Plymouth Congregational Church

Sunday, November 29, 2026, 10:00 am – First Sunday of Advent

Prelude Lily Olson

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.

- Advent Luncheon: Dec 9, noon, Fellowship Hall.
- 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 80:1-18* Kathe Simons

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

All: And, also with you!

One: Listen, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

All: Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

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

All: O God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

One: You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

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

One: But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

All: Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

Gathering Hymn *Let It Shine* Sing! 196

Unison Prayer Pastor Charles

God of Miracles and Impossible Things, you bless us with the glory and majesty of your presence. Open our eyes to the abundance and the grace that surrounds us. Help us to remember that you are the God of Creation, Wonder, and Joy. Give us the strength and the courage to share your love, justice, and compassion with all of the people of 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 Kathe Simons

People of God, hear the good news! The great workings of God are all around us. We only need to take moment to see and hear, to touch and taste the miracles of God's creation. God is always at work in our lives and in the world to change things for the better. Trust in God's goodness, and know that God is always with us. Amen.

Congregational Response NCH 481

As Pants the Deer for Cooling Streams

Lighting the Candle of Hope Field/Tompkins Family

One: There is a light in the darkness.

All: It is the light of Hope.

One: Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the time of preparation for celebrating the birth of the Christ, the Hope of the World.

All: We light the candle of Hope, *(Candle Lighter: light the Candle of Hope)* **as a reminder of the hope that Christ brings us.**

One: We proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light, there is hope. Because of Christ, we not only have hope, but we know that good is stronger than evil.

All: O God, we thank you for sending Jesus into the world to bring us hope. And, we thank you for continuing to bring us hope today. Help us to welcome Jesus into our hearts, so that we may do good works in your name, and so that we may be a people of hope for the world. Amen.

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.

Reading from the Prophets Habakkuk 1:1-5, 2:1-5; Kathe Simons

Our reading from the prophets comes from the Book of Habakkuk, chapter 1, verses 1 through 5, and chapter 2, verses 1 through 5. Habakkuk is unusual among the prophets in that he openly questions the working of God. The style of the book suggests that Habakkuk was a man of great literary talent, and he is sometimes assumed to be a member of the Tribe of Levi, who served as musicians in Solomon's Temple. Listen for God's word.

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

O God, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?
Or cry to you "Violence!"
and you will not save?
Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?
Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.
So, the law becomes slack,
and justice never prevails.
The wicked surround the righteous;

therefore judgment comes forth perverted.
Look at the nations and see!
Be astonished! Be astounded!
For a work is being done in your days
that you would not believe if you were told.

I will stand at my watchpost
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what God will say to me
and what God will answer concerning my complaint.
Then God answered me and said:
Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.
For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end and does not lie.
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come; it will not delay.
Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faithfulness.
Moreover, wealth is treacherous;
the arrogant do not endure.
They open their throats wide as Sheol;
like Death they never have enough.
They gather all nations for themselves
and collect all peoples as their own.

Musical Interlude Plymouth Choir

Reading from the Prophets Pastor Charles

Habakkuk 3:3b-6 & 15-19a

Our second reading from the prophets is also from the Book of Habakkuk. This reading comes from chapter 3, verses 3b through 6, and 15 through 19a. Listen for God's word.

God's glory covered the heavens,
and the earth was full of praise.
The brightness was like the sun;
rays came forth from God's hand,
where his power lay hidden.
Before her went pestilence,
and plague followed close behind.
He stopped and shook the earth;
she looked and made the nations tremble.
The eternal mountains were shattered;
along his ancient pathways
the everlasting hills sank low.
You trampled the sea with your horses,
churning the mighty waters.
I hear, and I tremble within;
my lips quiver at the sound.
Rottenness enters into my bones,
and my steps tremble beneath me.
I wait quietly for the day of calamity
to come upon the people who attack us.
Though the fig tree does not blossom

and no fruit is on the vines;
though the produce of the olive fails
and the fields yield no food;
though the flock is cut off from the fold
and there is no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in our God;
I will exult in the God of my salvation.
God is my strength;
who makes my feet like the feet of a deer
and makes me tread upon the heights.

Reflection Pastor Charles

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People Pastor Charles

Bringer of Truth, Nurturing Mother, Creator of the Cosmos, we place our trust in you. Though our path is filled with danger and obstacles, we know that you walk beside us. We know that as we walk through fire, you will send your angels to protect us. We know that as we walk through wilderness and desert, barren plain and thorny thicket, you are there to guide us. We ask for your calm and gentle hands to sooth our aches and pains, for your grand and comforting presence to be like a blanket wrapped around us, keeping us warm and sheltered.

Mother and Father of us all, we ask that you be with all of those for whom no one ever prays, and to help us to be good stewards of our home, this world that you have created for us out of your infinite love. Help us to

remember those who will come after us, to remember that this gift is not only for us, but for all generations, until the end of time.

We pray for all those who are hurting or afraid. We pray for those in recovery or medical treatment, for our unsheltered neighbors, for those looking for work. We pray for anyone who is experiencing domestic abuse or conflicts with friends or family. We pray for all people who are trying to survive war or natural disasters, for those trying to survive the loss of a loved one.

Help us be peacemakers and truthtellers, bringing your light to everyone that we meet. Help us to understand and accept your great love for us, and know that you are good and trustworthy, and deserving of our admiration and thanks, so that we may share that good news with everyone. 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.

Special Prayers: Carol Carlson, Chelsey & Jude Curtis, Emzlee and Castiel, 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: Cathy Campbell, 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

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.

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 Lily Olson

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

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming (verses 1 & 2) *NCH 127*

In the Bleak Midwinter (verses 1 & 2) *NCH 128*

Charge & Benediction Pastor Charles

We will suffer many trials and tribulations in our lifetimes, but we will not suffer them alone. God is always with us, shielding us from the flames, lifting us up when we fall, encouraging us to keep going when we want to give up. This time of year can be especially challenging for many people, for many different reasons. So, listen when the Holy Spirit nudges you to help someone in need, for you are God's hands and feet, you are the face of God for everyone you encounter. Be God's love in the world.

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