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***Celebration of Worship***  
**July 2, 2023**

# Celebration of Worship

July 2, 2023

10:30 am

## Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

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

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**Opening Voluntary**                      *A Patriotic Suite*                      arr. Charles Callahan  
1. *Processional: Eternal Father, Strong to Save*  
2. *Improvisation: O Beautiful, for Spacious Skies*  
Christopher Shaw, organ

## Welcome and Announcements

## Call to Worship

**\*Opening Hymn**                      *Let's Walk Together*                      (page 6)

**\*Responsive Sentences**                      From Enfleshed. com

One: In the midst of all that tosses us to and fro, in the heart of what makes us most afraid,

**All: God gathers us together.**

One: Grounding us in our collective power, nurturing our faith, drawing upon wells of wisdom, ancient and new,

**All: our Spirits are renewed in the presence of God.**

One: We take heart.

**All: We share the load together.**

One: We trust that fear will not overpower us.

**All: Courage is our inheritance; a legacy of the faithful. Thanks be to God.**

## \*Response of Praise

*Summoned by the God*

NETTLETON

Sum-moned by the God who made us rich in our di-ver-si-ty, gath-ered in the name of  
Je-sus, rich-er still in u-ni-ty: Let us bring the gifts that dif-fer and, in  
splen-did, var-ied ways, sing a new church in-to be-ing, one in faith and love and praise.

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## \*Invocation and Lord's Prayer

Adapted from Enfleshed.com

**Holy Comforter, as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught we crave your gentle and knowing presence. We are rattled by collective losses and shaken by acts of cruelty near and far. Let your Word be a steadying force; a source of confidence in our ability to face our fears together ...*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

*Child of Blessing*

STUTTGART

(Let the children come forward)

Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, love's cre-a-tion, love in deed!  
Fresh from God, re-fresh our spir-its, in-to joy and laugh-ter lead.

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## A Moment with Our Children

Lindsay Miller

## Prayer Concerns

## Pastoral Prayer

From Enfleshed.com

## Prayer Response

## Invitation to Offering

## Anthem

*Amazing Grace*  
Plymouth Summer Choir  
(Join us! For more info, see insert)

arr. Jay Rouse

Amazing Grace! how sweet the sound  
that saved a sinful wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
I once was blind, but now, I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and by His grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the very hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
we have by faith already come;  
'tis grace that brought us safe thus far,  
and grace will surely lead us home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
then when we'd first begun!

## Scripture Reading

John 5:1-18

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, ‘Do you want to be made well?’ The sick man answered him, ‘Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Stand up, take your mat and walk.’ At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, ‘It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.’ But he answered them, ‘The man who made me well said to me, “Take up your mat and walk.”’ They asked him, ‘Who is the man who said to you, “Take it up and walk”?’ Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, ‘See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you.’ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the sabbath. But Jesus answered them, ‘My Father is still working, and I also am working.’ For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the sabbath, but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God.

**Hymn of Preparation**                      *Joyful is the Dark*                      (page 8)

**Sermon**                                      “The Dark Woods,  
Part One: Uncertainty”                      Dr. Robu

**\*Hymn of Departure**                      *America the Beautiful*                      (page 10)

**\*Benediction**

**Closing Voluntary**                      *La Rejouissance, from "Fireworks Music"*                      Handel  
Christopher Shaw, organ                      arr. Robert Gower

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

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

**North Entry Greeter** Katy Brammer

**Communion Table Flowers** Nadine Stannard

## Let's Walk Together

1 Let's walk to- geth - er for a while, and ask where  
 2 Let's talk to- geth - er of a time when we will  
 3 Let's dream to- geth - er of the day when earth and

B C#m E A/E

we be - gin to build a world where love can grow,  
 share a feast, where pride and pow - er kneel to serve  
 heav'n are one, a cit - y built of love and light,

B A B E D

and hope can en - ter in, to be the hands of  
 the lone - ly and the least, and joy will set the  
 the new Je - ru - sa - lem, where mourn - ing turns to

C#m F# B sus B

heal - ing, and to plant the seed of peace,  
 ta - ble as we join our hands to pray,  
 danc - ing, ev - 'ry crea - ture lifts its voice,

Refrain

B/D# E A B

sing - ing wel - come, wel - come to this place. You're in -

B E A/C# B

vit - ed to come and know God's grace. All are

Bm9 E7 Amaj7 A B F#/A# F#

wel - come, the love of God to share, 'cause

F#m7 A B C#m C#m7

all of us are wel - come here;

F#m A E (☺) Last time

all are wel - come in this place.

