

**Plymouth Congregational Church  
May 31, 2026 – Trinity Sunday**

**~ 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.

- 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 8*

Brenda Senne

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

**All: And, also with you!**

One: O God, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

**All: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;**

One: What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

**All: Yet you have crowned us with glory and honor, and have given us dominion over the works of your hands,**

One: The beasts of the field, and the birds of the air. The fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

**All: O God, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

**Gathering Hymn** *O How Glorious, Full of Wonder (verses 1-3)*

NCH 558

*~ We Prepare ~*

**Unison Prayer**

Pastor Charles

Creator God, you are the essence of belonging and community. You are the Maker of all things. You are the Christ, who died and rose again to save us. You are the Holy Spirit, who fills the space between us, making us one. We see in you the sacred dance of your being, and we strive to be like you, a community of empathy, compassion, mutuality, 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**

Brenda Senne

People of God, hear the good news! God is indescribable, all-powerful, living in harmony with us and with all of creation. The Trinity is one of the great mysteries of the church, and yet, we were created in that image! The wonder, and power, and fullness of that mystery is reflected in us, as children of God, which means we are capable of accomplishing things beyond imagination. So, live your lives as God's children, embracing your responsibility as God's children, and knowing what you are capable of. Amen.

**Congregational Response** *We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God*

NCH 12

*~ 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

**Hebrew Bible Reading**

Ruth 1:1-5

Brenda Senne

Our Hebrew Bible reading comes from the Book of Ruth, chapter 1, verses 1 through 5. The Book of Ruth is set against a backdrop of

decline and anarchy in the nation of Israel. Famine has forced Ruth's family to migrate from Bethlehem to Moab, where our story takes place. Listen for God's word.

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

**Musical Interlude** *In the Bulb There is a Flower (Verses 1 & 2)*

NCH 433

**2nd Hebrew Bible Reading** Ruth 1:6-22 Pastor Charles

Our second Hebrew Bible reading continues from where our first reading left off with Ruth 1, verses 6 through 22. Listen for God's word.

Then [Naomi] started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that God had considered the people and given them food. So, she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But, Naomi said

to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May God deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. God grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then, she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But, Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of God has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

So, she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law."

But, Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you,  
to turn back from following you!  
Where you go, I will go;  
where you lodge, I will lodge;  
your people shall be my people  
and your God my God.  
Where you die, I will die,  
and there will I be buried.

May God do thus to me,  
and more as well,  
if even death parts me from you!”

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

So, the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women said, “Is this Naomi?”

She said to them,

“Call me no longer Naomi;  
call me Mara,  
for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.  
I went away full,  
but God has brought me back empty;  
why call me Naomi  
when God has dealt harshly with me  
and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”

So, Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

**Reflection**

Pastor Charles

**Musical Reflection**

## **Prayers of the People**

Pastor Charles

God of Connection and Relationship, help us to have even the smallest bit of understanding of the nature of your being. Help us to understand that three in one means community and sharing, mutuality and understanding. Help us to remember or learn how to live in harmony with each other and with all of creation. 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 communal nature and your all-encompassing love.

Jesus the Christ, we ask that you resurrect within all of us the compassion and the mercy that you taught while you walked the earth. Help us to be patient and kind, as you are patient and kind. Help us to be generous and forgiving the way that you taught us to be generous and forgiving. Let us remember that vulnerability is not the weakness that the world has taught us that it is, but our great strength that allows us to build real relationships with each other, that helps us to understand and care for each other, that is the foundation of community.

Holy Spirit, give us strength to be the people that you created us to be. Be the wind in our lungs, and the fire in our hearts, the courage in our souls. Help us to truly see and hear one another through the connection that is you. Let us love each other the way that you love us. We ask you to be with those for whom no one ever prays, and to help us to understand our part and our purpose in the grand cycle of life on this planet that you have created as our home.

We lift up those who are in recovery, who are experiencing war, or hunger, or cold. We lift up those who have been displaced from their homes, those who are lonely or scared. We lift up our unsheltered

neighbors, those who are experiencing hardship or sorrow. We lift up those who are undergoing medical treatment, those who are sick or suffering. Be with us God through all of our trials and tribulations, and in all of our hopes and our dreams.

*Special Prayers: Sophia Brown, 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, 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

*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.*

Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;  
The way of your justice be followed by the people of the world,  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and  
come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trial too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and  
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**

*Holy, Holy, Holy (verses 1, 3 & 4) NCH 277*

## **Charge & Benediction**

Pastor Charles

Now go and allow yourselves to be open to the mystery, wonder, and majesty of the Triune God. 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*