

Plymouth
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



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October 13, 2024

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Plymouth Congregational Church

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

October 13, 2024 • 21st Sunday after Pentecost • 10 a.m.

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

Chiming the Trinity

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Charles

- Succulent Pumpkins—after service, Oct 13, bring pumpkin, hot glue gun
- Fall Prevention Class: Thursday, October 24, 2:00 p.m.
- Liturgist sign-up sheet in the narthex.
- Bible Study: Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room.
- Chime Choir: Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Poem

What the Rich Young Man Said—Lory Widner Hess(See Insert)

Invitation to Worship

adapted from Psalm 90:12-17

Michael Blanchard

One: Teach us, O God, to count our days, that we may gain a wise heart.

All: Have compassion, O God, for your servants!

One: Show us your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days!

All: Let your work be manifest to your servants and your glorious power to their children!

One: Let the favor of God be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands.

All: O prosper the work of our hands!

Gathering Hymn

"Sing to God"

23 (Sing!)

Unison Prayer (*please be seated*)

Pastor Charles

Loving God, in your house there is room for everyone. Help us as we strive for a world where everyone has a home that truly meets their needs. Give us the grace to welcome strangers and refugees. Give us the insight to see where inequality hurts, and fill us with the courage to do our part. [*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

Florence Mayer

People of God, hear the good news! We are never alone when we face the challenges of life, for God is with us. God gives us the strength and the perseverance to go out into our communities to form relationships and help those in need. With God's help, we can make the world a better place and make sure that those who need help can get the help that they need. Never forget that you are God's blessing for the world. Amen.

Congregational Response *In the Bulb there is a Season (Hymn of Promise)*

433 (NCH)

Prayer of Illumination

Florence Mayer

Eternal God, you are our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Be with us now as we listen for your word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Mark 10:17-22

As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.’ ”

He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.”

Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”

When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Musical Interlude

Second Gospel Reading

Mark 10:23-31

Pastor Charles

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!”

And the disciples were perplexed at these words.

But, Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?”

Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.”

Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

Pastoral Reflection

Pastor Charles

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People

Pastor Charles

God of Promise and Revelation, be with us in our hour of need. Help us to build community, to fight isolation and despair. Help us to build relationships, to fight apathy and injustice. Help us to build a community where everyone is cared for, fed, and sheltered. Let us be a community of love, friendship, and sharing. Let us right the wrongs of the past, and heal the wounds that we have inflicted on neighbor, earth, and sky, and let the in-breaking of your realm here on Earth come forth as a result of the works that we do in your name.

Mother and Father of us all, we ask that you be with all of those for whom no one ever prays, and to fill us with love, empathy, and compassion. We offer special prayers for all of the people of the world who are experiencing the horrors of war, and the victims of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, and all other natural disaster. We pray for those without shelter as the weather grows cold. We pray for the hungry and the sick.

We pray for Maxine Ferguson, Jim and Doris Powell, Giles Walker, Marlyce “Marliss” Taylor, Art Gilreath, and Lorraine Hopgood, and the people of Israel, Palestine, Russia, and Ukraine. We lift up Greg Bolin, Lynn Bolin, Gus Byrom, Richard Burns, Jen, Mary Jacobson, Nancy Michelson, Jaren Mills, and Kelly Murphy as they go through medical treatment. We pray for the family of Ed Canty, the families of the victims of gun violence, as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.

The Lord’s Prayer:

Our Creator/Father/Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be they 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 so with this QR code.



***Doxology**

**Praise God, from who all blessings 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**

“Take My Gifts”

562 (NCH)

***Charge & Benediction**

Pastor Charles

Now, go and be brave. Go out in to the world, and do God's work. Help the poor and the needy. Shelter the unsheltered, and be the face of God for everyone that you meet.

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

Our worship has ended. Now our service begins

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

Florence Mayer, Michael Blanchard—Liturgists

Dr. Steve and Nancy Michelson—Music

Carol McKerrow—Liturgical Art

—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.

Just Coffee! Contact Gus Byrom or Dick Mayer to buy your coffee and help support ministry (\$12/lb).

Ping Pong Party: This coming Saturday! See back side of this page for more details.

THANK YOU—Donna Disher Hathey for decorating the Fireside Room bulletin board. It looks great and we all appreciate it.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Pumpkin Succulent Class—following the service downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

Bible Study: Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.—Fireside Room.

Plymouth Chimers (Chime Choir): Tuesdays 1:30 p.m.—meet in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to join in the fun.

Falls Prevention Class: Thursday, October 24, 2:00 p.m. Flyers are available on the narthex table.

PCC Office Phone—406-442-9883

Office Manager Alane's e-mail—pccofficemgr@gmail.com

Office Hours—Tuesday through Thursday—9am to 1pm

Pastor Charles' e-mail—pastorplymouthmt@gmail.com

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

—SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT—

**Helena-Congo-Afghanistan Refugee-
Welcoming Ping Pong Party**

**9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. this Saturday October 19th
at Plymouth Church (Fellowship Hall)**

**Paddles Blazing with Love To Give a Warm Welcome to Our
New Refugee Family Friends from the Democratic Republic
of Congo and from Afghanistan**



—SPONSORS—

- Plymouth Congregational Church and its Social Justice Committee
- Hands on Global and its Helena-Area Refugee Resettlement Team (HARRT) Partners/Co-sponsors
- Justice League of St. Paul's United Methodist Church
- Sleeping Giant Citizens Council
- Good Samaritan Ministries
- Helena DSA Solidarity Network
- Helena Service for Peace and Justice
- Helena Table Tennis Club
- YWCA Helena
- Montana Jewish Project
- Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church
- Shop University for ESL Instruction in Helena



- Sunflower Bakery
- Van's Thriftway Food Store
- Helena Food Share
- First Christian Church/ Disciples of Christ Helena
- Costco
- H=Town Boxing Club

—INSERT —

Poem *What the Rich Young Man Said*—Lory Widner Hess

He told me to sell everything,
Give all to the poor, and follow him.
Yes, I turned away – but don't harshly judge
The one who can't let go.

The trouble isn't with all the things
I love to see and touch:
This silver cup I've had from childhood,
That tapestry of woven silk –
A gift from my dear mother –
Or luxuries like roasted meat,
Soft pillows, scented baths.

I could renounce all these and eat
The crusts thrown to the beggars
In exchange for life eternal.
I'd call that a good bargain.

But what of all the people's lives
That rest on mine, so interlaced
I can't say where I end and they begin?
My loyal serving maids and men,
The tenant farmers who depend
On me as their kind master?
My sisters, too, who look to me
For guidance and support –
If I abandon them, what care
And understanding will they find
In this harsh world? I can't
Just leave them to pursue
My selfish dream of life.

And yet, that's what he told me,
And I must listen, or be dead indeed.

At death, it's true, all human ties
Are broken, and we walk alone
Into that unknown realm
With nothing, no one,
No, not one.

By binding them to me in life,
Considering them possessions, things,
Objects to be owned and managed,
I'm killing something singular
In them, and in myself.
Yes, even caring bonds must break
If we are to know freedom.

So can I die before I die?
Can I go into that dark cave
Of my own separate body
And walk alone where no one else,
Not even he, can enter?

And as my limbs grow cold and stiff,
No movement left, all bound with rags,
Will I then hear him calling
Me back to life and light?

Will the stone be gone?
Will I obey
His inconceivable word?