

Celebration of Worship
September 10, 2023

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10:30 am

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

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

Opening Voluntary *Theme, Trio, and Pastorale on ENGELBERG*
Christopher Shaw, organ arr. Michael Burkhardt

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

***Opening Hymn** *When, in Our Music, God is Glorified* (page 6)

***Responsive Sentences** Psalm 119:33-38 NRSV

One: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

All: Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

One: Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

All: Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain.

One: Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways.

All: Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.

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—

spl-en-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 unchangeable power, 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, give us eyes to see the good in all people, prepare a path for us to walk as Jesus did and pray as 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.*

Scripture Reading

Ruth 4:13-22 NRSV

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him." Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David. Now these are the descendants of Perez: Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron of Ram, Ram of Amminadab, Amminadab of Nahshon, Nahshon of Salmon, Salmon of Boaz, Boaz of Obed, Obed of Jesse, and Jesse of David.

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

Show Us How to Love
Ted Dvorak

Mark A. Miller

Hearts open, minds awake,
change us now for heaven's sake.
Leave us not alone in hatred's wake.
Show us how to love.

Hearts open, souls awake,
rules we made we now must break.
With our very own lives at stake
we must learn to love.

Eyes open, shocked awake,
much to learn from our mistakes.
Draw us closer in our heartache.
Show us how to love.

Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Organ Response

Invitation to Offering

Anthem

God is the Poet
Josué Coy Dick, violin

Alfred V. Fedak

God is the poet, Word of creation,
conjuring wonders and waking the dawn,
noting and naming breathtaking beauty,
God is the singer and life is the song.

New fashioned creatures, called into being,
rise up exulting in joy and surprise.
Summoned from mystery, we join their singing,
opening our lips as we open our eyes.

From our creation, music enchants us,
moving our spirits to seek and to learn,
till grace-filled journeys end in beginning:
dying, we rise, and to mystery return.

God, grant us wisdom, formed in your image,
poets, composers, in all that we do:
helps us to fathom worlds past our knowing.
May our creating be worthy of you.

Sermon	“Eight Chapters of Minority Reports: Royalty”	Dr. Olsen
*Hymn of Departure	<i>This is My Song</i>	(page 7)
*Benediction		
Closing Voluntary	<i>Finale on ENGELBERG</i> Christopher Shaw, organ	arr. Michael Burkhardt

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

North Entry Greeter Katy Brammer

Communion Table Flowers Katy Brammer

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

When, in Our Music, God Is Glorified

Unison

1. When, in our mu - sic, God is glo - ri - fied,
 2. How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found
 3. So has the Church, in lit - ur - gy and song,
 4. And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night
 5. Let ev - 'ry in - stru - ment be tuned for praise!

And ad - o - ra - tion leaves no room for pride,
 A new di - men - sion in the world of sound,
 In faith and love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong,
 When ut - most e - vil strove a - gainst the Light?
 Let all re - joice who have a voice to raise!

It is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried:
 As wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found
 Borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - 'ry tongue:
 Then let us sing, for whom He won the fight:
 And may God give us faith to sing al - ways:

1.-4. Al - le - lu - ia! 5. Al - le - lu - ia!

ENGLEBERG

This is My Song

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, a song of
2 My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean, and sun-light

peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the
beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have

coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my
sun - light, too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery -

dreams, my ho - ly shrine; But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are
where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the

beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

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, 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 Congregational Church Blood Drive | Sunday, September 24th 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

Plymouth Congregational Church
202 S Clifton – Fellowship Hall

Give in Sept. for free haircut coupon by email and race tix chance from Sport Clips! rcblood.org/win

Make an Appointment to Donate Blood:

To schedule your life-saving appointment call 1-800-REDCROSS (733-2767).
Scan QR code to schedule:



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!

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."

Men's Club Fundraiser

The Plymouth Men's Club is selling Red Wheel products from September 3rd through October 8th. Product distribution will be the late afternoon and evening of October 25th. Please support the club in this venture by purchasing and enjoying good products. Funds will go to the betterment of Plymouth Church.



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!

You can now find us on Instagram!

We are also on Threads

<https://www.threads.net/@plymouthwichita>





Plymouth Fine Arts Series



SONGS OF WISDOM

Saturday, September 23, 2023

7:00 PM

Dr. Tim Seelig, guest conductor

Christopher Shaw, collaborative artist

Plymouth Congregational Choir
College Hill United Methodist Choir
Grace Presbyterian Choir
Bethel College Chamber Singers
Butler CC Chamber Singers
Guest Chamber Orchestra
Tim and Karen Robu, narrators

Plymouth Congregational Church
202 N. Clifton Ave., Wichita
316.684.0221
www.plymouth-church.net



Reception to follow performance.
Tickets can be purchased online (QR Code),
by phone, or at the door. \$20 Adult/\$5 Student.

