

*Plymouth*  
Congregational  
Church  
*Sharing Faith's Journey*



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***Celebration of Worship***  
**August 13, 2023**

# Celebration of Worship

August 13, 2023

10:30 am

## Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

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

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### Opening Voluntary

Prelude on "Nettleton"  
Christopher Shaw, organ

arr. Raymond Haan

### Welcome and Announcements

### Call to Worship

### \*Opening Hymn

*Praise to the Living God*

(page 6)

### \*Responsive Sentences

From Psalm 146

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

**All: Who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free;**

One: The Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

**All: The Lord watches over the strangers; the Lord upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked are brought to ruin.**

### 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

God of unending creativity and love, when you fashioned the world, the morning stars sang together, and the host of heaven shouted for joy. Open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to use all things for good, to honor your creative love and the name of 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 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

Ruth 2:8-12

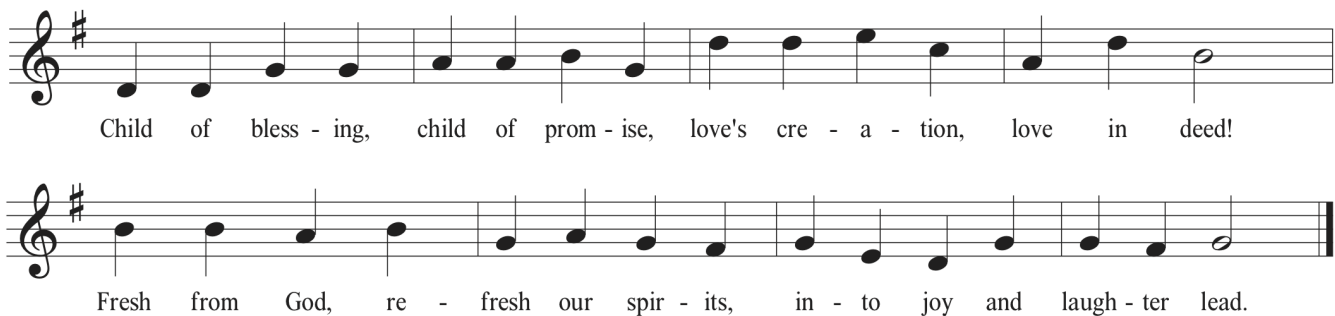
Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped, and follow behind them. I have ordered the young men not to bother you. If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn." Then she fell prostrate, with her face to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your sight, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner?" But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. May the Lord reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!"

## Welcoming Song

*Child of Blessing*

STUTT GART

(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

Dr. Robu

**Solo**

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*  
Christopher Kliewer

Thomas Dorsey

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,  
when my life is almost gone,  
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.  
When the darkness appears and the night draws near,  
and the day is past and gone,  
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

**Prayer Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Organ Response**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Anthem**

*Still I Sing Alleluia*

arr. Kyle Pederson

With Spirit before me, with Spirit behind,  
with Spirit below and beside me;  
with Spirit all around, even where affliction's found,  
I will sing, I will sound, "Alleluia."

When darkness descends and the night never ends,  
when my shadows and demons surround me;  
when questions I spin echo answerless within,  
even then, even then, "Alleluia."

Alleluia, Still I sing Alleluia,  
Open us to You 'til we sing Alleluia.

Weave joy in our gain, bring us hope in our pain;  
hear all prayers that we offer to you, Lord;  
breathe life into death, draw us closer with each breath,  
that our lips may confess, "Alleluia."

So praise, praise the Father, and prase, praise the Son,  
praise the Spirit who moves in and through all.  
All creation sound the word so profound;  
let us sing, let us live, Alleluia!

