



Celebration of Worship

January 22, 2023

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January 22, 2023

10:30 am

Third Sunday After the Epiphany

Enter in Prayer, Worship with Gratitude, Go Forth to Serve

Opening Voluntary

Blest Be the Tie that Binds
Christopher Shaw, organ

arr. Charles Callahan

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn

Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good

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*Responsive Sentences

Psalms 36:5-10

One: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

All: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

One: How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

All: They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

One: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

All: O continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your salvation to the upright of heart!

*Response of Praise Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls



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*Invocation and Lord's Prayer

Let us feast on the abundance of your house, O God, for you give drink from the river of your delights. Let us take refuge under your wings, O God, for you gather us as a hen gathers her brood. Let us delight in the stories of our family, O God, for in sharing we know we are your children and are moved to pray...*Our Father, 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.*

Scripture Reading

1 John 4:7-8 NRSV

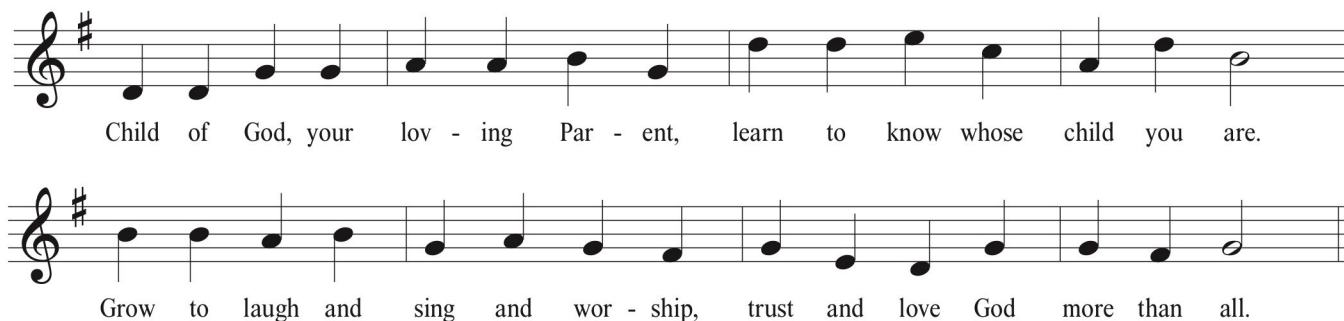
Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Welcoming Song

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

STUTTGART

(Let the children come forward.)



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A Moment with Our Children

Dr. Robu

Solo

How Can I Keep from Singing? Ellen Sudarshan

arr. Brent Yorgason

My life flows on in endless song
above earth's lamentation:
I catch the sweet, though far off hymn
that hails a new creation.

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since God is Lord of heav'n and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul;
how can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since God is Lord of heav'n and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord, my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness round me close:
Songs in the night he giveth.

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since God is Lord of heav'n and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing.
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since God is Lord of heav'n and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Organ Response

Invitation to Offering

Anthem

Psalm 130

James Quitman Mulholland

Bless the Lord, my soul;
Bless His holy name!
All that is in me,
Bless His holy name!
Who forgives our faults,
Crowns us with His love,
For He shows no anger;
Yet abounds in steadfast love.
Bless the Lord my soul.
For He knows our frame;
knows that we are dust.
Man is as the grass;
And must fade away.
But the steadfast love,
of the Lord our God,
shall be everlasting,
for the ones who love the Lord!
Bless the Lord my soul!

Sermon

“Social Fitness: Tending Relationships”

Dr. Olsen

*Hymn of Departure

Blessed Be the Tie that Binds

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*Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
Christopher Shaw, organ

