

Plymouth
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



Photo by Liane Metzler on Unsplash

November 17, 2024

God Calls Isaiah

Plymouth Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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

November 17, 2024 • God Calls Isaiah • 10 a.m.

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

Chiming the Trinity

Pastor Charles

Prelude

Land Acknowledgement

Pastor Charles

All throughout Helena, and underneath the ground where we walk, are the ancestors of the Niitsítapi [nee-itsee-TAH-peh] and Séliš [SAY-lish] people. From the 1700's through the present, these Indigenous people have resisted and persevered over colonialism and genocide. We say land acknowledgements to remind us of the true history of this country, and we acknowledge that we benefit from these historic injustices. And in doing so, we seek to honor the unique culture and legacy of Montana's first peoples through our words and our actions.

Welcome and Announcements

- Hanging of the Greens, Sun, Nov 24. We need volunteer before the service to bring up decorations and volunteers after the service to help decorate.
- Volunteer Appreciation luncheon, TODAY after the service. Everyone is invited!
- 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.

Invitation to Worship

Michael Blanchard

Voices: Native American Hymns and Worship Resources

One: The circle of love is repeatedly broken because of the sin of exclusion. We create separate circles: the inner circle and the outer circle, the circle of power and the circle of misery, the circle of favor and the circle of denial.

All: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.

One: The circle of love is broken whenever there is hostility, whenever there is misunderstanding, whenever there is insensitivity and a closed heart.

All: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.

One: The circle of love is broken whenever we cannot see eye to eye, whenever we cannot link hand to hand, whenever we cannot live heart to heart and affirm our differences.

All: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.

One: Through God's grace we are forgiven, by the mercy of our Creator, through the love of the Christ, and in the power of the Spirit. Let us rejoice and be glad!

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.

****Gathering Hymn** *"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"* 495 (NCH)

Unison Prayer

Pastor Charles

All-seeing and All-knowing God, your words echo through the ages, and in the hearts of all people. Prepare us for your message and for your mighty works. We stand in awe of you, and are filled with wonder and gratitude. Give us courage, that we may listen to your wisdom. Let us be compassionate and merciful, and share your love with all the world.

[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

Michael Blanchard

People of God, hear the good news! The whisperings of our God are carried on the wind, in the rustle of the leaves, on the breath of the people around us. Listen for God's word for you. God has given us wisdom and courage, to live in the world as salt and light, to be an example for others of goodness and love. Trust in God's grace, and know that God is with you. Amen.

Congregational Response

"Hear I am, Lord"

(Screen)

Prayer of Illumination

Patsy Tompkins

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

Luke 5:4-10

When [Jesus] had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.'

Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.'

When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So, they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And, they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.

But, when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.'

Musical Interlude *“Go Ye Therefore” - McDonald* *(Plymouth Choir)*

Reading from the Prophets Isaiah 6:1-8 Pastor Charles

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw God sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of her robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And, one called to another and said, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And, I said, “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

Then, one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.”

Then I heard the voice of God saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”

And, I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Pastoral Reflection

Musical Reflection

Sovereign of Heaven and Earth, as you cleansed Isaiah with a coal of fire to prepare him for proclaiming your word to the world, prepare us, so that we may know your bidding and carry out our callings with eagerness and urgency. Light a fire within us, that we might see our fellow siblings in the world with mercy, generosity, and compassion, and work to right the wrongs we have done against each other, against our world, against ourselves. Move in us to bring food to the hungry, water to the thirsty, healing to the sick, and solace to those who are lonely or scared. Show the world greatness that cannot be contained any more than smoke or fire can be caught.

Special Prayers: Ann Chivlicek, Maxine Ferguson, Art Gilreath, Loraine Hopgood, Jim and Doris Powell, Marlyce Taylor, and Giles Walker. The people of Israel, Palestine, Russia, Ukraine, Venezuela, and all who are experiencing the horrors of war. The victims of Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Medical Treatment/Healing: Greg Bolin, Lynn Bolin, Gus Byrom, Mary Jacobson, Nancy Michelson, Karen Mills, Kelly Murphy, Brenda Senne.

Bereavement: The families of Ed Canty and Jen Butler, and the families of the victims of gun violence and natural disasters.

The Lord's Prayer:

O Great Spirit, Creator of the universe,
You are our Shepherd Chief in the most-high place.
Whose home is everywhere, even beyond the stars and moon.
Whatever you want done, let it, also be done everywhere.
Give us your gift of bread day by day.
Forgive us our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us.
Take us away from wrong doings.
Free us from all evil.
For everything belongs to you.
Let your power and glory shine forever.
Amen.

~ Hattie Corbett Enos, of the Nez Perce tribe

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**

"Trust and Obey"

(Screen)

***Charge & Benediction**

Pastor Charles

God is calling us to decisive and specific action in the world. The world is in trouble, and God is calling us to do something about it. You are God's children, created in the image of God, instilled with all of the strength, imagination, and love that you need to do this work. So, be bold. Be joyous. And, be the people that God created you to be.

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

Worship has ended. Let the service begin.

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

Michael Blanchard, Patsy Tompkins—Liturgists

Dr. Steve & Nancy Michelson, Plymouth Choir—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).

YOU'RE INVITED!

Pastoral Care Committee: Meets Tuesday, November 19 at 2pm in the Fireside Room. This is an open meeting.

Finance Committee: Meets Wednesday, November 20 at 10:30 am in the Founder's Room.

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. We are looking for new "ringers."

Big Sky UU Sandwich Ministry: Wednesday November 27 at 9:30 a.m. Meet in the kitchen.

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