(☺) Last time

## Joyful is the Dark

1 Joy - ful is the dark, ho - ly, hid - den God,  
 2 Joy - ful is the dark Spir - it of the deep,  
 3 Joy - ful is the dark, shad-owed sta - ble floor;  
 4 Joy - ful is the dark cool - ness of the tomb,  
 5 Joy - ful is the dark depth of love di - vine,

roll - ing cloud of night be - yond all nam - ing,  
 wing - ing wild - ly o'er the world's cre - a - tion,  
 an - gels flick - er, God on earth con - fess - ing,  
 wait - ing for the won - der of the morn - ing.  
 roar - ing, loom - ing thun - der - cloud of glo - ry,

maj - es - ty in dark - ness, en - er - gy of  
 silk - en sheen of mid - night plum - age black and  
 as with ex - ul - ta - tion, Mar - y, giv - ing  
 Nev - er was that mid - night touched by dread and  
 ho - ly, haunt - ing beau - ty, liv - ing, lov - ing

maj - es - ty in dark - ness, en - er - gy of love,  
 silk - en sheen of mid - night plum - age black and bright,  
 as with ex - ul - ta - tion, Mar - y, giv - ing birth,  
 Nev - er was that mid - night touched by dread and gloom:  
 ho - ly, haunt - ing beau - ty, liv - ing, lov - ing God.



love, Word in flesh, the mys-ter - y pro - claim - ing.  
 bright, swoop-ing with the beau-ty of a ra - ven.  
 birth, hail the in - fant cry of need and bless - ing.  
 gloom: dark-ness was the cra - dle of the dawn - ing.  
 God. Hal - le - lu - jah! Sing and tell the sto - ry!

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## America the Beautiful

1 O beau-ti-ful for spa-cious skies, for am-ber waves of grain,  
2 O beau-ti-ful for he-roes proved in lib-er-at-ing strife,  
3 O beau-ti-ful for pa-triot dream that sees be-yond the years

for pur-ple moun-tain maj-es-ties a-bove the fruit-ed plain!  
who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer-cy more than life!  
thine al-a-bas-ter cit-ies gleam, un-dimmed by hu-man tears!

A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God shed your grace on thee,  
A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God mend thine ev-ery flaw;  
A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! May God thy gold re-fine

with sisterhood and \*broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea!  
con-firm thy soul in self-con-trol, thy lib-er-ty in law!  
till all suc-cess be no-ble-ness and ev-ery gain di-vine!

Words: Katharine Lee Bates, 1893, public domain, ed. by Rev. Dr. Karen Robu; Music: MATERNA, Samuel A. Ward, 1882, public domain.

## 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 on Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. 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!

## 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.


**July 12 | Host: Corinne & Clifford Depew | Meal: Build your own fajitas  
Conversation Starter | <https://sojo.net/articles/want-combat-climate-change-dont-tear-down-your-church>**

**July 26 | Host: Bob Blackburn & Linda Morgan | Meal TBA**

## 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

# July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> 10:30am Sunday Worship	<b>3</b> 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	<b>4</b> Office Closed  	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 11:30am Walk & Lunch  Plymouth Projects	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 10:30am Sunday Worship	<b>10</b> 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	<b>11</b> 5:30pm Growth Steering	<b>12</b> 6pm Summer Wednesday Night Dinner	<b>13</b> 11:30am Walk & Lunch  2pm Plymouth Projects	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 7am Blood Drive  <b>Mission Possible                      Sunday</b>  9am Fine Arts Brd  10:30am Sunday Worship	<b>17</b> 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers  <div style="background-color: #00ffff; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><b>Youth Trip—Be the Neighbor</b></div>	<b>18</b> 5:30pm Investment Club	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 11:30am Walk & Lunch  2pm Plymouth Projects	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>

**Please join us for worship next Sunday, July 9**  
**Dr. Robu will be Preaching, “The Dark Woods, Part Two:**  
**Emptiness”**

## 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.