

**Plymouth Congregational Church**  
**August 2, 2026 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost**

**~ We Gather ~**

**Prelude**

**Chiming the Trinity**

Pastor Charles

**Moment of Reflection**    *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

Mary Drysdale, Tongue Drum

**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.

- Homestays – If you would like to know more about providing a place to stay for some of our guests for our Conference Annual Meeting, September 24-27, please see Lucinda Shelden.
- 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 145:8-21* Kathe Simons

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

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

One: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**All: God is good to all, and upholds all who are falling. God raises up all who are bowed down.**

One: Our eyes look to you, and you give us our food in due season.

**All: God is just in all ways, and kind in all doings.**

One: God is near to all who call,

**All: We will praise God for all of our days, and all will bless God's holy name forever!**

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

**Gathering Hymn** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (mercy)* NCH 23

**~ We Prepare ~**

**Unison Prayer**

Pastor Charles

Loving and Benevolent One, we have broken trust with you. You asked us to be compassionate and kind to one another, to be understanding and forgiving, but we have not always done so. Help us to be the people you want us to be. Help us to live like Jesus lived, full of mercy, grace, and peace. *[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! The Christ Child was born to reestablish trust between humanity and the Creator. Jesus lived, died, and lived again to form an unending covenant bond between us and God that can never be broken. Jesus lives inside of each and every one of you, the source of love, joy, and peace. Amen.

**Congregational Response**

*I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord (mercy)*

*screen*

**~ 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**

Matthew 14:13-21

Our gospel reading today comes from the Book of Matthew, chapter 14, verses 13 through 21. Jesus has just learned about John's execution at the order of Herod Antipas, and wanted to take some time to be by himself. But, he is too well-known at this point, and the crowds have gathered. Listen for God's word.

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But, when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.

When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."

They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish."

And, he said, "Bring them here to me."

Then, he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and

broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And, all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And, those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

### **Musical Interlude**

*Break Thou the Bread of Life (Matt. 13-21- harmony, food)* NCH 321

### **Reading from the Epistles** 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Pastor Charles

Our reading from the Epistles comes from 2 Timothy, chapter 2, verses 8 through 15, in which Paul continues to offer Timothy encouragement and advice for his ministry. Listen for God's Word.

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;  
if we endure, we will also reign with him;  
if we deny him, he will also deny us;  
if we are faithless, he remains faithful—  
he cannot deny himself.

A Worker Approved by God

Remind them of this, and warn them before the Lord that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

## **Reflection**

## **Musical Reflection**

## **Invitation to the Table**

Pastor Charles

No matter who you are, or what you believe, God invites you to this table. Jesus has prepared the meal, and all are welcome.

## **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

One: God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts

**All: We lift them up to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: We give you thanks, O God, for the beauty of creation, for the blessings and miracles of everyday life, and for the gift of life. You set us in this world to be truth-tellers and peacemakers, living in harmony with all of creation. We give thanks that when we turn from the ways of peace, you call us back with love.

**All: We see the light, we know of love, through you.**

One: Jesus shows us the way to a new world community, one in which the last is first, justice prevails, and resources are shared, so that all people may lead lives of dignity and feel valued. The world rebelled against his message, and he was crucified out of fear. But death cannot defeat life. Jesus breathed the Spirit upon his followers and gave birth to the church, Christ's body in the world.

**All: Living Christ ever present; we welcome you in our lives.**

### **The Communion Prayer**

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and grapes from the earth. By your Spirit make us one with all who share this feast. Unite us in love, and energize us to work for a world of peace and justice for all.

Mother-Father God, we thank you for making and holding this space and time for us. We thank you for this bread and this cup, through which your grace is revealed. And, for our continued spiritual journeys as we move on from this place, we ask you to walk with us.

We thank you for the special relationships in our lives, for our family and friends, colleagues and neighbors, who are all so precious to us. And, for everyone around us in need of physical, emotional, and spiritual healing, we ask for your loving care.

We thank you for the love you have shown us all of our lives, for giving us strength, and courage, and joy. And, for all of those in war-torn

or storm-ravaged places in the world, we ask for protection, comfort, and peace.

We thank you, God, for the beauty that surrounds us, the mountains, and the streams, the grand miracle of creation, for all of your blessings, which are too numerous to count. And for the world that you have created for us, damaged poisoned by our hands, we ask for the strength and the courage to mend our ways and right our wrongs.

*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, Brian Coplin, Karen Senne Hayes, Lynda Hayes, Frank Kromkowski's daughter Anna, Kelly Murphy, Suzanne Nybo, Donna Randolph, Phyllis Weaver.*

### **Sung Lord's Prayer**

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.



## **God's People Receive the Gifts of God**

### *Bread*

On the night that Jesus was arrested, he was celebrating the Passover with his friends, to remember the time that God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The Israelites had to leave so quickly that their bread didn't have time to rise, and so the bread became a symbol of freedom. But, this Passover was different, because Jesus said that he was the bread, because he would free them from sin and from death. And, after he blessed it, he broke it saying, "This is my body, broken for you. Whenever you eat of it, remember me."

### *Cup*

In the same manner after supper, he took the cup. And, after he poured into it, he blessed it saying, "This cup is the new covenant, sealed in my blood. I am the vine, and you are the branches, cut off from me, you can do nothing. Whenever you drink of it, remember me."

For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the saving life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ until he comes again.

## **Prayer after Communion**

May we carry in our hearts the peace embodied in this bread and cup. Strengthen our love for one another and for all creation and let us be peace in the world. 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**

*Help Us Accept Each Other (harmony)* screen

**Charge & Benediction**

Pastor Charles

None of us are perfect. We all make mistakes, sometimes in our relationships. And, if you break trust in a relationship, then you need to work to build that trust back. God is constantly working to draw us back to one another. We just have to let it happen. So, love one another, and trust that God is always with you.

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.

**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*