

Plymouth Congregational Church

Sharing Faith's Journey



Celebration of Worship
May 7, 2023

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May 7, 2023

10:30 am

Fifth Sunday of Easter | Graduation Sunday
Enter in Prayer, Worship with Gratitude, Go Forth to Serve

Opening Voluntary

O Blessed Spring
Christopher Shaw, organ

arr. David Cherwien

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn

All Are Welcome

(page 10)

*Responsive Sentences

Psalm 63:1-7

One: O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

All: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

One: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

All: So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

One: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips when I think of you on my bed and meditate on you in the watches of the night.

All: For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

Response of Praise

Alleluia!

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Response of Praise, Alleluia!. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). Above the staff are the chords: A, E, D E A, D, E. Below the staff are the lyrics: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). Above the staff are the chords: A, E, Bm E A, D, E A. Below the staff are the lyrics: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!.

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***Invocation and Lord's Prayer**

You who knows us fully and loves us unconditionally, let us gather in your presence this hour and look upon your power and glory, that we may know you more fully and love you as did the one who taught us 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 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

Luke 8:26-39 NRSVUE

Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me," for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So, he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swine herds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So, he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So, he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

Welcoming Song (Children stay seated.)

These Treasured Children

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR



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.

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Recognition of Graduates

Dr. Robu

Solo

"If with all your hearts" from *Elijah*
Ted Dvorak

Felix Mendelssohn

Recitative:

Ye people rend your hearts, rend your hearts and not your garments.

For your transgressions: even as Elijah has sealed the heavens,

Through the word of God. I therefore say to ye, forsake your idols;

Return to God, for He is slow to anger, and merciful, and kind, and gracious,
and repenteth Him of the evil.

Aria:

'If with all your hearts ye truly seek Me,

Ye shall ever surely find Me.'

Thus saith our God.

Oh, that I knew where I might find Him,
That I might even come before His presence.

'If with all your hearts ye truly seek Me,

Ye shall ever surely find Me.'

Thus saith our God.

Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Organ Response

Invitation to Offering

Anthem

Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord

Robert A. Hobby

Make a joyful noise to the Lord!
Make a joyful noise, all you lands!
Serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before God's presence with a song!

Know that the Lord is God,
our Creator, to whom we belong;
we are God's people,
and the sheep of God's pasture.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,
and into the courts with Praise!
Give thanks to God,
and bless God's name!

For the Lord is good,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
and whose faithfulness
endures from age to age.

(text by Robert A. Hobby, based on Psalm 100)

Sermon

“How Do We Know?”

Dr. Olsen

***Hymn of Departure**

God is the Poet

(page 11)

***Benediction**

Closing Voluntary

Postlude on “Sicilian Mariners”
Christopher Shaw, organ

arr. Alfred Fedak

***Let everyone stand in body or in spirit.**

***** Ushers will seat late-comers.**

North Entry Greeter Jeanne Thompson

Communion Table Flowers Jeanne Thompson

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

Congratulations to our Graduates

Angelo Castillo will graduate from Maize South High and will go to Pratt Community College. Angelo is the grandson of Steve and Mary Ann Thomas.

George Depew will graduate with his D.O. from Kansas City University medical School and M.B.A from Rockhurst College. George is the son of Clifford and Corinne Depew.

Edie Gill will graduate from The Independent School and go to the University of Oklahoma. Edie is the daughter of Hugh and Ingrid Gill.

Grace Gill will graduate Magna Cum Laude from the Walton School of Business at the University of Arkansas. Grace is the daughter of Hugh and Ingrid Gill.

Riddick Goss will graduate from Sacred Heart High School and go to the US Navy Preparatory School. Riddick is the grandson of Ken and Susan Arnold.

Bayley N. Johnson will graduate with honors in Health Sciences from WSU. Bayley is the granddaughter of Garry and Elaine Neel.

