

Plymouth

Congregational
Church

Sharing Faith's Journey



Celebration of Worship
March 19, 2023

Celebration of Worship

March 19, 2023

10:30 am

Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

Opening Voluntary

Be Thou My Vision
Christopher Shaw, organ

arr. Franklin Ashdown

Welcome and Announcements

Mission Possible

Wichita Family Crisis Center

Lauren Koehler

Introit

Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

(page 7)

*Responsive Sentences

Psalm 23 (Voices United Translation)

One: God is my shepherd

All: there is nothing that I lack.

One: You, God, make me lie down in green pastures;

All: you lead me beside still waters;

One: you revive my spirit.

All: You guide me in right pathways for your name's sake.

One: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me,

All: your rod and your staff are my comfort.

One: You spread a table before me in the sight of my enemies;

All: you anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing.

One: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

All: and I will dwell in God's house my whole life long.

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

Come, let us join with faith-ful souls our song of faith to raise; One fam - i - ly in heart are we, and one the God we praise.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes.

Words: William G. Tarrant, 1892, public domain; Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1828, public domain.

*Invocation and Lord's Prayer

Adapted from Enfleshed.com

Holy Comforter, Divine Guide, even as Love leads us towards the places we fear the most, we hope to trust in you. When the shadow of the cross looms, keep us from retreating into privilege or isolation. Make us brave in our care for each other, as was the one who prayed...*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.*

Welcoming Song *These Treasured Children* PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (Let the children come forward.)

Our an - cient sto - ry we shall tell, till these our chil - dren know it well with - in their souls and minds and hearts, for this is where their jour - ney starts.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. A fermata is placed over the final note of the second staff.

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A Moment with Our Children

Lindsay Miller

Solo

Come to Me
Jennifer King

Dan Forrest

Come to Me, all you who labor
Come to Me, and I will give you rest;
Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened
And you will find rest for your souls. m

Come, my child,
Learn my heart:
For I am gentle and lowly.
See how great
my love for you
that I have called you my child.

Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

From Enfleshed.com

Prayer Response

Invitation to Offering

Anthem

O Love

Elaine Hagenberg

O love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thy ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Joy that seeks me through the pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered,

“Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.

Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

***Hymn of Preparation** *O Heart of God, O Chamber of Holy* (page 8)

Sermon “Clear as Mud” Dr. Robu

***Hymn of Departure** *Open My Eyes, That I May See* (page 9)

***Benediction**

Closing Voluntary *The Glory of These Forty Days* arr. Mark Sedio
Christopher Shaw, organ

*Let everyone stand in body or in spirit.

North Entry Greeter Shelley Closson

Communion Table Flowers Shelley Closson

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Be Thou My Vision

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, be thou my true word;
 3 Be thou my buck - ler, my sword for the fight.
 4 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain emp - ty praise;
 5 *True Light of heav - en, when vic - t'ry is won

(A) (Em) (A) (Bm) (A)
 B F#m B C#m B

naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
 I ev - er with thee, and thou with me, Lord.
 Be thou my dig - ni - ty, thou my de - light,
 thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways.
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!

(G) (D) (Bm) (G) (A)
 A E C#m A B

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Born of thy love, thy child may I be,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r.
 Thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(D) (A) (D) (Bm) (G) (D)
 E B E C#m A E

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing and I one with thee.
 Raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 *Rul - er of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

O Heart of God, O Chamber of Holy



1. O Heart of God, O Cham-ber of the Ho-ly,
2. The world you weave, O God, a marv-'lous won-der:
3. No per-son's eyes but see by your own vis-age;
4. In you our prayers re-sound in all cre-a-tion;
5. Your dwell-ing place, O God, is a-mong mor-tals;



O Deep-est Love, O Fount of lov-ing Grace, Not far in
 The small-est spark com-mun-ing with the whole; One ho-ly
 No per-son's heart beats sep-'rate from your will; Each per-son
 The seen and un-seen ech-o our in-tent; Your heart is
 The earth is yours, and no-where are you not; The stran-ger's



deep-est space nor reach-es lone-ly Shall we seek out your ho-ly
 web of in-ter-wov-en ar-dor, One ho-ly God, its un-en-
 is cre-a-ted in your im-age: Each life, each death en-tan-gled
 moved, O God, and Spi-rit beck-ons Our hearts to change, our ac-tions
 face, the ach-ing earth, are por-tals, And there we see you, Love we

