

*Plymouth*  
Congregational Church  
*United Church of Christ*



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**January 19, 2025**

**Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

# ***Plymouth Congregational Church***

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

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

**January 19, 2025 • Second Sunday after the Epiphany • 10 a.m.**

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

### **Chiming the Trinity**

#### ***Prelude***

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

Pastor Charles

- Sunday, January 26 after worship: Annual Meeting
- Liturgist sign-up sheet in the narthex.
- Bible Study: Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

#### **Invitation to Worship**

*Psalm 146:1-7*

Patsy Tompkins

One: Praise God!

**All: Praise God, O my soul!**

One: I will praise God as long as I live;

**All: I will sing praises to God my whole life long.**

One: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

**All: When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day, their plan perish.**

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob.

**All: Whose hope is in the God who made heaven and earth,**

One: The sea, and all that is in it;

**All: Who keeps faith forever;**

One: Who executes justice for the oppressed;

**All: Who gives food to the hungry.**

**\*Gathering Hymn** *“Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good”* NCH 6 (vs 1-3)

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

Pastor Charles

**God of Justice, God of Truth, we ask for your presence to be felt powerfully among us, that we might strive to be better people. Move in us to work for equality, equity, and fairness. Let us look upon those suffering from injustice with merciful and benevolent eyes, and give us the courage and the strength to face it. Help us to remember that all things are possible through you. [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**

Patsy Tompkins

People of God, hear the good news! The works of the Holy Spirit are evident in our history. Though there may be times of strife and injustice, fairness and justice will always prevail. And, we are the agents of that change. God works through us to bring goodness and kindness into the world. God trusts us and gives us this responsibility out of the infinite love and grace of God’s being. So, know that you have been gifted with the boldness, courage, and joy to do this work, and that God is always working alongside you. Amen.

**Congregational Response** *“Arise, Your Light is Come”*

NCH 164

**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 4:14-20

Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

## ***Musical Interlude***

## **Second Gospel Reading**

Luke 4:21-30

Pastor Charles

Then [Jesus] began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is this not Joseph’s son?” He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown.

But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

## **Reflection**

### ***Musical Reflection***

#### **Prayers of the People**

Pastor Charles

God of Mercy and Light, help us to be truth-seekers and the bearers of compassion. When we are bound by culture, tradition, and experience, we ask for your wisdom to see what is truly important. Help us to understand the meaning and significance behind what we do, and to have grace and forgiveness for ourselves and everyone around us when we explore new ways of doing things. We pray for you to become a fire of justice within us, to set right the wrongs of the past, and to be your ambassadors of healing and love in the world.

Mother and Father of us all, thank you for being with us, and for the gift of family, friends, and community. Be the web of connection that keeps us together, and help us to understand and support one another. We pray for all who are in medical treatment. Lay your healing hands upon them and bring them comfort.

We pray for those who are lonely or scared, those who have been driven from their homes because of war, or natural disasters, like the wildfires in California, or Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Help us to be better stewards of our world so that these events are less likely to happen. We pray for the unsheltered and those suffering from domestic abuse. Protect them, and guide them to safety. We pray for those in recovery, and those who are experiencing hunger. We pray for the families of Jim Powell and Nancy Michelson, and all who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Be with all of us, who look to you for guidance and support.

### **The Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 are joining us online and would like to participate in the offering, you may do so by donating at our website, which you can reach 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**

*“Let Justice Flow Like Streams*

*NCH 588*

**\*Charge & Benediction**

Pastor Charles

Listen for God’s word for you, this day and every day. Never forget that God is still speaking. Let it become one of the truths of your life. Always remember the multitude of ways that God has spoken to us in the past: prophets and angels, visions and dreams, a burning bush, a talking donkey, a baby born in a manger. You can never know how God might reach out to you. So, keep your eyes and your ears open, keep your hearts and your minds open, for divinity could be in your midst, at any moment.

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”*

*Sing! 212*

**Postlude**

*“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”*

*~ Corrie Ten Boom*

*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*

*Patsy Tompkins—Liturgist*

*Dr. Steve 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).

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Sunday, January 26, after the worship service. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PLYMOUTH  
YOU'RE INVITED!**

**Bible Study:** Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.—Fireside Room. We will have Bible Study New Year's Eve.

**BSUU Sandwich Ministry:** Wednesday, January 29 at 9:30 a.m. They always appreciate the extra hands and help to make PB&J sandwiches for Our Place to distribute. Meet in the kitchen.

**PCC Office Phone—406-442-9883**

**Office Manager Alane's e-mail—[pccofficemgr@gmail.com](mailto:pccofficemgr@gmail.com)**

**Office Hours—Tuesday through Thursday—9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Pastor Charles' e-mail—[pastorplymouthmt@gmail.com](mailto:pastorplymouthmt@gmail.com)**

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