<b>Sermon</b>	“Eight Chapters of Minority Reports: Loyalty and Friendship”	Dr. Olsen
<b>*Hymn of Departure</b>	<i>For the Fruit of All Creation</i>	(page 7)
<b>*Benediction</b>		
<b>Closing Voluntary</b>	<i>Sing Praise to God</i> Christopher Shaw, organ	arr. Paul Laubengayer

**\*Let everyone stand in body or in spirit.**  
**\*\*\* Ushers will seat late-comers.**

**North Entry Greeter** Shelley Closson

**Communion Table Flowers** Shelley Closson

## Praise to the Living God

1 Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, Whose  
 2 Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, Whose  
 3 Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, Who  
 4 Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, Be -

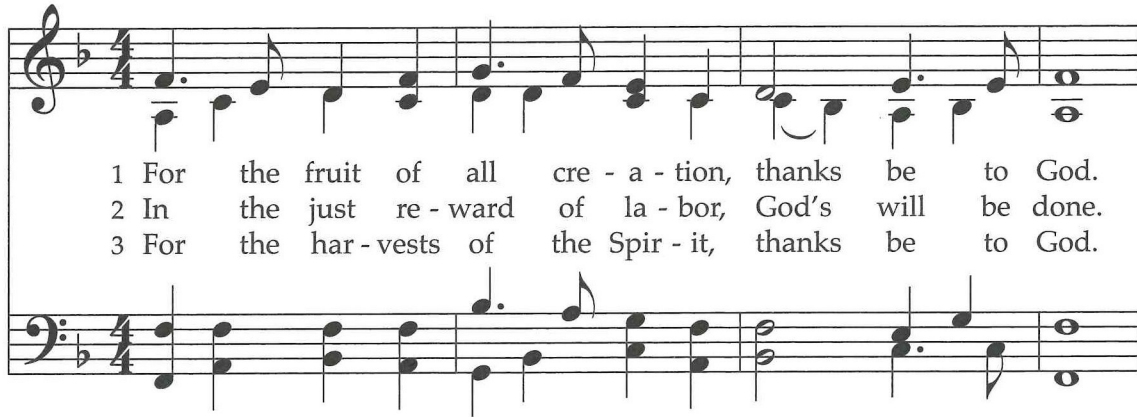
word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;  
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;  
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.  
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.

Whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, Per -  
 Who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, Till  
 God toils wher-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; And  
 In these tu - mul-tuous days, so full of hope and strife, May

vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.  
 hu - man-kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.  
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.  
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.