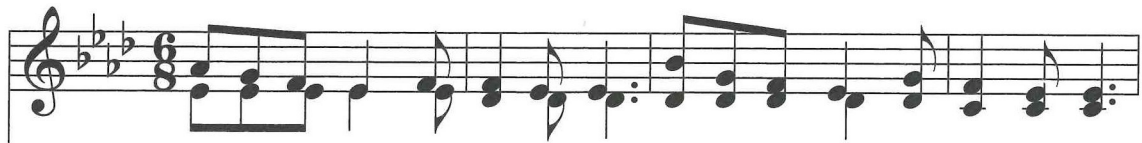


dwell-ing place - Your Word, your world, your Christ have shown us this: Your
 com-passed Soul. Your Word, your world, your Christ have shown us this: Your
 with us all. Your Word, your world, your Christ have shown us this: Your
 to tran-scend. Your Word, your world, your Christ have shown us this: Your
 long have sought. O Heart of God, O Deep-est Love, be praised: Your

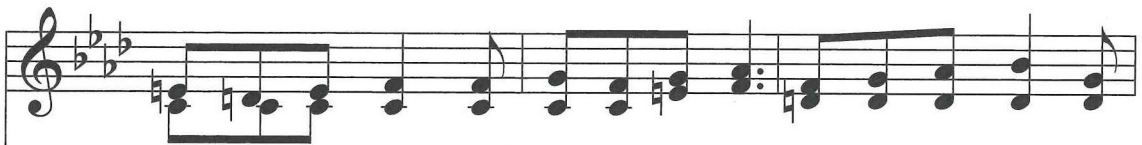


heart - beat sounds in ev-'ry-thing that is. _____
 heart - beat sounds in ev-'ry-thing that is. _____
 heart - beat sounds in ev-'ry-thing that is. _____
 heart - beat sounds in ev-'ry-thing that is. _____

Open My Eyes, That I May See



1 O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.
2 O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send-est clear.
3 O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.



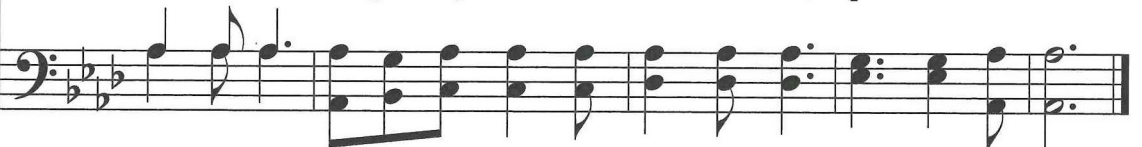
Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un - clasp and
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - ery-thing false will
O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren



set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
dis - ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy



will to see. O-pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!
will to see. O-pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!
will to see. O-pen my heart; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!



Walter Vernon Lenten Series- 2023

March 22	Dr. Andrew Hippisley	Dean of College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, WSU
March 29	Ben Saucedo	Council Member, Park City, Kansas

Easter Lilies

We are selling lilies which will be used to adorn the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 9th. If you would like to contribute to the beautification of our Sanctuary, please purchase a lily for \$17. Remember to note who you are celebrating or memorializing, the names will be listed in the worship bulletin. The deadline for ordering is Wednesday, April 5th. Please call the church office for information, 684-0221 or email us at office@plymouth-church.net

Holy Week & Easter Services

- April 2 | Palm Sunday service @ 10:30 am
- April 6 | Seder Dinner @ 6:00 pm
- April 7 | Service of Darkness @ 7:00 pm
- April 9 | Easter Sunday service @ 10:30 am

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.



Spring Clean Up Day

Saturday, March 25 | 9 am – Noon
(If it's raining on the 25th we will hold this event on April 1)

Choose to help outside with yard work (raking leaves, pulling weeds, fixing fence) or inside organizing the kitchen drawers and cupboards. If planning to work outside bring rakes and work gloves.

Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to everyone who has generously made a pledge toward our 2023 budget. To date we have received \$365,751.00 in pledges. This leaves a budget shortfall of \$23,356.09. If you have not made your 2023 pledge and would like to you can call the church office at 316-684-0221 and speak with KD Keim.

Rob & Stephanie Anderson
Susan & Ken Arnold
Abby Arthur & Tom Safley
Michael Aumack
Carney Baker
John & Ellen Bandy
Bob Blackburn
Kim & Brad Blonigen
James Bowen & Martha Smith
Preston & Katy Brammer
John & Nancy Brammer
Jane Gilchrist & Charley Brown
Larry Carey
Dan & Shelley Closson
Travis & Sophie Counts
David Crane
Clifford & Corinne Depew
Roger & Beverly Douthett
Jon Ehram
Rich Euson
Don & Diane Fast
Alan & Sharon Fearey
Phil & Judy Frick
Joyce Gedraitis
James & Karon Giles
Hugh & Ingrid Gill
Steve & Lisa Gough
Joseph Henderson
Mary Hunt
Steve & Sally Kimball
Anne & Simon Kindel
Curt LaGree
Robert & Madhavi Lee
Steve Lester
Bill Loyd
Lueke Lueken

