

Plymouth Congregational Church
Sunday, October 11, 2026, 10:00 am - 20th Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Chiming the Trinity

Moment of Reflection

Welcome and Announcements

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.

- October – Stewardship month
- HICA – Thurs, Oct 15, 3:00 pm
- Bible Study: Tuesdays, 9:00 am, Fireside Room.
- 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

Psalm 23

Carol Carlson

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

All: And, also with you!

One: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

All: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

One: He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

All: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

One: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Gathering Hymn *The Lord Is My Shepherd* screen

Unison Prayer Pastor Charles

All-seeing and All-knowing God, God of Mystery and Wonder, your words echo through the ages. Prepare us for your message and for your mighty works. Fill us with courage, so that we might listen to your wisdom. Open our hearts and our minds, and expand our senses so that we might bear witness to your divine presence, and find new ways to share your love with the world.

[We invite you to rest in this brief moment of silence to listen for God's loving message for you this day.]

Assurance of Grace Carol Carlson

People of God, hear the good news! The whisperings of our God are all around us. Our God is a Living God who is fully invested in our lives and

who cares so much more for us than we could ever know. God is deeply involved in everything that we do. Our Creator is always with us, rejoicing with us when times are good, and mourning with us when times are difficult. It is God who always gives us the strength and the courage to keep working to make the world a better place. Amen.

Congregational Response *Rejoice, You Pure in Heart* NCH 55

Prayer of Illumination Carol Carlson

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.

Reading from the Epistles Philippians 4:4-9 Carol Carlson

Our reading from the epistles comes from Philippians, chapter 4, verses 4 through 9, a portion of another letter that Paul wrote while in prison. In this letter, Paul gives thanks the church in Phillip for sending him money to help him get by while in Thessalonica. Our reading comes from the end of the letter, in which he addresses Euodia and Syntyche, two women who are leaders in the church. Paul urges them to present a united front in order to be a good example for their fellow believers. Listen for God's word.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of

God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Musical Interlude

Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:1-14

Pastor Charles

Our gospel reading comes from the Book of Matthew, chapter 22, verse 1 through 14. This Parable of the Wedding Banquet is one that Jesus tells after his arrival in Jerusalem, shortly before his arrest. Listen for God's word.

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again, he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But, they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.

“Then, he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’

“Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’

“And, he was speechless.

“Then, the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

“For many are called, but few are chosen.”

May God bless us with understanding for these readings of our sacred text.

Reflection

Pastor Charles

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People

Timeless and Ever-lasting God, God of Promise, Covenant, and Hope, we thank you for your constant presence in our lives. As we look forward to tomorrow, we thank you for yesterday and today. You are the rock upon which we stand, the foundation on which everything is built. Help us to follow your example, and be reliable and steadfast for the people around us. Help us to be kind, generous, and understanding, and help us to take care of each other and to love each other the way that you love us.

Mother and Father of us all, we ask that you be with all of those for whom no one ever prays, and move in us to care for and nurture this world that is our home, this beautiful gift that you have given to us out of your goodness and love. For those in recovery, give them strength. For those who are experiencing war, give them courage. For those who are experiencing hunger and cold, the unsheltered, everyone who has been displaced from their homes, let them feel your presence and be comforted. For those suffering from domestic abuse, and those who are lonely or scared, send your angels of mercy to care for them. For everyone who is experiencing hardship of any kind, we ask you to ease their burdens. For all of our loved ones in medical treatment, we ask for healing. For all of us who mourn, grant us peace.

Special Prayers: Carol Carlson, Chelsey & Jude Curtis, Maxine Ferguson, Art Gilreath, Lorraine Hopgood, Doris Powell, Marlyce Taylor, and Giles Walker, Elly Wei. All those who are experiencing the horrors of war and natural disasters.

Medical Treatment: John Breisnes, Jean Goetz, Karen Senne Hayes, Marcia Lauer, Cameron Jo Lindsay, Betty Louise, Maureen Nordahl, Suzanne Nybo, Phyllis Weaver.

Bereavement: Family and friends of Carl Carlson & Lynda Hayes.

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 power, and the kingdom, and the glory forever.
Amen.

Tithes & Offerings

*Donations can be made at our website, which you
can reach with this QR code:*



Offertory

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Charles

Departing Hymn *When We Gather at Your Table* NCH 332

Charge & Benediction

“God is Still Speaking” is one of the most recognizable mottos of the United Church of Christ. Perhaps it’s time to adopt another one: “Are We Listening”? God is always asking something of us, and many times, the things that God asks us to do are not easy. But, God does not speak, and then abandon us. God comes alongside us, giving us the strength and courage that we need to do the work. So, be brave, tell your story, and do the work.

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, 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