Plymouth Congregational Church

Sunday, November 22, 2026, 10:00 am – Christ the King Sunday

Prelude Plymouth Handchime Choir
Kathe Simons, Director

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise - arr. Bill Ingram

Chiming the Trinity Pastor Charles

Moment of Reflection Nicole Evans, oboe

My Faith Looks Up to Thee - arr. James Curnow

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 Gail Tronstad
from Voices: Native American Hymns and Worship Resources

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

All: And, also with you!

One: The circle of love is repeatedly broken because of the sin of exclusion. We create separate circles: the inner circle and the outer circle, the circle of power and the circle of misery, the circle of favor and the circle of denial.

All: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.

One: The circle of love is broken whenever there is hostility, whenever there is misunderstanding, whenever there is insensitivity and a closed heart.

All: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.

One: The circle of love is broken whenever we cannot see eye to eye, whenever we cannot link hand to hand, whenever we cannot live heart to heart and affirm our differences.

All: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.

One: Through God's grace we are forgiven, by the mercy of our Creator, through the love of the Christ, and in the power of the Spirit. Let us rejoice and be glad!

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.

Gathering Hymn *We Gather Together* screen

Unison Prayer Pastor Charles

Creator God, we thank you for all of gifts that you have given to us. When the problems of the world seem like they're too much, we ask for your inspiration, that we might bear your gifts proudly and courageously. Let us be your ambassadors, bringing peace and justice to all people, so that day by day, the world will be filled with more love, joy, and hope.

[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 Gail Tronstad

People of God, hear the good news! It is in times of change that God is most evident in our lives. God is the Great Mother, wrapping us in her arms when we grieve. God is our Steadfast Father, giving us the strength to keep going. Like a great wind or a raging fire, like a soft whisper or a beacon showing the way, God is everywhere and in everything, the Divine Presence who sits with us in our hour of need. Amen.

Congregational Response *Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer* NCH 18

Introduction to Today's Readings Pastor Charles

In this week's Bible study, we talked about how the unfamiliar names in the Bible can sometimes distract us from what is actually happening, especially if the names are difficult to pronounce. So, we are going to try a little experiment today. I've changed the names in the readings to names that we are more familiar with, or just easier, to see if that makes the story easier to follow. I tried to avoid names that appear in other parts of the Bible, just so we don't even more confused, and names that we are familiar with, or are easy to pronounce, I left alone. If you're curious about what the actual names are, the original text follows the readings below.

If you have strong opinions either way about this, we invite you to speak to anyone on the Worship Committee about it, and that includes me. So, I hope this helps you all to understand this sort of complicated story, and that the name changes aren't themselves too much of a distraction.

Prayer of Illumination Gail Tronstad

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 Isaiah 36:1-3 & 13-20

{{{ In the fourteenth year of King [Zed], King [Senna] of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. The king of Assyria sent [his advisor] with a great army from [Fort Hill] to King [Zed] at Jerusalem. He stood by the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the fuller's field. And there came out to him [Rowan] son of [Henry], who was in charge of the palace, and [Shane] the secretary, and Joah son of [Asher], the recorder.

Isaiah 36:13-20

Then [King Senna's advisor] stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of Judah, "Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! Thus says the king: Do not let [Zed] deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you. Do not let [Zed] make you rely on God by saying, 'God will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.' Do not listen to [Zed], for thus says the king of Assyria: Make your peace with me and come out to me; then every one of you will eat from your own vine and your own fig tree and drink water from your own cistern, until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards. Do not let [Zed] mislead you by saying, 'God will deliver us.' Has any of the gods of the nations delivered their land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? Where are the gods of

[Ham] and [Arden]? Where are the gods of [The Two Scribes]? Have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? Who among all the gods of these countries have delivered their countries out of my hand, that God should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?" }}}

In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, King Sennacherib of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. The king of Assyria sent the Rabshakeh with a great army from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. He stood by the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the fuller's field. And there came out to him Eliakim son of Hilkiah, who was in charge of the palace, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph, the recorder.

Isaiah 36:13-20

Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of Judah, "Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! Thus says the king: Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you. Do not let Hezekiah make you rely on the Lord by saying, 'The Lord will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.' Do not listen to Hezekiah, for thus says the king of Assyria: Make your peace with me and come out to me; then every one of you will eat from your own vine and your own fig tree and drink water from your own cistern, until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards. Do not let Hezekiah mislead you by saying, 'The Lord will deliver us.' Has any of the gods of the nations delivered their land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of

Sepharvaim? Have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? Who among all the gods of these countries have delivered their countries out of my hand, that the Lord should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?"

Musical Interlude Plymouth Handchime Choir
Kathe Simons, Director

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms - arr. Bill Ingram

Second Reading from the Prophets Pastor Charles

Isaiah 37:1-7 & 2:1-4

Our second reading from the prophets is also from the Book of Isaiah. These readings come from chapter 37, verses 1 through 7, and then the lectionary takes us back to chapter 2, verses 1 through 4. Listen for God's word.

{{{ When King [Zed] heard it, he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth and went into the house of God. And he sent [Rowan], who was in charge of the palace, and [Shane] the secretary, and the senior priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of [Conrad].

They said to him, "Thus says [Zed]: This day is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to the birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth. It may be that your God heard the words of [King Senna's advisor], whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that your God has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left."

[[When the servants of King [Zed] came to Isaiah, Isaiah said to them, "Say to your master: Thus says our God: Do not be afraid because of the

words that you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have reviled me. I myself will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land; I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land."]]

Isaiah 2:1-4

The word that Isaiah son of [Conrad] saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of God's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of God,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that God may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in her paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of God from Jerusalem.
God shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more. }}}

When King Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth and went into the house of God. And he sent Eliakim, who was in charge of the palace, and Shebna the secretary, and the senior priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz.

They said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah: This day is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to the birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth. It may be that your God heard the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that your God has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left."

[[When the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah, Isaiah said to them, "Say to your master: Thus says our God: Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have reviled me. I myself will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land; I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land."]]

Isaiah 2:1-4

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of God's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of God,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that God may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in her paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
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nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

Reflection

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People Pastor Charles

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, we are so thankful for all of the blessings that you have given to us. We thank you for the love in our lives, for our families and friends, for our loving community. We ask that you be with us and strengthen these relationships so that we may be examples of love for everyone to see. Move in us to take care of our neighbors, and to love each other the way that you love us. Help us to be considerate and kind to one another, and to offer each other as much grace as we can.

Mother and Father of us all, we ask that you be with all of those for whom no one ever prays, and we ask you to 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. We pray for the people of Israel and Palestine, and all who are experiencing war. We pray for those who are experiencing hunger and cold, the unsheltered, everyone who has been displaced from their homes, those suffering from domestic abuse, those who are unjustly incarcerated, those who are lonely or scared. We pray for everyone who is experiencing hardship of any kind, and we offer special prayers for all of our loved ones in medical treatment. We ask you to be with all of us who are in mourning for the loss of our loved ones.

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: 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. From Carol Carlson: Thank you to everyone who has supported her in this time of bereavement.

The Lord's Prayer

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

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 Nicole Evans, oboe

Christians, We have Met to Worship -arr. Brent Adams

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 *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* NCH 422

Charge & Benediction Pastor Charles

People of God, remember that there is nothing that you or anyone can do to separate you from God's light. We are God's children, and God's love is unconditional. In the divisive times that we live in now, we need all of the love we can get! Be ambassadors of that love, and let it motivate you to do wonderful and courageous things! Help those who need help, comfort those who need comforting, and love those who need love.

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