arr. Callahan

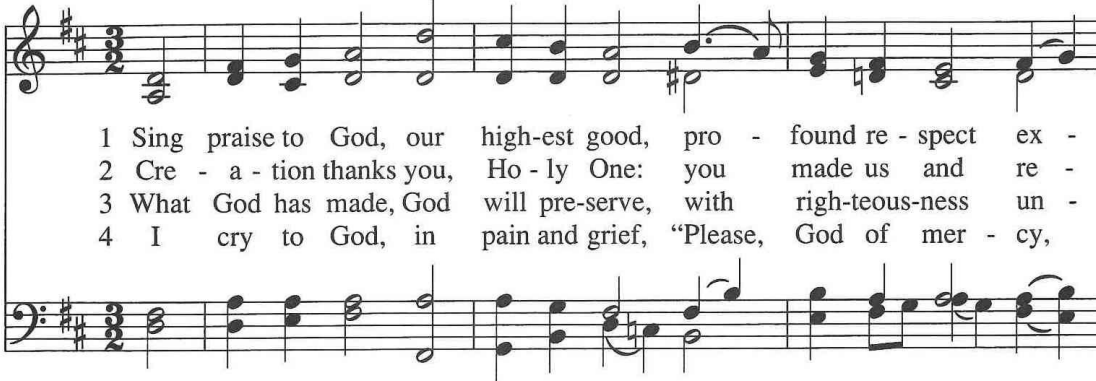
*Let everyone stand in body or in spirit.

North Entry Greeter Katy Brammer

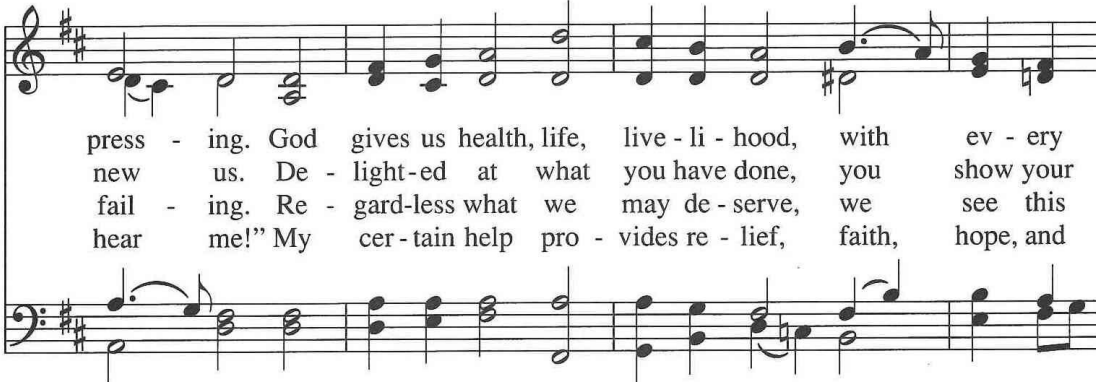
Communion Table Flowers Katy Brammer

Cover Attribution Kendra Craemin, Wichita

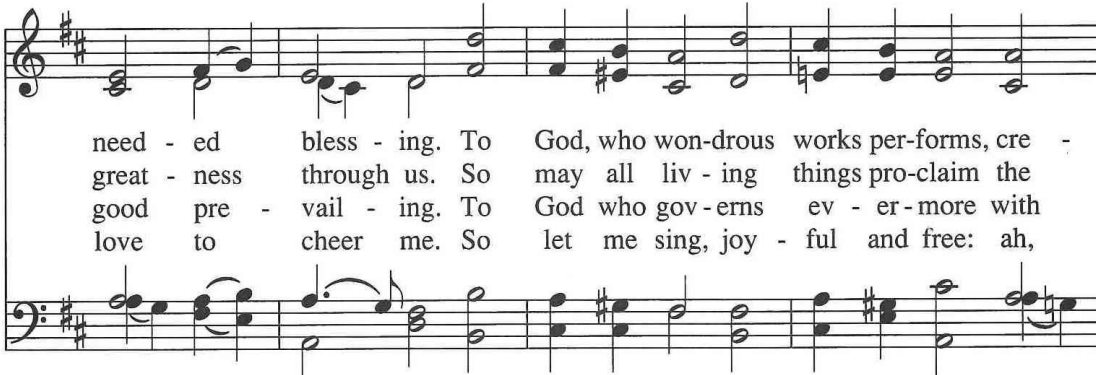
Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good



1 Sing praise to God, our high-est good, pro - found re - spect ex -
2 Cre - a - tion thanks you, Ho - ly One: you made us and re -
3 What God has made, God will pre-serve, with righ-teous-ness un -
4 I cry to God, in pain and grief, "Please, God of mer - cy,



press - ing. God gives us health, life, live - li - hood, with ev - ery
new us. De - light-ed at what you have done, you show your
fail - ing. Re - gard-less what we may de - serve, we see this
hear me!" My cer - tain help pro - vides re - lief, faith, hope, and



need - ed bless - ing. To God, who won-drous works per-forms, cre -
great - ness through us. So may all liv - ing things pro-claim the
good pre - vail - ing. To God who gov - erns ev - er-more with
love to cheer me. So let me sing, joy - ful and free: ah,

