouth
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



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March 24, 2024
Palm Sunday

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No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

March 24, 2024 • Palm Sunday • 10 a.m.

**An asterisk invites you to stand as you are able, in body or spirit.*

Prelude *"That Will Be Glory" - arr. Adams* *Shaun Deola, Trumpet*

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Charles

- Holy Week
 - Friday, March 29, 11:00—1:00pm: Good Friday. The sanctuary will be prepared for anyone who would like a quiet moment of contemplation, meditation, or prayer.
 - Joint Maundy Thursday service with First Christian Church. Service will be at Plymouth March 28, 6pm: We will have a simple meal together as part of the service to commemorate the Last Supper. Please sign up to let us know that you are coming and if you would like to be a reader.
 - Saturday, March 30, 5pm: Carol McKerrow will be accepting flower donations for Easter Sunday. (*You may bring your flowers earlier if you will be attending Evelyn Nelson's memorial service.*)
 - Easter Sunday, March 31. Morning service 10:00 a.m.
- Summer camp registration is open!—You & Me: July 5-9, Youth Adventures: July 8-15, Great Escapes: August 25-30. Scholarships are available from both Plymouth and the Conference.
- Seeking God—Spiritual Practices Retreat led by Rev. Charles Wei: April 19-20, First Congregational Church of Christ, Great Falls—\$25/person.

Benevolent One, we come to you seeking understanding. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, our rock and our redeemer. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Invitation to Worship

Mark 15:1-15

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then, the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But, Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival, he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now, a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So, the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then, he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But, the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But, they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

The Second Lesson

Mark 15:16-20

Sunny Ray Mandeville

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And, they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And, they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Congregational Response "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

213 (NCH)

The Third Lesson

Mark 15:21-24

Kathe Simons

[The soldiers] compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry [Jesus'] cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then, they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And, they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

The Fourth Lesson

Mark 15:25-32

Al Simons

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified [Jesus]. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And, with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" In the same way, the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves

“He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.” And, those who were crucified with him taunted him, as well.

Musical Interlude “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” arr. Norbury

Shaun Deola, trumpet

The Fifth Lesson

Mark 15:33-41

Pastor Charles

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o’clock, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “Listen, he is calling for Elijah.” And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” Then, Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

Pastoral Reflection

Musical Response

“Praise Him, Alleluia!” - Butler

Plymouth Choir

Prayers of the People

Christ Jesus, in agony in the garden of Olives, troubled by sadness and fear, comforted by an angel:

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Christ Jesus, betrayed by Judas' kiss, abandoned by your apostles, delivered into the hands of sinners:

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Christ Jesus, accused by false witnesses, condemned to die on the cross, struck by servants, covered with spittle:

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Christ Jesus, disowned by Peter, your apostle, delivered to Pilate and Herod, counted among the likes of Barabbas:

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Christ Jesus, carrying your cross to Calvary, consoled by the daughters of Jerusalem, helped by Simon of Cyrene:

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Christ Jesus, stripped of your clothes, given vinegar to drink, crucified with thieves:

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Christ Jesus, insulted on the cross, praying for your executioners, pardoning the good thief:

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Christ Jesus, entrusting your mother to your beloved disciple, giving up your spirit into the hands of the Creator, dying for all of us:

O Lord, have mercy on me.

By your suffering, heal the wounds in our hearts. Let your tears be the source of joy for us, and let your death give us life.

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Mother and Father of us all, in our most desperate moments, we turn to you. Help us to remember that we are not alone in our struggles. Help us to remember your great love for us, and the sacrifice that you made so that we could be with you for all of eternity. For those in recovery, give them strength. For those who are experiencing war, give them courage. For those who are experiencing hunger and cold, the unsheltered, everyone who has been displaced from their homes, let them feel your presence and be comforted. For those suffering from domestic abuse, and those who are lonely or scared, send your angels of mercy to care for them. For everyone who is experiencing hardship, ease their burdens. For all of our loved ones in medical treatment, we ask for healing. For all of us who mourn, grant us peace.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On Earth, as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation,
But, deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

Tithes and Offerings

If you would like to participate in the ritual of offering electronically, you may do with this QR code.



***Doxology**

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Departing Hymn** *“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”* 190 (NCH)

The Sixth Lesson Mark 15:42-47 Kathleen Curtis

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then, Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that [Jesus] was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then, Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid.

***Charge & Benediction** Pastor Charles

Thus ends our reading of the Passion of the Christ. Remember that things are often darkest before the dawn, and that no matter how deep the shadows might be around you, God is always there with you.

And now, may our Creator God instill within you a spirit of creativity. May Jesus the Christ live inside of you, and help you to remember to love and forgive others, as well as yourself.

And, may the Holy Spirit always be with you, on this journey that we call life, so that you will never be alone. Go in peace. Amen.

***Congregational Blessing** *“Go Out Now in Peace”*

212 (Sing!)

Postlude



Plymouth's Mission is to nurture our congregation and the wider community with acts of love and a vision of God's image in all things.

— TODAY'S MINISTERS —

The People of Plymouth Congregational Church, assisted by

Rev. Charles Wei—Pastor

Kathe & Al Simons, Sunny Ray Mandeville, Kathleen Curtis —Liturgist

Dr. Steve and Nancy Michelson, Plymouth Choir, Shaun Deola (trumpet)—Music

Carol McKerrow—Liturgical Art

—ANNOUNCEMENTS —

Saturday, March 30, 5pm: Carol McKerrow will be accepting donations of **flowers for the Easter Sunday service**. (*You may bring your flowers earlier if you will be attending Evelyn Nelson's memorial service.*)

Evelyn Nelson's Memorial Service: Saturday, March 30th at 2:00 p.m.—Sanctuary

Sign-up sheets for liturgists—in the narthex.

Welcome Visitors and Prayer Card in your pew rack. We are delighted to have you worshipping with us today. Please use to let us know your prayer requests and anything else you'd like to share with us. Place your card in the offering plate.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Palm Sunday Brunch—TODAY, after the worship service. Sign up sheet is in narthex.

Women's Fellowship Luncheon: Tuesday, March 26, 11:30 a.m. at Overland Express Restaurant.

Maundy Thursday, March 28th—Dinner in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:00 pm.

Jews of the Wild West, Sunday April 7th at the Montana Jewish Project Temple Emanu-El, 515 N Ewing St. Helena. Presentation on Montana's famous Jewish pioneers—3:00pm.

Seeking God – Spiritual Practices Retreat led by Rev. Charles Wei: April 19-20, First Congregational Church of Christ, Great Falls -\$25/person.

Summer Camps: You & Me: July 5-8; Youth Adventures: July 8-15; Great Escapes: August 25-30.

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Pastor Office Hours—Tuesdays and Thursdays—9am to 4pm