

Plymouth Congregational Church
Sunday, October 4, 2026, 10:00 am - 19th 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 is Stewardship Month!
- Council – Thurs, Oct 8, 3:30 pm
- HICA – Thurs, Oct 15, 3:00 pm
- If you are joining us online and would like to participate in communion with us, we invite you to have your elements of bread and juice ready for that part of the service.
- 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.

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

All: And, also with you!

One: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

All: You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

One: You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land. The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches;

All: It sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the river.

One: Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

All: The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.

One: Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see;

All: Have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand has planted.

Gathering Hymn

NCH 436

God of Grace and God of Glory (verses 1,2 & 5)

Unison Prayer

Pastor Charles

God of Abundance and Generosity, we thank you for all of the gifts you have given to us, and for the care that you have provided to us all of our lives. Your presence bolsters us and gives us courage. Your love reassures us, and gives us strength. Help us to be giving, as you are giving, and loving, as you are loving, and to be ambassadors of your 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.]

Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Kathe Simons

People of God, hear the good news! God is always close to us, no matter where we go or what we do. God's goodness provides us with sustenance, with water, warmth, and shelter. God created the air that we breathe and the ground that we walk on. God is the Creator of all things, and gives it all to us out the infinite love of God's being. We only have to take a breath to experience God's divinity. So, know that God is with you, and that you are loved. Amen.

Congregational Response

NCH 444

We are Often Tossed and Driven - By and By
(verses 1, 3 & 4, sing refrain only after verse 4)

Prayer of Illumination

Kathe Simons

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.

Hebrew Bible Reading Exodus 14:5-6 & 10-14

Our Hebrew Bible reading comes from the Book of Exodus, chapter 14, verses 5 through 7, and 10 through 14. After the plagues, Pharaoh has finally decided to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind once the Israelites leave. Listen for God's word.

When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the minds of Pharaoh and his officials were changed toward the people, and they said, "What have we done, letting Israel leave our service?"

So, he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him; he took six hundred elite chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them.

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear, the Israelites cried out to God. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone so that we can serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."

But, Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that God will accomplish for you today, for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. God will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

Musical Interlude

Second Hebrew Bible Reading Exodus 14:21-29 Pastor Charles

Our second Hebrew Bible reading continues from where our first reading left off, with Exodus, chapter 14, verse 21-29. Listen for God's word.

Then, Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. God drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch God, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for God is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then, God said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers."

So, Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, God tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But, the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

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 the table is ready.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (responsively)

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 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. We ask you to be with those who are in recovery or medical treatment, those who are experiencing war, those who are experiencing hunger and cold, the unsheltered, everyone who has been displaced from their homes, those suffering from domestic abuse. We ask you to bring comfort to those who are lonely or scared. We pray for everyone who is experiencing hardship of any kind, and we ask you to be with all of us who are in mourning for loss of our loved ones.

Special Prayers: Carol Carlson, Chelsey & 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: John Breisnes, Jean Goetz, Karen Senne Hayes, Lynda Hayes, Marcia Lauer, Cameron Jo Lindsay, Betty Louise, Maureen Nordahl, Suzanne Nybo, Phyllis Weaver.

Bereavement: Family and friends of Carl Carlson.

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.

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 their ancestors from slavery in Egypt. Their ancestors had to leave so quickly that their bread didn't have time to rise, and so the unleavened 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.

Tithes & Offerings

This is the time in the service when we give back to God a portion of what God has so graciously given to us. The ushers will now pass the offering plates.

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

Prayer of Dedication

Departing Hymn

Pastor Charles

NCH 439

A Mighty Fortress is Our God (verses 1-3)

Charge & Benediction

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