Walter & Karen Malone
Sheri Mayes
Margaret McKinney
Ann Meisinger
Ray & Roxie Mengelkoch
Garry & Elaine Neel
Jerry Nelson
Bernie & Alberta Nichols
Deanna Oburn
Don & Penny Olsen
Dwight & Pat Oxley
Pat Parks
Cindy Perkins
Tim & Karen Robu
Alan & Nancy Roskam
Sarah Smith
Rich Smola
Jared Sprole
Doug Stark
Jane Sudermann
Steve & Mary Ann Thomas
Tom & Jeanne Thompson
Paul & Anna Uhlig
Doris Uhlig
Brett & Claire Watson
Kurt & Sue Watson
Judith Weatherall
Linda Wilson
Steve & Kitchel Woods
Joe & Holly Yager
Steve & Cathie Yager

We would also like to thank all those who make regular contributions to the church but have chosen not to pledge.

Get Moving at Plymouth!

Jacki Sorensen's Fitness Classes

M/W/F 8:00 am
T/TH 5:15 pm

2 days a week: \$40 a month
Unlimited: \$48 a month

First month free for first timers
All fees are payable the first week of the month
For more information call
Connie Lent 316-308-4378

Spinnin' Boots Line Dance Group

Tuesday 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

A membership fee of \$6 is paid twice a year, with a charge of \$5 per dance session. Join us for lots of fun with a great group of friendly dancers!
See Doris Uhlig for more information.

Prairie Wind Folk Dancers

Monday 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

\$2 per session.
See Joyce Gedraitis for more information.

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

Plymouth Hallway Art Gallery

Janet Jensen

Colors in nature are not always what we think we see. Mother Nature is much more of a colorist and creates a complicated palette of hues and colors, in trees, wildlife, flowers, earth tones, water – everywhere we look.

I see a myriad of colors in an animal's fur, a pelican's beak and feathers, the shaggy coat of a fox, a red panda's brilliant red tail, and a wolf's coat in the sun, stalking.

This journey of painting wildlife was a departure from other paintings I've created. It helped me "see" nature in a more meaningful way, by studying animals rather than just "looking at" them. They are so beautiful but are unaware of that, and it was a gift to show me their "true colors."



