Plymouth Congregational Church

Sunday, November 8, 2026, 10:00 am – 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Chiming the Trinity Lynn Bolin

Moment of Reflection

Welcome and Announcements Lynn Bolin

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.

- 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 Patsy Tompkins

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

All: And, also with you!

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

All: And, also with you!

One: Friends, we know what God desires of us:

All: **That we do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with God.**

One: We gather this morning to remind each other

All: **To remember that now is always the right time to do these things.**

One: So, with thanks in our hearts, let us worship God.

Gathering Hymn *When Morning Guilds the Skies* NCH 86

Unison Prayer Lynn Bolin

God of Mystery and Wonder, you bless us with the glory and majesty of your presence. Open our eyes to the abundance and grace that surrounds us. Help us to be brave enough to use it to make the world a better place. Help us to have faith in your goodness, and to trust in your wisdom, and let us shine brightly and confidently, so that we might inspire those around us, spreading your love, hope, and peace throughout 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 Patsy Tompkins

People of God, hear the good news! God has blessed you with many gifts. From wisdom, patience, and kindness, to your writing, sewing, carpentry, and cooking, we can use all of our gifts to proclaim the Good News of God's love to the world. When we work together, and work to foster the in-breaking of the Realm of God into our world, so many incredible things are possible. So, share your wonderful gifts, for they are indeed gifts from God. Amen.

Congregational Response *Growing in Faith* Sing! 169

Prayer of Illumination Patsy Tompkins

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.

Gospel Reading John 17:14-22

Our gospel reading comes from the Book of John, chapter 17, verses 14 through 22. In this reading, Jesus is praying shortly before his arrest. Listen for God's word.

"I have given them your word. The world has hated them. That's because they are not part of the world any more than I am. I do not pray that you will take them out of the world. I pray that you will keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to it. Use the truth to make them holy. Your word is truth. You sent me into the world. In the same way, I have sent them into the world. I make myself holy for them so that they too can be made holy by the truth.

"I do not pray only for them. I pray also for everyone who will believe in me because of their message. Father, I pray they will be one, just as you are in me and I am in you. I want them also to be in us. Then the world will believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me. I did this so they would be one, just as we are one."

Musical Interlude

New Testament Reading Acts 16:16-34 Rev. Sara Branom

As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, “These men are servants of the Most-High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” And, this she did for many days.

But, Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, “I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

But, when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, “These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice.”

The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And, when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

But about midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one’s fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.

But, Paul cried with a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.”

And, he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, “Men, what must I do to be saved?”

And, they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

And, they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And, he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then, he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

Reflection

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People Lynn Bolin

Creator God, you call us to love and serve you with body, mind, and spirit, by loving your people and your creation. You have been so generous with the abundance and diversity of the world; help us to appreciate it and learn from it, to welcome it and grow from it. Reconcile us with the helpless and the needy, with those we would ignore or oppress, and with those we have called enemies, and let us see you in every person that we meet. Inspire and encourage us as we seek ways to live in these divisive times and hold space for those whose ideas are different from our own.

God of our Ancestors, help us to live into the mystery of your love and your grace, and let us be your ambassadors to the world, so that the in-

breaking of your realm will come into its fullness, and everything around us will be a reflection of your light and your love.

Mother and Father of us all, we ask that you be with all of those for whom no one ever prays, and to empower us, so that we might work to heal this world that is our home before it is too late. We thank you for your steadfast presence, and for drawing us ever closer together, to be one family, united in love. Open our eyes, our minds, and our hearts to the pain and injustice in the world, so the we might become a more sympathetic, generous, and justice-minded people. And, move in us to take care of each other, and to love each other the way that you love us.

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

Amen.

Tithes & Offerings Lynn Bolin

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 Lynn Bolin

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 *Help Us Accept each Other (John 17: 20-23)* screen

Charge & Benediction Rev. Sara Branom

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