

Plymouth Congregational Church
June 21, 2026 – 4th Sunday after 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, June 24, 11:00 am, Founders Room
- Council: Thursday, June 25, 3:30 pm, Fireside Room.
- Bible Study: Tuesdays, 9:00 am, Fireside Room.
- Chime Choir is on summer break.
- 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.

giving. As you are loving, let us be loving. Help us to be your ambassadors of grace and goodwill to 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

Kathe Simons

People of God, hear the good news! We are never alone when we face the challenges of life. We have been empowered by God to share the Good News of God's grace and God's mercy. The world desperately needs to hear your voice! Know that God is with you, and that you carry God's love and justice to the world. Amen.

Congregational Response *God's Eye Is on the Sparrow (verses 1 & 2)*

NCH 445

~ 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

Reading from the Epistles

Romans 6:1-11 Kathe Simons

Our reading from the Epistles comes from the Book of Romans, chapter 6, verses 1 through 11. Paul's letter to the Romans is an

assurance to his readers that believers have been joined with Christ, and have been freed from the bondage of sin. This salvation is available to everyone, and nothing can take salvation from them. Please read responsively.

Liturgist: What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase?

All: By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

Liturgist: Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

All: For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Liturgist: We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin.

Pastor: For whoever has died is freed from sin.

Liturgist: But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

Pastor: The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God.

Liturgist: So, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Musical Interlude

Gospel Reading Matthew 10:24-39 Rev. Tony Clark

“A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Reflection

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People

Pastor Charles

Healer, Teacher, Provider, we place our trust in you. You have always been with us, even when we didn't know it. You have always been with us, even when we refused to believe it. Soften our hearts, so that we may know your presence in our midst. You are the Great Creator of All Things, and we know that you govern all of creation with a loving and benevolent hand. Help us to be participants of the in-breaking of your realm into our world, so that generosity, justice, and mercy will prevail. Let us spread equality and truth wherever we go. Let us be peacemakers and storytellers, bringing your light and inspiration to everyone that we meet. Let us be fertile ground, where your love and your wisdom can grow and multiply, spilling forth from us into our community and beyond.

Mother and Father of us all, we ask that you be with all of those for whom no one ever prays, and to help us be good stewards of this Earth that is our home, this world that provides us with everything that we need

to survive...the only place that we know of where we can live. Turn our gaze towards the future, and to those who will come after us. Let our loving-kindness extend to everyone that we see, and to everyone that we can't see, whether they are too far away, or hidden in our midst. We pray for those who struggle with addiction. We pray for those who worry about where their next meal is coming from, or where they're going to lay their head at night. We pray for those who are sick or who have no protection from the elements. We pray for those who are caught up in conflict or facing troubles too great for them to bear. For everyone who needs help, move in us to help them. For everyone who is lonely, move in us to be their friend. For everyone who is sad, move in us to comfort them, to be a listening ear and a shoulder to cry on.

Special Prayers: Sophia Brown, Chelsey Curtis, Jude Curtis, 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 Coplín, Aaron Farnahm, Mia Goto-Thompson, Karen Senne Hayes, Lynda Hayes, Kathryn Kern, Frank Kromkowski's daughter Anna, Kelly Murphy, Suzanne Nybo, Donna Randolph, Alex Weaver, Phyllis Weaver.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, 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**

Day By Day (verses 1 & 2)

screen

Lina Berg, born in Sweden in 1832, wrote this hymn to process a tragedy that befell her in 1865 when she was twenty-six years old. She and her father were enjoying a boat trip when their boat suddenly lurched and her father was pitched overboard. He subsequently drowned and Lina returned to shore alone. She began to process her grief by writing poetry, speaking of the daily strength God provides for his struggling children, perhaps in reference to her feelings for her father, who was a Lutheran minister in a small village in Sweden.

***Invitation to Fellowship**

Pastor Charles

~ Do you have a favorite story about your father?

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Tony Clark

***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