

*Plymouth*  
Congregational Church  
*United Church of Christ*



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**May 19, 2024**

**Pentecost**

# ***Plymouth Congregational Church***

## ***United Church of Christ***

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

**May 19, 2024 • Pentecost • 10 a.m.**

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

### ***Prelude***

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

Pastor Charles

- Bible Study: Tuesday, May 21, 9:00 am, Fireside Room.
- Summer camp dates: You & Me: July 5-8, Youth Adventures: July 9-15, Great Escapes: August 25-30. Registration is now open!

#### **Invitation to Worship**      *adapted from Psalm 104*

One: O God, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

**All: Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great!**

One: These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

**All: When you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.**

One: May the glory of God endure forever!

**All: I will sing to God as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being!**

#### ***Gathering Hymn***

*"O Worship the King"*

*(Screen)*

#### **Unison Prayer** *(please be seated)*

Pastor Charles

**God of Miracles and Impossible Things, we sing your praise and rejoice in your presence. Help us to remember that you are the God of peace,**

**joy, and love. Help us to remember the wonder and the delights that you have created in the world. And, help us to remember the importance of celebration, of togetherness, and of coming together at the table with family and friends. [We invite you to rest in this brief moment of silence to listen for God's loving message for you this day.]**  
**Amen.**

**Assurance of Grace**

Brenda Senne

People of God, hear the Good News! God comes alongside us in our triumphs and our celebrations! God wants us to live full and rich lives, setting goals for ourselves and achieving them, forming and strengthening relationships, celebrating and feasting when it's time to celebrate and feast! There will always be troubles and obstacles in our lives that we will need to confront, but let us always remember to welcome that which is joyful and sweet. Amen.

**Congregational Response** "*On Pentecost They Gathered*"

272 (NCH)

**Prayer of Illumination**

Michael Blanchard

Let us Pray. Loving God, open our hearts and our minds to hear your voice in the words written in our scriptures, and to find ways to reflect and respond as your children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Reading from the Epistles**

Romans 8:22-27

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

***Musical Interlude***

*“Dona Nobis Pacem”  
(Grant Us Rest)*

*Plymouth Choir*

**New Testament Reading**

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “People of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

## **Reflection**

Rev Dr. Tony Clark

## ***Musical Reflection***

*“Pie Jesu” - Andrew Rice Webber*

*Amy Allen & Amy Casne-Fetz—Guest Musicians*

## **Prayers of the People**

Pastor Charles

God of joy and celebration, help us to remember the good times when things are difficult. We are bombarded with so many voices and images of what’s going wrong in the world. Help us to see the positive things, as well. Help us to remember that the bad will never outweigh the good, and that no matter what happens, we can always grow, and learn, and change for the better. Let us be your instruments in the world, so that the in-breaking of your kingdom will come into its fullness, and everything around us will be a reflection of your light and your love.

We ask you to move in us so that we will strive to be a more sympathetic, generous, and justice-minded people. We thank you for walking with us and for drawing us ever closer together, to be one family, united in love. Help us to take care of each other, and to love each other the way that you love us.

Mother and Father of us all, we ask that you be with all of those for whom no one ever prays, and move in us to care for this beautiful world that is our home, this sacred and precious gift that you have given to us out of your goodness and love. We ask you to be with those who are in recovery, those who are experiencing war, those who are experiencing hunger and cold. We ask you to care for those who have been displaced from their homes, those who are lonely or scared. We ask you to comfort our unsheltered neighbors, and all those who are experiencing hardship or difficulty of any kind. We ask for your healing hands to touch those who are undergoing medical treatment, those who are sick or suffering. We ask for your presence with the bereaved, and those who feel an emptiness in their lives. Be with us, God, in our joys and in our sorrows.

### **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**

Pastor Charles

### **\*Departing Hymn**

*“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”*

293 (NCH)

### **\*Invitation to Fellowship**

Pastor Charles

Pentecost is the birthday of the church.  
How is the church being born anew today?

### **\*Charge & Benediction**

Now go, and remember that God is in every person that you meet. Celebrate and admire all of our differences, knowing that each person was created in God’s image. With God’s help, we can share the love, joy, and curiosity that will make the realm of God a reality, here on Earth. 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, as you make your way 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**

— TODAY'S MINISTERS —

*The People of Plymouth Congregational Church, assisted by*

*Rev. Charles Wei—Pastor*

*Brenda Senne —Liturgist*

*Dr. Steve and Nancy Michelson, Plymouth Choir—Music*

*Amy Allen & Amy Casne-Fetz—Guest Musicians\*\**

*Carol McKerrow—Liturgical Art*

*\*\*Our guest musicians are former students of Dr. Michelson and members of the Helena Chamber Singers, whose spring concert is taking place today at 4:30 pm and tomorrow night at 7:00 pm, both here at Plymouth Congregational Church. These two young women will be singing this song at both concerts; they are also both soloists in our presentation of music from the Broadway Musical/Movie versions of LES MISERABLES, one of the great shows in Broadway and movie history. You're all invited to attend one of their concerts.*

—ANNOUNCEMENTS —

**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 let us know your prayer requests and anything else you'd like to share. Place your card in the offering plate.

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

**Helena Chamber Singers Concert:** TODAY, May 19 at 4:30 pm and Monday, May 20 at 7:00 pm—Sanctuary. Tickets will be available at the door.

**Bible Study:** Tuesday, May 21, 9:00 a.m.—Fireside Room. Led by Pastor Charles

**BSUU Sandwich Ministry:** Wednesday, May 22 at 9:30 am—meet in the kitchen.

**Council Meeting:** Thursday, May 23 at 4:00 pm—Fireside Room

**Summer Camps:** You & Me: July 5-8; Youth Adventures: July 8-15; Great Escapes: August 25-30. Registration is now open!

**PCC Office Phone—406-442-9883**

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