

Plymouth Congregational Church
Sunday, September 27, 2026, 10:00 am - 18th Sunday After Pentecost

Montana/Northern Wyoming Conference - United Church of Christ
Conference Annual Meeting
Closing Worship

Prelude

Inviting the Trinity

Moment of Reflection

Mary Drysdale, Tongue Drum

The Church's One Foundation

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tony Clark

Invitation to Worship

Jeanne Wolf

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

All: And, also with you!

One: We come from East and West.

All: We come from North and South.

One: We have travelled through forest and desert,

All: Over mountain and stream.

One: To gather in your name, O God.

All: We have braved the storms of our lives,

One: We have traversed through hardship and peril! And, we
are here.

All: We are here.

Gathering Hymn

We Gather Together

screen/insert

Unison Prayer

Rev. Charles Wei

Great Shepherd, God of Truth and Understanding, help us as we face the storms in our lives. As the world presses down on us to conform in ways that we know are not right, help us to push back, and to be the people you created us to be. Let us be brave and compassionate, wise and vulnerable. Let empathy be our touchstone, as Jesus taught us, for you have shown us the true way to live, and we place our trust in you. *[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

Jeanne Wolf

People of God, hear the good news! God is the great leader who shows us the way out of misery and hopelessness. God's grace protects us from that which seeks to destroy us. We are never alone when we face the challenges of life. God parts the sea, settles the lions, and calms the storm. We can trust that God will be with us in our time of need. God is with us always, now and forever. Amen.

Congregational Response

screen/insert

In Christ There is No East or West

Prayer of Illumination

Jeanne Wolf

Loving God, open our hearts and our minds to hear your voice in the words written in our scriptures, and to find ways to reflect and respond as your children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

First Reading

Jeanne Wolf

Our reading from the epistles comes from the Book of James, chapter 5, verses 17 through 18. Listen for God's word.

Elijah was a human like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth yielded its harvest.

Our Hebrew Bible reading comes from the Book of Ecclesiastes, chapter 10, verse 4.

If the anger of the ruler rises against you, do not leave your post, for calmness will undo great offenses.

Musical Interlude

Plymouth Hand Chime Choir

Kathe Simons, Hand Chime Director

This Is My Father's World - arr. B. Ingram

Second Reading

Reflection

Rev. Jennifer Sowell

Musical Reflection

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Sara Branom

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

They will come from east and west,
and from north and south,
and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke,
when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples,
he took the bread, and blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them.

Then their eyes were opened
and they recognised him.

This is the Lord's table.

Rev. Amy Carter

Our Saviour invites those who trust him
to share the feast which he has prepared.

Hear the words of the institution
of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ:

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread,
and after giving thanks to God,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat.

This is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: Rev. Sara Branom

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it,
do this in remembrance of me.
Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord,
until he comes.
With thanksgiving,
let us offer God our grateful praise.

You formed the universe in your wisdom Rev. Amy Carter
and created all things by your power.
You set us in families on the earth
to live with you in faith.
We praise you for good gifts of bread and wine,
and for the table you spread in the world
as a sign of your love for all people in Christ
and broke bread with outcasts and sinners.
Amen

The Communion Prayer

Rev. Charles Wei

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 we ask you to walk with us as we continue our
spiritual journeys as we move on from this place.

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 we ask for your loving care for everyone around us in need of physical, emotional, and spiritual healing.

We thank you for the love you have shown us all of our lives, for giving us strength, and courage, and joy, and we ask for protection, comfort, and peace for all of those in the war-torn and storm-ravaged places in the world.

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 we ask for the strength and the courage to mend our ways and right the wrongs we have inflicted upon our forests, oceans, and sky.

As the storms of difficulty and conflict swirl around us, we ask you to be the boat that keeps us above the water. We ask for your calm and gentle hand to sooth our aches and pains, the hurt feelings and the discord. We ask for your grand and comforting presence to be like a blanket wrapped around us, keeping us warm and secure.

The 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Revs. Sara Branom & Amy Carter

God's People receive the Gifts of God

Prayer after Communion

Rev. Amy Carter

Gracious God,
you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
You have fed us with the bread of life
and renewed us for your service.
Help us who have shared Christ's body and received his cup,
to be his faithful disciples
so that our daily living
may be part of the life of your kingdom,
and our love be your love
reaching out into the life of the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Decommissioning

Rev. Tony Clark

One: Our Conference family is constantly changing. Congregations come and go. Robust ministries in one era sputter out as the world shifts to new ways of experiencing God.

Two: Today, we say good-bye to two congregations: Colstrip Community Church and Sheridan First Congregational. We also decommission our Committee for Outdoor Ministries.

All: In God's protection, with sadness we say good-bye to Colstrip Community Church and Sheridan First Congregational church.

One: Good-bye means “God be with ye.”

Two: We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him

Left: We give thanks to God our Creator for Colstrip and Sheridan’s years in our Conference.

Right: We release our covenantal relationship to the Holy Spirit who guides our diverging paths.

All: We bless these two congregations with the love of Christ as they enter ministry in a new way.

One: Today we also decommission our beloved Outdoor Ministries Committee. In former times, we ministered to many people of all ages in our beautiful mountains and along burbling streams.

Two: As times change, our love for Creation and our passion for service to Christ do not diminish. As our world changes, the ways we show our love for Creation and how we serve others must change to remain relevant.

All: In joy we remember. In sadness we say good-bye.

One: Good-bye means “God be with ye.”

Left: We ministered through mosquito bites and homesick meltdowns.

Right: We sang spiritual songs in spite of sunburn.

All: We taught God’s grace as we gave out sticky sugary S’mores,.

Two: We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him

Left: We thank God for a Creation that inspired the Committee for Outdoor Ministries.

Right: In the love of Christ, we bless the moments and memories that Outdoor Ministries gave us.

All: We release the Committee, knowing that the Holy Spirit will recycle the energy and passion to faithful uses.

One: God, who works for good with those who love you, guide our siblings in Colstrip and Sheridan in your way and fill them with the Holy Spirit that they may fully serve you and your people. God of Creation, take the energy, passion, and joy for Outdoor Ministries and compost them to feed your next ministry.

Two: God, who works for good with those who love you, as we release these ministries to your care, strengthen us, support us, send your healing salve, and speak peace into our souls. Grant that your Holy Spirit may intercede for us with sighs too deep for human words. Assure us again that ear has not heard, nor eye seen, nor human imagination envisioned what you have prepared for those who love you. In your protection, with sadness we say “good-bye.”

Left: Good-bye means “God be with ye.”

Right: We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him

All: In joy we remember. In sadness we say good-bye. Amen.

Tithes & Offerings

Offertory

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Tony Clark

***Departing Hymn** *How Firm A Foundation - arr. Molly Ijames* insert

Conference Choir and Congregation

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Jennifer Sowell

***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