Plymouth Congregational Church

Sunday, November 15, 2026, 10:00 am – 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude Shaun Deola, trumpet

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.

- **Land Acknowledgement**
    - *November is Native American Heritage Month. In recognition of that, we will begin our November services with a land acknowledgement.*
    - All throughout Helena, and underneath the ground where we walk, are the ancestors of the Niitsítapi [nee-itsee-TAH-peh] and Séliš [SAY-lish] people. From the 1700's through the present, these Indigenous peoples have resisted and persevered over colonialism and genocide. We say land acknowledgements to remind us of the true history of this country, and we acknowledge that we benefit from these historic injustices. And in doing so, we seek to honor the unique

culture and legacy of Montana's first peoples through our words and our actions.

- Hanging of the Greens – Saturday, Nov 21, after 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.

Invitation to Worship *adapted from Psalm 90:1-11* Rosana Skelton

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

All: And, also with you!

One: God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, before you formed the earth and the world,

All: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

One: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

All: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

One: Teach us to count our days, that we may gain a wise heart.

All: Let us be wise and merciful like you, our God.

***Gathering Hymn** NCH 25

O God, Our Help in Ages Past (verses 1-4, & 6)

Unison Prayer Pastor Charles

God of Mystery and Wonder, Protector and Truth-Bringer, you bless us with the glory and majesty of your presence. We stand in awe of you, and are filled with gratitude. Prepare us for your message and for your mighty works. Your love reassures us, and gives us strength. Your goodness bolsters our faith. As you are giving, let us be giving. As you are loving, let us be loving. Fill us with courage, so that we may listen to your wisdom, and 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.]

Amen.

Assurance of Grace Rosana Skelton

People of God, hear the good news! God has spoken, and God is still speaking. With a still small voice or a mighty rush of wind, the word of God is all around us. God is in everything, and in every moment, and the grand mystery of God is so much bigger than we can possibly imagine. So, trust in God's grace, trust in God's goodness, and know that God is always with you. Amen.

Congregational Response NCH 133

O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 2,3 & 4)

Prayer of Illumination Rosana Skelton

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 Prophets Zephaniah 1:7, & 12-18 Rosana Skelton

Zephaniah's words serve as a warning for the people of Judah, that they adhere to their covenant with God, or be exiled like the nation of Israel. Listen for God's word.

Be silent before God,
for the day of our God is at hand!
God has prepared a sacrifice;
and has consecrated the guests.
At that time, I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"God will not do good,
nor do harm."
Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.
The great day of our God is near,

near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of our God is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against God,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of God's wrath;
in the fire of God's passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
will befall of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Musical Interlude Shaun Deola, trumpet

Second Reading from the Prophets Pastor Charles

Micah 1:3-5, 5:2-5, & 6:6-8

The Book of Micah addresses the future of Israel, a vision of world peace after their exile in Babylon. Listen for God's word.

For God is coming out of that place
and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth.
Then the mountains will melt,
and the valleys will burst open
like wax near the fire,
like waters poured down a slope.
All this is for the transgression of Jacob
and for the sins of the house of Israel.
What is the transgression of Jacob?
Is it not Samaria?
And what is the high place of Judah?
Is it not Jerusalem?

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore, he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;

then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of our God,
in the majesty of the name of his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth,
and he shall be the one of peace.
If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight rulers.

“With what shall I come before God
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will God be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
God has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does God require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

Reflection Pastor Charles

Musical Reflection Plymouth Choir

The Gift of Love -arr. Hal Hopson

Prayers of the People Pastor Charles

Almighty and Powerful God, you surround us with your love and your light. Help us to see it and appreciate it. Let us endeavor to be your good servants, helping those in need, and bringing your message of peace and joy to the world. Help us to be faithful, steadfast, and wise, beacons of hope for all to see. Let us be shoulders to cry on, ears to listen, eyes that see people for who they are, and safe harbors for all who need them. We pray that you give us the words to say, or the wisdom to remain silent, as we encounter those experiencing difficulty or sadness during the holiday season, a time of joy and celebration for so many of us, and yet a time of loneliness or loss for others.

Help us to hope for a better world, instead of despairing over what might be lost. Help us to put our faith and trust in you, rather than believing that we need to figure everything out on our own. We ask for inspiration and for strength. We ask for opportunities and for the courage to grab onto them. Help us to see the path that you have set before us, and to understand that it is the best path for us. You are the Creator and Caretaker of all. Help us to understand and trust in that. Let us live into the trust and the hope that you have gifted us with, so that we can be the best people that we can be.

Fill us with love and compassion for those around us who are struggling, and for those who are sick. Fill us with generosity and courage when we see those without shelter, work, transportation, or food. Fill us

with empathy and understanding for those who are grieving, and for those who are lonely or scared.

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

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

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

The Lord's Prayer Pastor Charles

In recognition of native American Heritage Month, we will be using this version of the Lord's Prayer from Hattie Corbett Enos, of the Nez Perce tribe.

O Great Spirit, Creator of the universe,
You are our Shepherd Chief in the most-high place.
Whose home is everywhere, even beyond the stars and moon.
Whatever you want done, let it, also be done everywhere.
Give us your gift of bread day by day.
Forgive us our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us.
Take us away from wrong doings.
Free us from all evil.
For everything belongs to you.
Let your power and glory shine forever.

Amen.

Tithes & 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**

***Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Charles

Creator God, we humbly offer these gifts to you. We pray that you take them and multiply them, sending them out into the world wherever your love, justice and peace are needed. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

***Departing Hymn** *Spirit Song* *screen*

***Charge & Benediction** Pastor Charles

We've all had various experiences in our live that affect the way we move through the world, the way that we interact with other people, the way that we trust and respect other people. We just have to remember that the world is better when we do trust and respect other people. So, your benediction for today is simply the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Trust God, trust the people around you, and trust yourself.

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 eb 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