

Plymouth Congregational Church
July 26, 2026 – 9th 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.

- Breakfast at the Lake, Hilger Hereford Ranch, Sunday, August 16, 9:00 am. We will not have worship at 400 S. Oakes that day. Please let us know if you can help with set-up or cooking.
- Bible Study: Tuesdays, 9:00 am, Fireside Room.
- Chime Choir is on summer break.
- Sandwich Ministry, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month, 9:30 am, Kitchen
- Liturgist sign-up sheets in the narthex.
- If you would like a nametag, please add your name to the list in the narthex.

Invitation to Worship *adapted from Psalm 119:129-136*

Rosana Skelton

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

All: And, also with you!

One: Your decrees are wonderful; and my soul keeps them.

All: The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

One: I long for your commandments.

All: Turn to us and be gracious to us, as is your custom toward those who love your name.

One: Keep my steps steady according to your promise, and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

All: Redeem us from human oppression,

One: Make your face shine upon your servant,

All: Teach us your ways, O God, for the world weeps when we move away from your light.

Gathering Hymn

Light of the World

Sing! 147

~ We Prepare ~

Unison Prayer

Pastor Charles

God of Peace and Joy and Celebration, we praise your name! In the midst of our troubles, we rejoice in your presence. You are our help in our time of need. You are our friend in our times of feasting and

merrymaking. Thank you for all of the gifts you have given to us, and help us to remember that you are always with us.

[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

Rosana Skelton

People of God, hear the Good News! God is always ready to comfort us when times are tough. But remember, God is also always ready and waiting to rejoice with us when times are good! Our God is a joyful God! God is kind and good, and we are God's children, and God only wants the best for us. So, remember that happiness is good, merrymaking is good, and God wants us to rejoice as often as we can. Amen.

Congregational Response *Come, Thou Fount of every Blessing*

screen

~ We Engage ~

Prayer of Illumination

Rosana Skelton

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

2 Timothy 1:1-7

Our reading from the epistles today comes from Second Timothy, chapter 1, verses 1 through 7. Second Timothy is a commissioning letter, from Paul to Timothy, lending legitimacy to his ministry, and encouraging him in his work. Listen for God's word.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

Musical Interlude

2nd Reading from the Epistles 2 Timothy 1:8-14 Pastor Charles

Our second reading from the epistles continues from where our first reading left off, with Second Timothy, chapter 1, verses 8-14. Listen for God's Word.

Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of

God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Reflection

Pastor Charles

Musical Reflection

Dedication for Mia Thompson Goto

Invitation to the Dedication

Pastor: Members of Christ's family, I present to you Yumi Goto and Scott Thompson, together with their daughters Emma and Mia. Today, they come in gratitude and faith to dedicate Mia to God, giving thanks for the gift of her life and seeking God's blessing upon their family.

Mia was born on May 5, 2026. It is a meaningful date, as she was born just two days after the birthday of her grandmother, Jennifer Thompson. May 5 is also celebrated in Japan as Children's Day, a national holiday dedicated to

celebrating the happiness, health, and individuality of children. Families traditionally display colorful carp streamers as symbols of strength, perseverance, and hope, while offering prayers for their children's health, growth, and bright future.

Within the family of Christ, the birth of a child is an occasion for thanksgiving. Life is God's gift, and we who are entrusted with their care are given both great responsibility and great opportunity.

We remember the time when children were brought to Jesus, that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But, when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

All: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belong the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."

Pastor: As God's people, we give thanks to God for the coming of a child, a sign of God's blessing, a gift of hope.

God creates all things; all life is a gift from God. For this we give thanks. We give special thanks for children who remind us powerfully and personally of the reality of God's creating and creative powers. Children are a sign of God's creation.

Children are also a sign of God's salvation. The trust of a child before all risk leads us in the way of God. The prophet Isaiah writes: "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the calf, and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them." Jesus came into our midst as a child, and we are to come to Jesus with the openness of children. We offer thanks for God's creation in the hope of God's salvation. We give thanks to our Creating God for the gift of this child

Questions of the Parents

Pastor: Do you wish to dedicate Mia to the family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to teach Mia to resist oppression and evil, and how to live a life of justice and love?

