



Celebration of Worship

May 21, 2023

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May 21, 2023

10:30 am

Seventh Sunday of Easter | New Member Sunday

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

Opening Voluntary *O Sons and Daughters of the King* arr Wilbur Held
Christopher Shaw, organ

Welcome and Announcements

Mission Possible Church on the Street Robert "Paki" Vifinkle

Introit

Call to Worship

***Opening Hymn** *I Danced in the Morning* (page 12)

***Responsive Sentences** From Enfleshed. com

One: Through the prophets, ancient and new, we come to understand differently the story of us.

All: God frees us from evil's deceit and lifts the veil from our perception.

One: We are not powerless before evil. We are not without hope. We need not be afraid.

All: Though destruction comes our way, we are still healers, community builders, makers of beauty, cultivators of delight.

One: We are abundant in wisdom, and together, our courage abounds. We will not be led astray by untruths that close our hearts off to the life that remains.

All: God is not dead, but alive! We press on together by the power of Love.

*Response of Praise

Alleluia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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*Invocation and Lord's Prayer

Adapted from Enfleshed.com

Holy Stranger, at times we do not recognize you. We have inherited beliefs that narrow our perception. We rely on you, O God, to help us expand our understanding of the Sacred among us. Stretch us, that we might grow in faith. Challenge us, that we might deepen our commitment to love's strange ways. This we ask as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught ...*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.*

Reception of New Members

Affirmation of Purpose

Invitation and Charge

Covenant of the New Member

“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.”

Response of the Congregation

We, the members of Plymouth Congregational Church, welcome you into our communion and fellowship with joy. We pledge to you our help, our prayers and our support, that we may evermore increase in the knowledge and love of God. God grant that loving and being loved, blessing and being blessed, serving and being served, we may be prepared while we dwell together on earth, for the building up of the Kingdom of God.

Reading and Prayer

The Right Hand of Fellowship

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



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A Moment with Our Children

Dr. Olsen

In Christ alone my hope is found;
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save.

'Til on that cross, as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied;
for ev'ry sin on him was laid.
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave he rose again!

And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the pow'r of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.

No pow'r of hell, no human plan,
can ever pluck me from his hand.
'Til he returns or calls me home,
here in the pow'r of Christ I stand.

On Christ the solid Rock I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.
"Til he returns or calls me home,
here in the pow'r of Christ I stand!

Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

From Enfleshed.com

Prayer Response

Invitation to Offering

Anthem

For Everyone Born

arr. Tom Trenney

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

And God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
a system that's fair,

And God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song.
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong

And God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to speak witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free!

And God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:13-49

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Hymn of Preparation	<i>A Day of Arising</i>	(page 14)
Sermon	“The Time I Held the Hands of Christ”	Dr. Robu
*Hymn of Departure	<i>The Risen Christ</i>	(page 15)
*Benediction		
Closing Voluntary	<i>Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds</i> Christopher Shaw, organ	arr. Mark Sedio

*** Let all who are able please stand.**

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

North Entry Greeter Rich Euson

Communion Table Flowers Rich Euson

Cover attribution Breaking Bread, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58588> [retrieved May 15, 2023]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Christa_Prema_Seva_ashram,_Pune_23_\(Friar%27s_Balsam\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Christa_Prema_Seva_ashram,_Pune_23_(Friar%27s_Balsam).jpg).

Welcome New Members

Matthew & Shelley Jones were both born and raised in western Kansas. After living in several cities around the Midwest, they made Wichita their home in 2015. Shelley is a physician and Matthew works in the aviation industry. They have two daughters, Stella and Maggie. Stella will be a junior and Maggie will be a freshman at Andover High School this fall.

Nancy Mundhenke is a Wichita native but has lived for 43 years in Western Kansas. She moved back to Wichita after her husband passed away and when her daughter accepted a job here. Until now, Nancy has been a member of the Kinsley Congregational Church. Nancy especially enjoys the music Plymouth offers.

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

Mission Possible

Church on the Street (COTS) has been in existence for over a decade providing charitable relief to Wichita's less fortunate. Every Sunday there is a gathering in the parking lot south of Market and Central offering a traditional Christian service outdoors to those living on the streets. They provide praise and worship, a biblical message of the Hope found in Jesus, followed by a meal and distribution of resources such as clothes and toiletries. KU Med has representatives present each Sunday to consult with those needing medical attention and Shower Up Wichita is also there.

Plymouth 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 took sculpting from Babs Mellor at Mark Arts (previously Center for the Arts) and enameling, jewelry and metalsmithing at Mark Arts and City Arts. 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.

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.



Health as a Spiritual Practice

Join us at Plymouth at 11:30 a.m. on Thursdays and bring a healthy sack lunch. We will spend 30 minutes walking at our own pace in Fellowship Hall. It's a nice flat surface, with air-conditioning, and benches to sit if you need to rest. Corinne Depew will be there to take blood pressures for anyone who would like. When we're finished walking we will all sit and eat lunch together. Bring a friend!