Plymouth Display Case Art

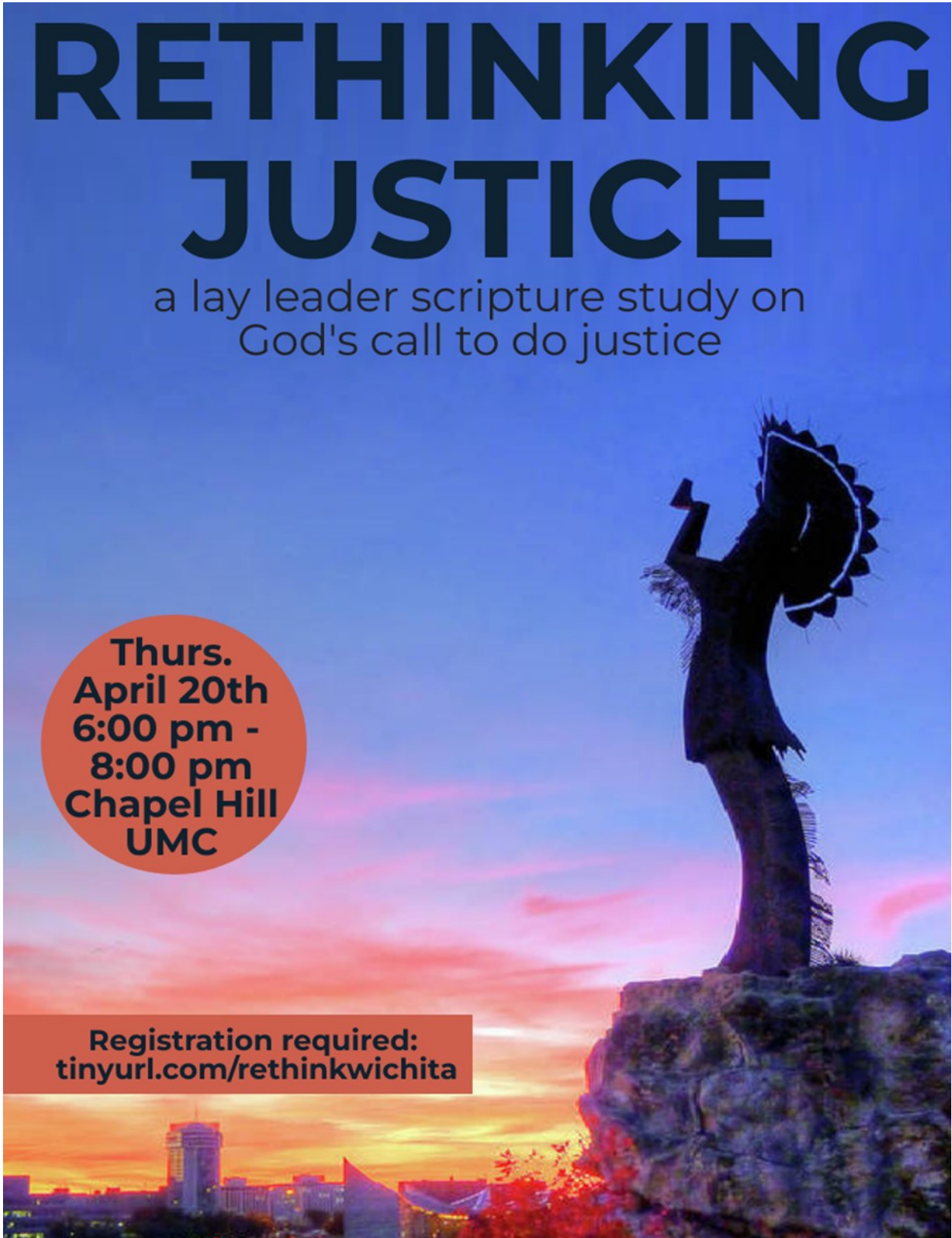
Sheri Mayes, a life-long Wichitan, graduated from Wichita East High and attended W.S.U. Retired from Wichita Public Schools from the Transportation Department as a scheduler and technical analyst. I made my first necklace when I was in junior high but my real interest in creating jewelry didn't start until 1996. I helped a close friend move to Arizona. I spent a week helping her move in to her new place. She made all her own jewelry and we went shopping at several of the bead stores. After showing me how to put together a necklace, I was hooked on the hobby. My favorite medium to use has always been semi-precious stones. Lately I have expanded into using glass, crystal, and acrylic beads. After over 25 years of beading, I have a large collection of beads. There is only so much jewelry one person can use so I decided to put together a collection of necklaces, bracelets, and earrings and donate them to the church. One hundred percent of the sales of my jewelry will go to the church. I hope it all sells because I don't want to bring it back home. When the weather is nice, I enjoy hiking, camping, fishing, kayaking, and spending time with my Australian Cattle dog, Vixey.

RETHINKING JUSTICE

a lay leader scripture study on
God's call to do justice

**Thurs.
April 20th
6:00 pm -
8:00 pm
Chapel Hill
UMC**

**Registration required:
tinyurl.com/rethinkwichita**



Subject: Please join important citywide scripture study on 4/20

Dear Members and Friends of Plymouth Congregational Church,

I am happy to be reaching out to let you know about a growing momentum among Wichita's faith community towards the formation of a new multi-faith justice ministry organization in Wichita, and to invite you to join a citywide scripture study called "Rethinking Justice" on Thursday, April 20th at 6:00pm at Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, 1550 N Chapel Hill, Wichita. Refreshments will be served at 5:30pm, so be encouraged to plan to arrive a bit early!

Recently, I have been a part of a series of convenings organized by the DART Center where local clergy built on a discussion of the creation of a new organization in Wichita/Sedgwick County with the purpose of fulfilling God's call to do justice around locally defined problems. An initial conversation around this effort began in October with 11 congregations participating, in November over 50 congregations came together, and our most recent convening in January grew this discussion to now include more than 100 congregations throughout Sedgwick County!

If you have a heart for mission and community I hope you will join us for the Rethinking Justice event on April 20th as we ground this effort with a study designed to explore what scripture has to say about justice, give modern examples, and lay out the plan for the Wichita area organization.

Rev. Dr. Karen Robu

To register, please use the QR Code



March /April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19 9am Fine Arts Board Mission Possible Sunday 10:30am Worship	20 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	21 5:30pm Investment Club	22 5:30pm Walter Vernon Lenten Series Wednesday Night Dinner 7pm Choir Rehearsal	23 2pm Plymouth Projects 5:30 CE Mtg	24	25
26 10:30am Worship	27 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	28 5:30pm Trustee	29 5:30pm Walter Vernon Lenten Series Wednesday Night Dinner 7pm Choir Rehearsal	30 2pm Plymouth Projects	31	1
2 10:30am Worship	3 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	4 5:30pm Cabinet	5 7pm Choir Rehearsal	6 2pm Plymouth Projects 6pm Seder Dinner 7pm Choir Rehearsal	7 7pm Service of Darkness	8

**Please join us for worship next Sunday, March 26th
Dr. Robu 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.