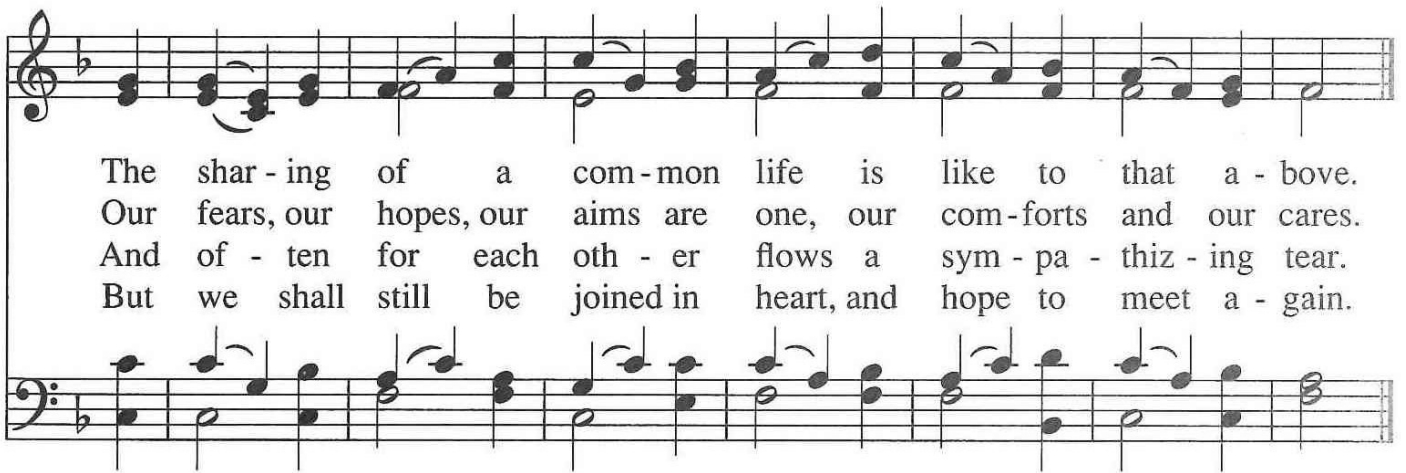


a - ting life and calm-ing storms, to God give praise and glo - ry!
won-ders of their Mak-er's name: to God give praise and glo - ry!
jus - tice serv - ing rich and poor, to God give praise and glo - ry!
thank-ful Chris-tians, sing with me: to God give praise and glo - ry!

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds



1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our God we come and pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,
4 When we are called to part it gives us in - ward pain,



The shar - ing of a com - mon life is like to that a - bove.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
And of - ten for each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

Plymouth Fine Arts Series Presents



***Almost, Maine* a play by John Cariani**

February 10 & 11

Tickets on sale now. \$20 available in the office or through Eventbrite.
www.eventbrite.com/e/the-play-almost-maine-tickets-515025393817

Light appetizers will be served at the top of the show. There will be a dessert auction during intermission of the Saturday performance. Proceeds will benefit the Plymouth Fine Arts Series.

Welcome to Almost, Maine, a place that's so far north, it's almost not in the United States. It's almost in Canada. And it's not quite a town, because residents never got around to getting organized. So, it almost doesn't exist. One cold, clear, winter night, as the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, the residents of Almost, Maine find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend—almost—in this delightful midwinter night's dream.

This production will be made all the more special by the fact that it will involve members of Plymouth Church who are real life couples.

Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School – 9 a.m. in the Turner Room

We are discussing the book *Jesus of the East* by Phuc Luu.

New participants are always welcome.

Dr. Luu will be on the Bethel College Campus March 26 & 27. He will give a public lecture Sunday, March 26 at 7 pm in the Bethel College Chapel.

Adult Ed.

Adult Ed. Wednesdays at 6:30pm *Heaven and Hell: A History of the Afterlife* by Bart Ehrman

A New York Times best-selling historian of early Christianity takes on two of the most gripping questions of human existence: Where did the ideas of heaven and hell come from, and why do they endure?