Parents: We promise, with the help of God.

Congregational Assent

Pastor: At this time, I would ask all members of Plymouth Congregational Church, and anyone else who puts their trust in God and is willing to support Mia in her life's journey, to please stand as you are able in body or spirit.

Do you, who witness and celebrate this dedication, promise your love, support, and care to Mia, as she lives and grows?

All: We promise our love, support, and care.

Pastor: Let us join together in prayer. Christ be with you.

All: And, also with you.

Pastor: Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this child. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in Mia this day, that she may rise in Christ. Glory to you eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

Pastor: *(to the parents)* In accepting Mia as a gift from God, do you also acknowledge the responsibility that God has given to you?

Parents: We do.

Prayer for Dedication

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O Holy One, Mother and Father of all, for your child and for the grace acknowledged here today in the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as children of the one household of your love. Give Mia strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life.

Oh God, you have adopted all of us as your children. We give thanks to you for the child who has come to bless this family, and for the parents who have welcomed this child as their own. By the power of the Holy Spirit, fill their home with love, trust, and understanding; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastor: The Holy Spirit be upon you, Mia, child of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayers of the People

God of Festivals, Celebrations, and Joy, we thank you for all the things you have given to us that we can rejoice in. Thank you for the beauty and the wonder of the world, for puppies and rainbows, friendship and flowers, the beautiful landscape that surrounds us. Your creation is filled with your glory, and with your love. Help us to remember your goodness when things are difficult. Help us to remember your goodness when things are good, to remember that goodness comes from you. Everything that we have, everything that we are thankful for, everything that makes us happy, it all comes from you, for you are a good and generous God. Thank you for always taking care of us, and for filling our lives with color and music and flavor. Help us to savor the bounty around us, and be filled with awe over it. Your creation and creativity have no bounds, and we are the beneficiaries of it.

Mother and Father of us all, we lift up in prayer all those for whom no one ever prays. We lift up in prayer our world, that we can find a way to heal the scars that we have inflicted upon her, and repair the natural cycles that we have broken. Let us remember those who will come after us, the children of today and tomorrow who will inherit the earth. Let us remember that our duty is to them, to make sure that they have a safe and beautiful world to live in. Move in our hearts to be generous and kind, and to really see the people around us. We lift up in prayer those

struggling with addiction. We lift up in prayer the hungry and the unsheltered. We lift up in prayer the sick, and the bereaved, and those in recovery. We lift up in prayer those who are lonely or scared.

Special Prayers: Sophia Brown, Chelsey Curtis, Jude Curtis, Maxine Ferguson, Art Gilreath, Lorraine 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, Brian Coplin, Karen Senne Hayes, Lynda Hayes, Frank Kromkowski's daughter Anna, Betty Louise (Kiki), Kelly Murphy, Maureen Nordahl, Suzanne Nybo, Donna Randolph, Phyllis Weaver.

Bereavement: Friends and family of Roger Foster

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Oh God in heaven, holy is your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
On Earth, as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us,

And do not bring us into the time of trial,
But, deliver us from the evil one,
For the kingdom, and the power, and the glory are yours 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 *Amazing Grace (verses 1-4)* screen

Charge & Benediction Pastor Charles

Congregational Blessing *Let There Be Peace on Earth* screen

To often, we focus on the difficult parts of our lives, the things that are going wrong with society, sickness and death, poverty and greed, bigotry and hatred. And, it makes sense that we come to God with those things. But, God is not a God of destruction and despair. God creates and enlivens. God celebrates and loves. So, remember to come to God in the good times, too. Remember to come to God because of the good things. God is with us all the time, in all the things. And, God is good.

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, including yourself. And, may the Holy Spirit always be with you, as you make your way on this journey that we call life, so that you will never be alone. Go in peace. Amen.

Postlude

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

~ Corrie ten Boom