

Plymouth
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



David Lusvard-Unsplash

March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Plymouth Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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

March 30, 2025 • Fourth Sunday of Lent • 10 a.m.

Chiming the Trinity

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Charles

- Bible Study: Tuesdays, 9:00 am, Fireside Room.
- Liturgist sign-up sheets in the Narthex
- Readers for Good Friday Tenebrae service.
- We will be collecting a special offering today for the One Great Hour of Sharing.

Invitation to Worship *Psalm 41:1-3* Brenda Senne

One: Happy are those who consider the poor;

All: God delivers them in the day of trouble.

One: God protects them and keeps them alive;

All: They are called happy in the land. God will not give them up to the will of their enemies.

One: God sustains them on their sickbed;

All: In their illness, God heals all their infirmities.

Gathering Hymn NCH 543

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life (verses 1,2,3 & 5)

Unison Prayer Pastor Charles

Ever-Present and Merciful God, we know that you are with us. Give us the strength and perseverance we need to create heaven here on Earth. Give us the compassion we need to understand those who are different from us. Give us the courage we need to stand up to institutions and laws that exclude, hinder, and deny. Thank you for your presence, and for your promise to be with us now and forever.

Assurance of Grace

Brenda Senne

People of God, hear the good news! We have been empowered by God to bring justice, healing, and peace into the world. The time for action is not in some uncertain future. It is now! Trust in God, and in the goodness that God has birthed within you. And, know that we are never doing this work alone. There may be hardships, but God will see us through them. There may be setbacks, but God will get us back up on our feet. You need not fear what is to come, for God will always be with you. Amen.

Congregational Response

NCH 212

O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns

Prayer of Illumination

Frank Kromkowski

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 Psalms *Psalm 41:4-13*

As for me, I said, 'O God, be gracious to me;
heal me, for I have sinned against you.'

My enemies wonder in malice
when I will die, and my name perish.

And, when they come to see me, they utter empty words,
while their hearts gather mischief;
when they go out, they tell it abroad.

All who hate me whisper together about me;
they imagine the worst for me.

They think that a deadly thing has fastened on me,
that I will not rise again from where I lie.

Even my bosom friend in whom I trusted,
who ate of my bread, has lifted the heel against me.

But you, O God, be gracious to me,
and raise me up, that I may repay them.

By this I know that you are pleased with me;

But you have upheld me because of my integrity,
and set me in your presence forever.

Blessed be our God, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen.

Musical Interlude

Plymouth Choir

“The Time for Singing has Come” – Natalie Sleeth

Gospel Reading *Luke 16:19-31* *Pastor Charles*

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And, at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores.

“The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side.

“He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’

“But, Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’

“He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’

“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’

“He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Reflection

Musical Reflection

Steve Michelson

Prayers of the People

God of All People, your grace and forgiveness are unending. Though we may not listen, you never stop speaking. Though we may not understand, you never stop teaching. Though we may be stunned into inaction, you never stop reaching out to us. We know that your love and your patience can wear down any resistance to hope, joy, justice, and love. We know that you have empowered and emboldened us to do the work that needs to be done, good works in your name to bring healing, comfort, and security to all who need it. We know that your light shines brightly from us to banish the shadows of bigotry and greed. Help us to remember that you will always be our guiding star, and that any time we are lost, we simply need to look to you.

Mother and Father of us all, let us remember that all people are part of the family of God, and that all people deserve to feel welcome and included. Give us patience and wisdom to find ways to help the hungry, the thirsty, the scared, and the lonely. Give us the empathy that we need to comfort the sick, those in recovery, and those who have lost loved ones. Give us creativity and inspiration to find ways to protect our unsheltered neighbors, those suffering from domestic abuse, those who come to us seeking refuge, and those experiencing the horrors of war and natural disasters. Give us strength and courage to protect this beautiful world that you have created for us to be our home, and to love it in the way that it deserves. And always, we pray for those for whom no one ever prays.

Special Prayers:

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

Medical Treatment:

Greg Bolin, Lynn Bolin, Gus Byrom, Brian Coplin, Gregory Curtis, Jude Curtis, Karen Mills, Kelly Murphy, Brenda Senne, Alex Weaver, Phyllis Weaver.

Bereavement:

The families of Nancy Michelson, Mary Dana White, Richard Penfield III, and the families of the victims of gun violence and natural disasters.

The Lord's Prayer

A note about the Lord's Prayer: On the last Sunday of the month, we use different versions of the Lord's Prayer, to remind us of our siblings in Christ all over the world who worship in different ways and in different languages. This helps us to remember that there is no one right way to worship God, and reminds us to listen for God in all parts of our lives.

Creator in heaven, holy is your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
On Earth, as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And free us from bondage,
As we free those whom we have bound,
And lead us not into temptation,
But, deliver us from evil,
For the kingdom, and the power, and the glory are yours 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

I Love to Tell the Story

NCH522

*Charge & Benediction

Pastor Charles

The parables can be tricky, but as long as we remember that it was Jesus who was telling them, we can remember that truth and wisdom are hidden within them. Listen and pay attention for who God might be speaking through, because the message is important. See the people around you. Love the people around you. 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”*

Sing! 212

Postlude

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

~ Corrie ten Boom

— TODAY'S MINISTERS —

The People of Plymouth Congregational Church, assisted by

Rev. Charles Wei—Pastor

Brenda Senne and Frank Kromkowski—Liturgists

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).

Memorial service for Nancy Michelson will be held here at Plymouth on Saturday, June 28 at 1:00 p.m. The reception will be held at the Michelson's farm at 4:00 p.m. It will be a Memorial Potluck Dinner, and the family asks that you RSVP if you wish to attend. Contact: Meg Crane—megcrane@gmail.com (406) 594-4430

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

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

BSUU Sandwich Ministry: Wednesday, March 26 at 9:30 a.m. Meet in the kitchen

Palm Sunday Salad Luncheon: April 13 after church

PCC Office Phone—406-442-9883

Office Manager e-mail—pccofficemgr@gmail.com

Office Hours—Variable during transition—midday

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

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