What happens when we die? A recent Pew Research poll showed that 72 percent of Americans believe in a literal heaven and 58 percent believe in a literal hell. Most people who hold these beliefs are Christian and assume they are the age-old teachings of the Bible. But eternal rewards and punishments are found nowhere in the Old Testament and are not what Jesus or his disciples taught.

One of Ehrman's startling conclusions is that there never was a single Greek, Jewish, or Christian understanding of the afterlife, but numerous competing views. Moreover, these views did not come from nowhere; they were intimately connected with the social, cultural, and historical worlds out of which they emerged. Only later, in the early Christian centuries, did they develop into notions of eternal bliss or damnation widely accepted today.

In this "elegant history" (The New Yorker), Ehrman helps us reflect on where our ideas of the afterlife come from. With his "richly layered-narrative" (The Boston Globe) he assures us that even if there may be something to hope for when we die, there certainly is nothing to fear.

Books are available online or in local bookstores.

Plymouth Hallway Art Gallery

Tallgrass Prairie Press Printmakers.

Founded by Doug Billings at Mark Arts Art Center in Wichita, this is a group of contemporary local artists who have chosen to focus their artistic abilities in producing hand pulled original prints.

They work primarily out of the printmaking studio at Mark Arts, producing a wide range of different printmaking processes such as: stone & poly plate lithographs, copper plate etchings, solar plate etchings & relief prints, collagraphs, wood & linoleum relief prints and monotypes & monoprints.

Their styles range from the abstract to realism, and from impressionism to modern or contemporary styles.

The object of the TPPP is to raise the visibility & interest in printmaking locally and regionally by exhibiting their prints in a wide range of different venues in and around Wichita, as well as in different places within the state of Kansas.

Currently, Doug & Marcia Scurfield are members of the Society of American Graphic Artists, who are exhibiting at this time in the Salmagundi Art Club and the Print Gallery at the MET in NY. Also, Doug Marcia & Connie Cofer are members of the American Color Print Society. Connie just recently took the 3rd Place Award at the ACPS Annual exhibition in Philadelphia; Marcia won the 2nd Place award last year in Connecticut.



Ways to Give

If you would like to make a donation to Plymouth Church's general operating fund or one of their special missions and you don't have a check or cash for the offering plate just scan the QR code to donate using a credit card.



2023 Growth Steering Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete the 2023 Growth Steering Survey (3 questions). This QR Code will take you to the survey. We need input from our membership as we plan events and advertising opportunities for the church. Your responses will remain anonymous.



Plymouth Staff

Rev. Dr. Donald P. Olsen, Senior Minister
Rev. Dr. Karen Robu, Associate Minister
Dr. Henry Waters, Director of Music
Christopher Shaw, Organist
KD Keim, Financial Secretary/Administrative Assistant
Lindsay Miller, Sunday School Teacher
Tim Robu, Maintenance Engineer
Erik Breckenridge, Video Tech
John Palmer, Video Tech Assistant
Bill Berry & Ramikia Stevenson, Custodians

January/ February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Annual Mtg	23 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers 5pm Almost Maine rehearsal 5:30pm Deacons	24 5pm Almost Maine rehearsal 5:30pm Trustee Mtg	25 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 6pm Adult Ed 6:30pm Almost Maine rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	26 2pm Plymouth Projects 5pm Almost Maine rehearsal	27 5pm Almost Maine rehearsal	28
29 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship	30 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers 5pm Almost Maine rehearsal	31 5pm Almost Maine rehearsal	1 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 6pm Adult Ed 6:30pm Almost Maine rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	2 2pm Plymouth Projects 5pm Almost Maine rehearsal	3 5pm Almost Maine rehearsal	4
5 8am Blood Drive 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship	6 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers 5pm Almost Maine rehearsal	7 5pm Almost Maine rehearsal	8 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 6pm Adult Ed 6:30pm Almost Maine rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	9 2pm Plymouth Projects	10 12pm Barbara Craig Queen Reception 7pm Almost Maine	11 7pm Almost Maine

**Please join us for worship next Sunday, January 29th.
Dr. Olsen will be Preaching.**

The Plymouth Covenant

Believing in Jesus Christ, the Interpreter of God to humankind, we accept His teachings as the guiding principles of our lives and consecrate ourselves and our church to their fulfillment. We therefore join in covenant, one with another, to worship, work, and serve together that we may express through our Church and our individual lives the love and faith taught by Jesus Christ.