

Plymouth Congregational Church
May 24, 2026 – Pentecost

~ 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.

- Worship Committee, Wednesday, May 27, 11:00 am, Founders Room
- Council, Thursday, May 28, 3:30 pm, Fireside Room
- Father's Day, Sunday, June 21. Bring pictures of the Fathers in your lives to share in the Narthex.
- 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 *adapted from Psalm 104*

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

All: And, also with you!

One: O God, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

All: Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great!

One: These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

All: When you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

One: May the glory of God endure forever!

All: I will sing to God as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being!

Gathering Hymn *On Pentecost They Gathered - NCH 272*

~ *We Prepare* ~

Unison Prayer

Pastor Charles

God of Miracles and Impossible Things, we sing your praise and rejoice in your presence. Help us to remember that you are the God of peace, joy, and love. Help us to remember the wonder and the delights that you have created in the world. And, help us to remember the importance of celebration, of togetherness, and of coming together at the table with family and friends. *[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

People of God, hear the Good News! God comes alongside us in our triumphs and our celebrations! God wants us to live full and rich lives, setting goals for ourselves and achieving them, forming and strengthening relationships, celebrating and rejoicing when it's time to celebrate and rejoice! There will always be troubles and obstacles in our lives that we will need to confront, but let us always remember to welcome that which is joyful and sweet. Amen.

Congregational Response

Praise with Joy the World's Creator

NCH 273

~ *We Engage* ~

Prayer of Illumination

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 2:1-13

Our New Testament reading comes from the Book of Acts, chapter 2, verses 1 through 13. This story is about Pentecost, the 50th day after Easter, the Birthday of the Church. It originates from the Jewish festival of Shavout, which is celebrated 50 days after Passover. Listen for God's word.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But, others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

Musical Interlude *There's a Spirit in the Air* NCH 294

2nd New Testament Reading Acts 2:14-21 Pastor Charles

Our second New Testament reading continues from where our first reading left off with Acts 2, verses 14 through 21. Listen for God’s word.

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

‘In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
 and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
 and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
 in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
 and they shall prophesy.
And, I will show portents in the heaven above

and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Reflection

Pastor Charles

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People

Pastor Charles

God of joy and celebration, help us to remember the good times when things are difficult. We are bombarded with so many voices and images of what's going wrong in the world. Help us to see the positive things, in spite of all of the bad that surrounds us. Help us to remember that the bad will never outweigh the good, and that no matter what happens, we can always grow, and learn, and change for the better. Let us be your instruments of peace in the world, so that the in-breaking of your realm will come into its fullness, and everything around us will be a reflection of your light and your love.

We ask you to move in us so that we will strive to be a more sympathetic, generous, and justice-minded people. We thank you for walking with us and for drawing us ever closer together, to be one family, united in love. Help us to take care of each other, and to love each other the way that you love us.

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 this beautiful world that is our home, this sacred and precious gift that you have given to us

out of your infinite goodness and love. We ask you to be with those who are in recovery, those who are experiencing war, those who are experiencing hunger and cold. We ask you to care for those who have been displaced from their homes, those who are lonely or scared. We ask you to comfort our unsheltered neighbors, and all those who are experiencing hardship or difficulty of any kind. We ask for your healing hands to touch those who are undergoing medical treatment, those who are sick or suffering. We ask for your presence with the bereaved, and for those who feel an emptiness in their lives. Be with us, God, in our joys and in our sorrows.

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, Mia Goto-Thompson, Karen Senne Hayes, Kathryn Kern, Frank Kromkowski, Kelly Murphy, Suzanne Nybo, Donna Randolph, Alex Weaver, Phyllis Weaver.

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

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us NCH 267

Charge & Benediction

Pastor Charles

Now go, and remember that God is in every person that you meet. Celebrate and admire all of our differences, knowing that each person was created in God's image. With God's help, we can share the love, joy, and curiosity that will make the realm of God a reality, here on Earth.

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