Kinsey Nichols will graduate from Wichita Collegiate and go to Baylor College. Kinsey is the daughter of Kevin and Kelsey Nichols and the granddaughter of Bernie and Alberta Nichols.

Colin Yager will graduate from Wichita East High School and will go to KU. Colin is the son of Joe and Holly Yager and grandson of Steve and Cathie Yager.

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.



Plymouth Hallway Art Gallery

The photographs in the hallway are from the Centennial Celebration of the Sanctuary that was held last October. The photographer, Kendra Cremin, did a fantastic job capturing the beauty of our sanctuary. The photographs are for sale as marked and will be on display through the month of May. If you would like to order a photo you can find an order form in the Sunday bulletins. Please contact Holly Yager at holly.yager@gmail.com if you would like a size that is not on the order form. All orders are due by June 4th. Proceeds will be used to promote Plymouth Congregational Church in the community.

Plymouth Art Display Case

Our display case artist for May/June is Doug Richards of Wichita, owner of *OriginalsbyDoug*. To quote Doug: "I have done some form of art for years. The last couple of years I have gone headfirst into jewelry making. I've done sculpting, painting, leathercrafting, stained glass, beadwork, woodworking and now jewelry. I don't know what it is, but I just have to be creating something all the time."

Doug designs then fires his original jewelry in a small kiln in his workshop. He has owned his shop on the website Etsy.com since January 2022. Doug also exhibits at various shows in the Wichita area.

A comment on his website includes this buyer: "The earrings are beautiful, even prettier than the pictures, and so comfortable because they are so lightweight while still feeling substantial."

Doug's works are perfect for gifting -- Mother's Day, birthdays, graduations, anniversaries! As a reminder 85% of sales go to the artist, and the remaining 15% to the Plymouth Fine Arts fund. Thank you for your support.



Save the Dates!

Vacation Bible School | July 17 – 21 | 5:30 – 8 p.m.

This year Plymouth Congregational Church will join forces with College Hill United Methodist, Grace Presbyterian, and St. James Church for a College Hill Community Vacation Bible School

Location for the event will be College Hill United Methodist Church (The plan is to have a different church host the event each year)

More details to come!



All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
 F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
 Gm C7 Bb F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
 Gm C F Bb



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
 F Bb A7 Dm Gm Dm



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D) (A7)
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F Bb F (C7)



all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

God is the Poet

1 God is the po - et, Word of cre - a - tion,
 2 New fa - shioned crea - tures, called in - to be - ing,
 3 From our cre - a - tion, mu - sic en - chants us,
 4 God, grant us wis - dom, formed in your im - age,

con - jur - ing won - ders and wak - ing the dawn,
 rise up ex - ult - ing in joy and sur - prise.
 mov - ing our spir - its to seek and to learn,
 po - ets, com - pos - ers, in all that we do:

not - ing and nam - ing breath - tak - ing beau - ty:
 Sum - moned from mys - tery, we join their sing - ing,
 till grace - filled jour - neys end in be - gin - ning:
 help us to fa - thom worlds past our know - ing.

God is the sing - er and life is the song.
 o - pening our lips— as we o - pen our eyes.
 dy - ing we rise, and to mys - tery, re - turn.
 May our cre - a - ting be wor - thy of you.

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 10:30am Graduation Sunday 11:30am May Day Brunch	8 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	9 5:30pm Growth Steering	10 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 7pm Choir Rehearsal	11 2pm Plymouth Projects	12	13
14 Mother's Day 10:30am Sunday Worship 	15 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	16 5:30pm Investment Club	17 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 7pm Choir Rehearsal	18 2pm Plymouth Projects	19	20
21 9am Fine Arts Brd Mission Possible 10:30am New Member Sunday Worship 2pm Bunny TNT	22 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers 5:30pm Deacons	23 5:30 pm Trustee Mtg.	24 5:30pm Final Wednesday Night Dinner 7pm Choir Rehearsal	25 2pm Plymouth Projects	26	27

**Please join us for worship next Sunday, May 14th.
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.