

Plymouth Congregational Church
April 26, 2026 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

~ We Gather ~

Prelude	Katie Beckman, cello
Chiming the Trinity	Al Simons
Moment of Reflection	
Welcome and Announcements	Al Simons

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.

- Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10 – You are invited to bring pictures of your mothers and the mothers in your lives to put on the table in the narthex.
- Sunday Funday, May 17, 11:00 after the service Pot Luck & Table Top Game Day.
- Bible Study: Tuesdays, 9:00 am, Fireside Room.
- Chime Choir: Tuesdays, 1:30 pm, Sanctuary, starting May 5
- Sandwich Ministry, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month
- Liturgist sign-up sheets in the narthex.
- Remember to wear your nametags! If you would like a nametag, please add your name to the list in the narthex.
- Please silence your cell phones.

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

All: And, also with you!

One: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

All: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

One: He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

All: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

One: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

~ *We Prepare* ~

Unison Prayer

Al Simons

God of Peace and Community, we ask you to kindle the warm glow of kindness and serenity within us. Help us to welcome our neighbors, and to share generously with everyone around us. Give us patience when we lack understanding, curiosity when we see difference, and courage when we see change. Be for us an example of how to build family and community, and let us be an example of your love to the people of the world.

[We invite you to rest in this brief moment of silence to listen for God's loving message for you this day.] (30 seconds)

Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Brenda Senne

People of God, hear the good news! God has blessed you with curiosity, creativity, and a loving community. Wherever we go, we are surrounded by the holy presence of our God. We are surrounded by love, abundance and kindness. Know that God is with you and that God has surrounded you with people who will challenge and surprise you. Embrace the Holy Spirit within you and let your life shine. Amen.

Congregational Response *Father Almighty, Bless Us* NCH 518

~ *We Engage* ~

Prayer of Illumination

Brenda Senne

Creator of all things, we come to you seeking understanding. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, our rock and our redeemer. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

New Testament Reading

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Musical Interlude

Gospel Reading

John 10:11-18

Rev. Janet Potter

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs

away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And, I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So, there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason, the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Reflection

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People

Al Simons

Maker of families, Builder of Neighborhoods, Creator of Communities, we ask you now to be the foundation of our gatherings and our gathering places. We thank you for the spark of life that animates us, the spark of life that connects us to each other, for the spark of life that grows and forms neighborhoods, towns, and countries, for the spark of life that is the world in which we live. We thank you for the grand diversity that surrounds us, from the gentle patter of spring rain, to the noisy bustle of the big cities. Let us be at peace wherever we are. Let us be ambassadors wherever we go. Let us be leaders and teachers, caregivers and care receivers. Let us be your light and your love.

We thank you, Our Risen Lord, for giving us strength and courage to do the work that you have given us to do, and for being alive inside of us, a constant reminder of your mercy and your love. We thank you, Holy Spirit, Breath of Life, for connecting us to one another, for making all of us one family in God.

We pray for those in need of physical, emotional, or spiritual healing, and we ask that you lay your healing hands upon them. We pray for kindness and love and compassion to take root and grow wherever it is needed. We pray that peace and justice might spread all over the world, that we may no longer know war, or hunger, or poverty, or bigotry. Help us to set our sights on what is truly important in our lives, to set our sights on family and community, on generosity and mercy, on love and true joy in fellowship with our neighbors and with you.

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 Coplein, Aaron Farnahm, Karen Senne Hayes, Kahryn Kern, Frank Kromkowski, Kelly Murphy, Donna Randolph, Phyllis Weaver, Tommy Williams.

Bereavement: Frank Kromkowski.

The Lord's Prayer

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

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 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

Al Simons

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

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

NCH 563

Charge & Benediction

Rev. Janet Potter

Congregational Blessing

Let There Be Peace on Earth

screen

Postlude

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

~ Corrie ten Boom