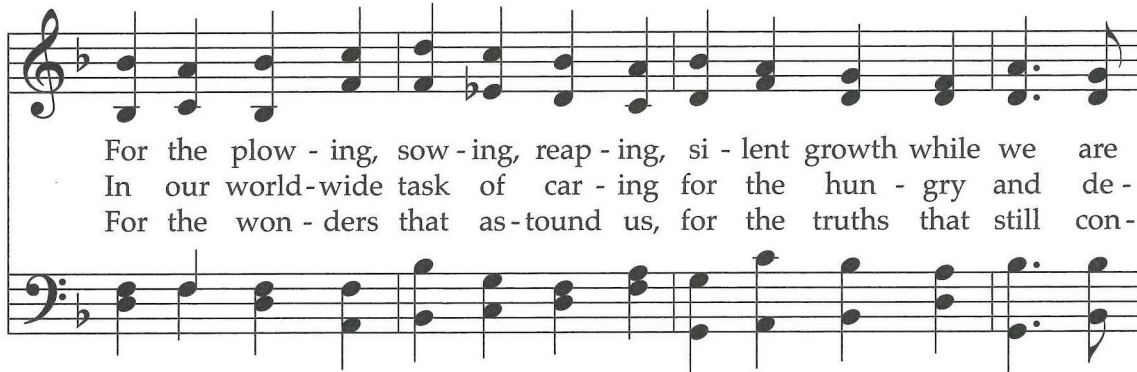
## For the Fruit of All Creation



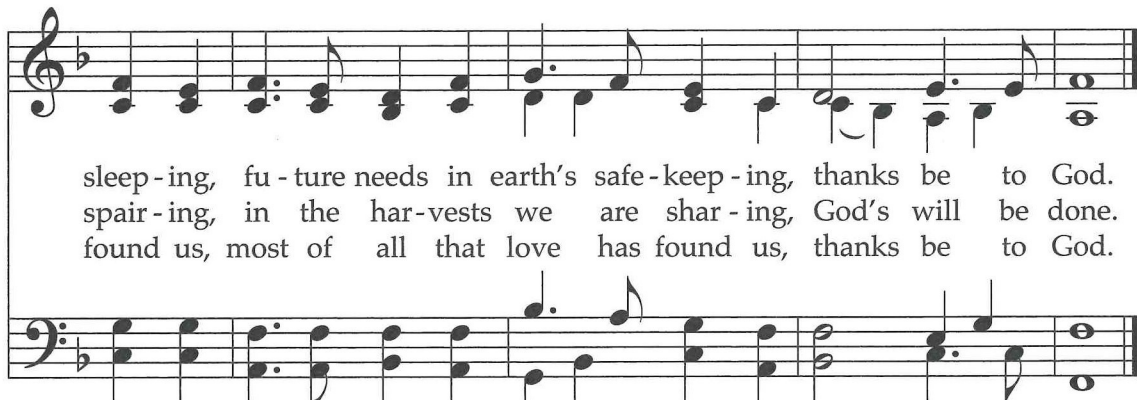
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -



sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.  
found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

## **Plymouth Art Gallery Hallway Art**

Virgil Penner, a resident of North Newton KS, is known for his detailed, architectural ink drawings of homes and buildings. However, since retiring in 2009 as the CEO of the Newton Chamber of Commerce, he has focused on acrylic landscape paintings.

Virgil studied art under Marie Orr for four years at Newton High School. Miss Orr turned out professional students in her teaching career at NHS. After college Virgil taught Physical Education and coached in Wichita high schools (Northwest and Heights, from 1971-1983) and at Bethel College.

Virgil's acrylic paintings are bright, colorful, and whimsical. He constructs his paintings from memory as he does not paint on location or from photographs. By doing this he feels he can develop balance and movement in his paintings. His landscape paintings experiment with color, perspective, and creative composition.

Since October 2009 Virgil has painted over 690 paintings and sold over 580. Two of his most recent exhibitions were at CityArts in Wichita and the Graceful Arts Gallery in Alva OK. A recent quote from the Alva Review-Courier newspaper concludes with some of Mr. Penner's thoughts on his paintings: "For me art is not what you see, it's what makes you feel. Like music, you don't see anything in music, you feel. And art is a feeling experience."

On his website, [virgilapennerart.com](http://virgilapennerart.com), you may view additional paintings and ink drawings for purchase. Virgil's exhibit will run from Aug 2 – Sept 30, 2023, at Plymouth Church.



## **Plymouth Art Gallery Display Case**

The Fine Arts Board is happy to introduce a new exhibitor to our art display case. Dani's Handmade appeals to several of our senses with handmade bath and body products, so with a little stretch of your imagination you will enjoy this 'fine arts' experience. 85% of sales will return to our artist and 15% will support our Plymouth Fine Arts Fund. We thank Dani for sharing some of her sales with us.

Danielle began her handmade company in October 2005. She has a neighborhood store at 105 N Grove (Douglas & Grove) as well as selling her items at Saturday markets. She has been in business for 18 years now and is still going strong. She loves what she does and hopes you will love it too!

A recent customer review reads: "We met Dani at the Sedgwick County Extension Office Farmer's Market and bought a selection of soaps, shampoo and lotions and love them all! Her fragrances are beautiful, and we are obsessed with the quality and texture of her hand soaps! We will be a repeat customer for sure."

In Dani's words: "Dani's Handmade all-natural bath and body products are locally handmade with lots of love and care by me, Dani. I use only high-quality luxury ingredients. Several of my oils are organic, virgin & cold-pressed and are sustainably sourced. Essential oils and blends are used for natural aromas. No GMO's, synthetic or harmful chemicals are used--i.e., no petroleum or mineral oil-based products, no soy oil or products, no parabens, no sulfates, no phthalates, no synthetic fragrances, and of course no animal testing of any kind. No animal fats are used in any of my soaps or other body products, with the exception of a handful of goats milk options. The full-cream goats milk soaps impart a more moisturizing bar that works wonders for dry skin. My ultra-luxe hand and body creams also contain goats milk, as well as shea butter, and many other luxury moisturizing oils and naturally skin-renewing ingredients."

