

Plymouth Congregational Church
March 22, 2026 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

~ We Gather ~

Prelude *How Beautiful - Paris*

Amy Allen & Amy Casne-Fetz, soloists

Chiming the Trinity

Moment of Reflection

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Charles

Good morning! This is the day that God has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. If you are a guest with us today, thank you so much for being here! If you are joining us online, we see you and we welcome you. Thank you for being with us. As we always say in the United Church of Christ, no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

- Good Friday Tenebrae Service, Friday, April 3, 7:00 pm. Sign-up sheet in Narthex.
- Saturday, April 4, 11:00-1:00, Sanctuary, Pam Rolfes will accept flower donations for Easter Sunday. (No lilacs or lilies, please)
- Interested in becoming a member? Please speak with Pastor Charles or Kathe Simons. We are hoping to have a joining service on Easter Sunday.

- Bible Study: Tuesdays, 9:00 am, Fireside Room.
- Chime Choir: Tuesdays, 1:30 pm, Sanctuary, starting January 13
- Sandwich Ministry, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month
- Liturgist sign-up sheets in the narthex.
- If you would like a nametag, please add your name to the list in the narthex.

Invitation to Worship adapted from Psalm 126 Jeanne Wolf

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

All: And, also with you!

One: God has done great things for us!

All: God has filled our mouths with laughter, and our tongues shout for joy!

One: God has done great things for us!

All: God has restored our fortunes, and we rejoice!

One: God has done great things for us!

All: We come home with shouts of joy, carrying the harvest!

Gathering Hymn *You are Welcome Here - Sing! 26*

Plymouth Choir: 1st verse

Congregation stands after 1st verse

Choir & Congregation: 2nd and 3rd verses

~ *We Prepare* ~

Unison Prayer

Pastor Charles

God of Miracles and Impossible Things, we sing your praise and rejoice in your presence. Be with us as we contemplate the meaning of our lives, and confront our own mortality. Hold us through our fears and uncertainties. Help us to understand Jesus' teachings and resurrection, and the gift of eternity that he offers us. Help us to trust in you and your infinite love.

[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

Jeanne Wolf

People of God, hear the good news! Our God truly is Infinite and Eternal. God's love is boundless and offered freely to everyone. With God, we need not fear death, for God holds dominion over life and death, and through God we will know life everlasting. In this season of Lent, God waits with us, until we can celebrate the resurrection of Christ, reminding us of the impossible power of love. Amen.

Congregational Response *Father Almighty, Bless Us* NCH 518

~ *We Engage* ~

Prayer of Illumination

Jeanne Wolf

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

John 19:1-7

Jeanne Wolf

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And, the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face.

Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him."

So, Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!"

When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him."

The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

Musical Interlude

Rock of Ages

screen

Second Gospel Reading

John 19:8-16

Pastor Charles

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?"

But, Jesus gave him no answer.

Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and power to crucify you?"

Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against Caesar."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha.

Now, it was the day of Preparation for the Passover, and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!"

They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!"

Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?"

The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."

Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So, they took Jesus.

Reflection

Pastor Charles

Musical Reflection

The Cloud's Veil

Amy Casne-Fetz, soloist

Prayers of the People

Pastor Charles

God of Resurrection and Rebirth, we thank you for your gentle and patient guidance. In this season of Lent, this time of waiting and fasting and anticipation, we pray that you give us the serenity to wait for the next thing to come. Fill our hearts, so that we can look forward with hope. Help us to look forward with joy. Help us to remember that the night and the shadows are not forever, that the sun will rise over the horizon, heralding a new day, and that you are always with us, no matter what is happening in our lives or in the world. We know that you are always at work, bending the arc of history towards justice, and that we are your instruments of peace and love, fostering the inbreaking of your realm here on Earth.

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 and nurture this world that is our home, this beautiful gift that you created out of your wisdom, power, and love. For those in recovery, we ask that you give them strength. For those who are experiencing war, we ask that you give them courage. For those who are experiencing hunger and cold, the unsheltered, and everyone who has been displaced from their homes, we ask that you let them feel your presence and be comforted. For those suffering from domestic abuse, and those who are lonely or scared, we ask you to send angels of mercy to care for them. For everyone who is experiencing hardship of any kind, we ask you to ease their burdens. For all of our loved ones in medical treatment, we ask for healing. For all of us who mourn, we ask you to grant us peace.

Special Prayers: Maxine Ferguson, Art Gilreath, Loraine Hopgood, Doris Powell, Marlyce Taylor, and Giles Walker. All those who are experiencing the horrors of war and natural disasters.

Medical Treatment: Michael Blanchard, Greg Bolin, Gus Byrom, Carl Carlson, Brian Coplin, Karen Senne Hayes, Frank Kromkowski, Kelly Murphy, Donna Randolph, Phyllis Weaver.

Bereavement: Linda Burns, Rev. Dr. Tony Clark

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Charles

Our Creator, 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.

~ *We Respond* ~

Tithes and Offerings

Pastor Charles

We recognize that there are many ways to give. If you give in ways other than monetarily during the worship service, we invite you to press your thumb into the bowl of the offering plate, so that you may participate in the ritual of offering with the rest of the congregation.

Donations can be made at our website, which you can reach with this QR code:



Offertory

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

Creator God, we humbly offer these gifts to you. We pray that you take them and multiply them, turning them into blessings for those who need them most. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

~ We Go out in Peace ~

Departing Hymn

Just As I Am

NCH 207

Charge & Benediction

Pastor Charles

Go forth and face the world bravely! Know that God is with you, strengthening you and giving you courage for the work that needs to be done. You are the embodiment of God's love in the world, so be generous and compassionate and merciful with the people you encounter. Know that you are loved, and do not fear death, for eternal life is yours through our risen Christ.

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