Earth Day

A few Sundays ago there was a table in Fellowship Hall featuring environmentally friendly items. Many of you inquired about where to purchase the items. Included is a list of the items and websites where they can be found.

Wednesdays in Summer

Join us for dinner, drinks, and dialogue in the homes of Plymouth members at 6 pm on select Wednesdays this summer. Cost of the meals will vary from week to week but will not exceed \$15 per person. BYOB.

Sign-up sheet and weekly discussion topics will be posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

June 7

Host: Tim & Karen Robu | Meal catered by Katie Robu

June 14

Host: Sharon & Alan Fearey | Sloppy Joes, Potato Salad, and Baked Beans

June 21

Host: Ken & Susan Arnold | Fried Chicken Dinner

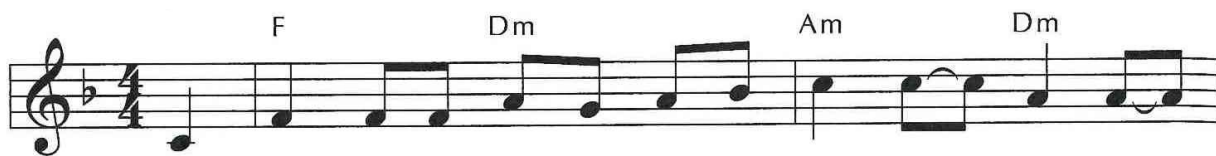
July 12

Host: Corinne & Clifford Depew | Meal TBA

July 19

Host: Bob Blackburn & Linda Morgan | Meal TBA

I Danced in the Morning



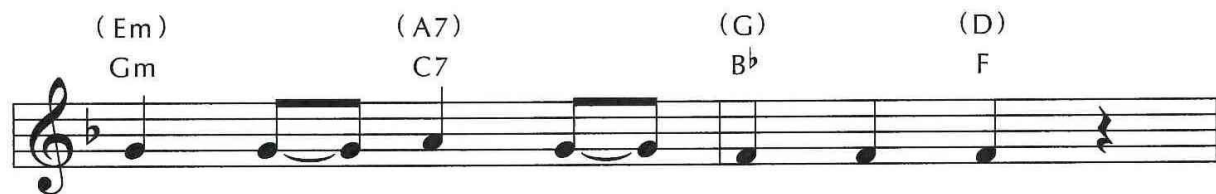
1 I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
 2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but
 3 I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame. The
 4 I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black. It's
 5 They cut me down and I leapt up high. ‡



danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
 they would not dance and they would not foll - ow me. I
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. They
 hard to dance with the dev - il on your back. They
 I am the life that will nev - er, nev - er die. I'll



came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John. They
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and
 bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but
 live in you if you'll live in me, ¶



Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
 came with me and the dance went on.
 left me there on a cross to die.
 I am the dance and I still go on.
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Refrain

(F#m) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (D) (Bm)
Am Dm Am Dm F Dm

Dance, then, wher-ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

(Em) (A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A7) (D)
Gm C F Dm F C7 F

Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be,

(Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
Gm C7 F B^b F

and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

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A Day of Arising

Fsus F C F



1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way, un - known com -
 2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing, blind - ed by
 3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken. This is Christ's
 4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney, bread of com -

(Amaj7) (F#m7) (B7) (Esus) (E)
 Bbmaj7 Gm7 C7 Fsus F



pan - ion walks with his own. When they in - vite him,
 sad - ness, slow - ness of heart, yet Christ walks with us,
 prom - ise, this is Christ's sign: when the church gath - ers,
 pas - sion, o - pen our eyes. Grant us your vi - sion,

(B) (E) (Amaj7) (B7) (E)
 C F Bbmaj7 C7 F



as fades the first day, and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.
 ev - er a - wait - ing our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.
 when bread is bro - ken, there Christ is with us, in bread and wine.
 set all hearts burn - ing that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

The Risen Christ



1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound-ed feet
 2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound-ed side,
 3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound-ed hand
 4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and stand



from gar - den tomb through dark-ened cit - y street,
 breathes out his Spir - it on them to a - bide
 the bread for those who fail to un - der-stand,
 with the op-pressed in this and ev - ery land,



un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear,
 whose faith still wav - ers, who dare not be - lieve,
 re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - g'ring tears,
 till all are blessed and can a bles - sing be,



and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
 new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.
 en - flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.
 re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

May/June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21 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
28 10:30am Sunday Worship	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30 5:30 pm Cabinet Mtg.	31	1 2pm Plymouth Projects	2	3
4 10:30am Worship Sunday	5 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	6	7 6pm Summer Wednesday Night Dinner	8 2pm Plymouth Projects	9	10

**Please join us for worship next Sunday, May 28
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.