"I love getting customer feedback and am so delighted when people are thrilled with their products and tell their friends and family about their favorite things! Developing new products is a passion of mine, and I am very excited about some new facial care and men's care products I've added this year! It is my pride, joy & privilege to continue to provide a full line of high-quality, skin-pampering products."

## **SUMMER CHOIR SCHEDULE – Y'all come!!**

I would like to invite you to come sing in the choir this summer (June, July, August)! How it works: come to the choir room at 10 AM (directly below the sanctuary near the Commons) to rehearse a simple anthem that we will sing during the service that Sunday! I'll have music and a folder ready for you. You don't have to wear a robe and no processing – just come and sing!

Below are the Sundays where choir will be in worship. There is no commitment. You can come sing for one Sunday or ALL SUNDAYS!! There is always confidence in numbers so bring a friend!!

Sunday, August 27

### **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!

### **School Supply Collection for College Hill Elementary**

Collection baskets will be on the Fellowship Hall stage for any member wanting to purchase supplies for the school. Items needed include crayons, colored pencils, backpacks (neutral colors), children's shoes (any size) and clothing (mainly pants - any size). The school also needs sensory items for classroom calm corners like putty, stress balls, coloring books, Pop-its, fidget spinners and other fidget toys.

Thank you for your ongoing support of College Hill Elementary School.

## Justice Ministry Training

*I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19*

God is doing a new thing in Sedgwick County! A multifaith justice organization is forming now, and we're invited to be a part of this new thing that God is doing. This organization will join together congregations from multiple faith traditions to identify where people are suffering in our community and to research some viable and proven solutions to fix those problems. Then next spring we'll gather together to use the power of a large group of people to ask our elected leaders to implement those solutions. What might God accomplish if 40 congregations worked together to end homelessness? Or expand mental health care? Or reduce gun violence? Or create affordable housing? When our various different voices are gathered into one loud voice, we become too big to be ignored, and change will happen. This model of faith-based organizing has been used by faith communities throughout the U.S., and the results are incredible. If you want to learn more about the DART process (Direct Action and Research Training), you can read more on their website - <https://thedartcenter.org/>

For our congregation to be involved, we need some volunteers who will help lead us through this process and form our justice ministry. There will be training sessions on August 24 at Aldersgate UMC from 6 – 9 pm or right here at Plymouth on August 26 from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. for the team leaders from all the participating congregations. If you are interested in being a team leader, please contact Rev. Dr. Karen Robu. Use the following link to register for training [tinyurl.com/justiceministrytraining](https://tinyurl.com/justiceministrytraining)

## Plymouth Stewardship Project

*A Little Fun, a Little Food, some art, and a Lot of Rocks!*

We need your help and talents. So, please mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 15, 2-4 pm. Come to the Chapel and join us to decorate our special rocks and help complete this fun stewardship project. Enjoy snacks, beverages and friends.

Come for 15 minutes or 2 hours and discover how talented you are with paint pen!

Hope to see you on Tuesday August 15th.

RSVP to Susan Arnold ([susan3835@icloud.com](mailto:susan3835@icloud.com)) & Jane Gilchrist ([janegilchrist324@gmail.com](mailto:janegilchrist324@gmail.com))

# August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>13</b> 9:45am Facility Committee Mtg.  10:30am Sunday Worship	<b>14</b> 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	<b>15</b> 2pm Stewardship Project  5:30pm Investment Club	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 11:30am Walk & Lunch  2pm Plymouth Projects  5:45pm CE Mtg	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9am Fine Arts Brd Mtg.  Mission Possible Sunday  10:30am Sunday Worship  2pm Bunny TNT	<b>21</b> 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	<b>22</b> 5:30pm Trustee	<b>23</b> 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 11:30am Walk & Lunch  2pm Plymouth Projects	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 8:30am Justice Ministry Training
<b>27</b> 10:30am Sunday Worship	<b>28</b> 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers  5:30pm Deacon	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>31</b> 11:30am Walk & Lunch  2pm Plymouth Projects	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

**Please join us for worship next Sunday, August 13th  
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.