

**Plymouth Congregational Church**  
**May 17, 2026 – Seventh Sunday of Easter**

~ We Gather ~

**Prelude**

**Chiming the Trinity**

Pastor Charles

**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.

- Sunday Funday, today after the service: Pot Luck & Table Top Game Day.
- Bible Study: Tuesdays, 9:00 am, Fireside Room.
- Chime Choir: Tuesdays, 1:30 pm, Sanctuary
- 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.

**Invitation to Worship**    *Psalm 68:32-35 - NCH 664*    Kathe Simons

One: Sing to God, O nations of the earth; sing praises to God,

**All: Sing, sing to God, sing praises to God's holy name.**

One: O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens;  
listen, God sends out a voice, a mighty voice.

**All: Sing, sing to God, sing praises to God's holy name.**

One: Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; and  
whose power is in the skies.

**All: Sing, sing to God, sing praises to God's holy name.**

One: Awesome is God in God's sanctuary; the God of Israel gives  
power and strength to God's people. Blessed be God!

**All: Sing, sing to God, sing praises to God's holy name.**

**\*Gathering Hymn**    *Sing Praise to God Who has Shaped*    NCH 22  
*(tune: Praise to the Lord)*

~ **We Prepare** ~

**Unison Prayer**    Pastor Charles

Creator God, Risen Christ, Holy Spirit, we see in you the sacred  
dance of your being, the flowing into and out of, with and around, to and  
from. Let us live into your goodness, your abundance, and your love.  
Help us to remember that all things are possible through you, and that  
you are always with us. As you exist in community, so do we, created in  
your image of trust, sharing, and 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**

Kathe Simons

People of God, hear the good news! Jesus is the great leader who shows us the way out of misery and hopelessness. Jesus sees into our souls and sees who we truly are. He sees why we do things, and sees the outcomes of the things that we do. What matters in this life is how we treat other people, how we treat the world around us, and how we treat ourselves. We show our love for God with every helping hand we extend, and with every person who receives love from us, because you are ambassadors of God's love to the world. Amen.

**Congregational Response** *Born of God, Eternal Savior* NCH 542

~ *We Engage* ~

**Prayer of Illumination**

Kathe Simons

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

**Gospel Reading**

John 17:6-11

Kathe Simons

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now, they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am

not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. And, now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy God, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

### **Musical Interlude**

#### **Reading from the Epistles**

Philippians 2:1-13

Pastor Charles

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he existed in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be grasped,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

Therefore God exalted him even more highly  
and gave him the name  
that is above every other name,  
so that at the name given to Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Creator.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**Reflection**

Pastor Charles

**Musical Reflection**

**Prayers of the People**

Pastor Charles

Creator God, Risen Christ, Holy Spirit, let us delve into the mystery that is you. Open our eyes to the wonders of the world and the universe, and acknowledge the infinite that lies before us. Let us never take the miracle of creation or the outrageousness of your providence for granted. Help us to see that infinite nature reflected in ourselves, so that we will always continue to grow, learn, and change for the better. Thank you for

being with us, and for drawing us ever closer together, to be one family, united in Christ. Help us to take care of each other, and to love each other the way that you love us. Let us be your instruments in the world, so that the in-breaking of your kingdom will come into its fullness, and everything around us will be a reflection of your light and your love.

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 have given to us out of your goodness and love. We ask you to be with those who are in recovery. We pray for all who are experiencing war. We pray for those who are experiencing hunger and cold, the unsheltered, everyone who has been displaced from their homes, those suffering from domestic abuse, those who are lonely or scared. We pray for everyone who is experiencing hardship of any kind, and we offer special prayers for all of our loved ones in medical treatment. We ask you to be with all of us who are in mourning for the loss of our loved ones.

*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, Kathryn Kern, Frank Kromkowski, Kelly Murphy, Suzanne Nybo, Donna Randolph, Alex Weaver, Phyllis Weaver.*

*Bereavement: Frank Kromkowski.*

## **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**

*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***Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* screen**Charge & Benediction**

Pastor Charles

Now go and allow yourselves to be open to the mystery, wonder, and majesty of Jesus. We were created to live in harmony with each other and all of creation, as a reflection of who God is. So, be wonderful. Be majestic. And live out the truth of God's love wherever you go.

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, on this journey that we call life, so that you will never be alone. Go in peace. Amen.

**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*