Adult Ed Begins Wednesday Night September 13 Following Dinner

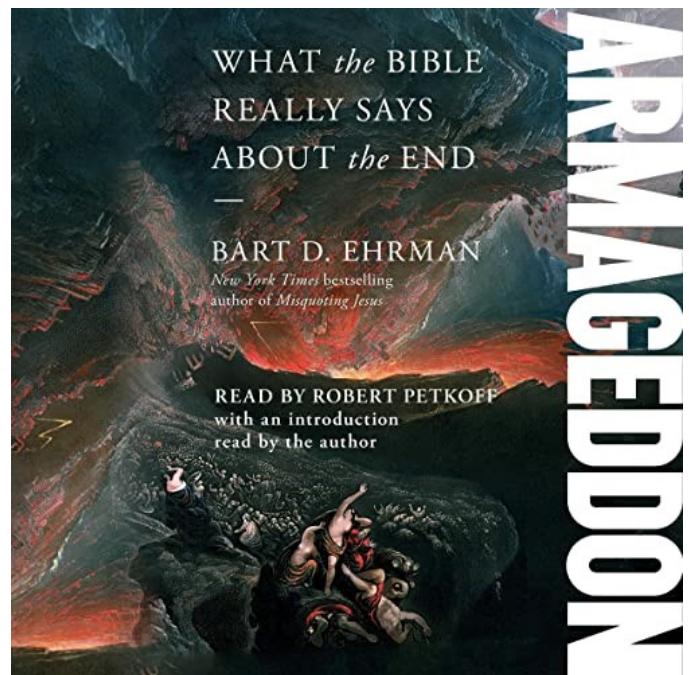
We will study the latest book by Bart Ehrman, our Word & Note Speaker in 2024, “Armageddon, What the Bible Really Says About the End.” Syllabuses are available from Dr. Olsen, who will lead the class. We will discuss the Preface and chapter 1 on the 13th. Books may be purchase online or at local bookstores. Here’s what the critics say:

A “humane, thoughtful, and intelligent” (The New York Times Book Review) bestselling Biblical scholar reveals why our popular understanding of the Apocalypse is all wrong—and why that matters.

You’ll find nearly everything the Bible says about the end in the Book of Revelation: a mystifying prophecy filled with bizarre symbolism, violent imagery, mangled syntax, confounding contradictions, and very firm ideas about the horrors that await us all. But no matter what you think Revelation reveals—whether you read it as a literal description of what will soon come to pass, interpret it as a metaphorical expression of hope for those suffering now, or only recognize its highlights from pop culture—you’re almost certainly wrong.

In Armageddon, acclaimed New Testament authority Bart D. Ehrman delves into the most misunderstood—and possibly most dangerous—book of the Bible, on a “vigilantly persuasive” (The Washington Post) tour through three millennia of Judeo-Christian thinking about how our world will end. With wit and verve, he explores the alarming social and political consequences of expecting an imminent apocalypse, considers whether the message of Revelation may be at odds with the teachings of Jesus, and offers inspiring insight into how to live in the face of an uncertain future.

By turns hilarious, moving, troubling, and provocative, Armageddon is nothing short of revelatory in its account of what the Bible really says about the end.



Trustees Report to the Congregation

- Plymouth Congregational Church Board of Trustees report to the congregation as of August 31, 2023.
- Listed below are the projects that the Board has or will be dealing with this year and some projects scheduled for 2024.
- Architectural/engineering services for the possible expansion of the Preschool Learning Center (PSLC) are in progress with presentation to the PSLC board, Church boards and the Church membership later this fall. \$25,000.
- The north entry door and closure into fellowship hall was repaired. \$2,052.
- A roof top HVAC unit (heating, ventilating, air condition) was replaced. \$10,500.
- The replacement of the broken sewer line serving the lower level women's restroom has been contracted for with work to start soon. \$31,988.
- The waterproofing of the basement walls around the sanctuary west foyer area has been contracted for with work to start soon. \$43,930.
- Waterproofing of the south stair tower of the sanctuary has been contracted for with work to start soon. \$25,780.
- Demolition of the shrubs and dead trees around the courtyard and sanctuary has been completed. \$4,930.
- Installation of larger yard drain inlets and piping to the street in the courtyard and the south side of the sanctuary has been completed with lawn sprinkler repairs and additional sod/grass work pending. \$11,750. Additional piping to the street is pending coordination with the basement waterproofing work. \$7,850. Landscaping will be addressed in 2024.
- The west sanctuary exterior window over the balcony has been repaired and repainted. \$18,640.
- The exterior block wall on the south side of the sanctuary where the old entrance to the commons was will be waterproofed this fall. \$4,250.
- A number of other maintenance repairs or equipment replacements have been or are being made to the building and grounds as conditions require.
- In 2024, the balance of the sanctuary exterior stone will be cleaned, tuck pointed and sealed. That work is under contract. \$194,195.
- In 2024, the educational wing exterior stone and brick will be cleaned, tuck pointed and sealed. That work is under contract. \$148,185.
- Funding for these projects comes from the PSLC, the Plymouth Endowment Foundation, the Trustees capital fund and/or the Church's operating budget.

Date: September 6, 2023
To: Members of the Plymouth Congregation
From: Judy Frick, Moderator

Re: Plymouth Transition Committee. If you are interested in serving, please submit your name to Moderator Judy Frick by September 24th. (jcfrick@cox.net). The committee will be announced in late October.

Recently, a group of Plymouth leaders met to discuss the current church priorities, their timelines, and their coordination in relationship to the church's leadership transition. The group included the moderator, the moderator-elect, the chair of the trustees, the co-chairs of the stewardship campaign, and three past moderators. The group concluded the following in regard to the transition.

TRANSITION MESSAGES

Plymouth will be undergoing a transition over the next two years as Dr. Olsen plans to retire in June 2025. We are most fortunate to have this much lead time and Dr. Olsen's continued involvement. A transition affords us the **opportunity** to do the following:

- Assess where we are as a congregation
- Determine where we are going and how we will get there
- Formulate specific goals & objectives that include current priorities such as our building maintenance plan, the proposed preschool expansion, and membership growth and retention

To implement the transition activities, the Cabinet will appoint a Transition Committee this fall and has approved a process for doing so. The Committee will be composed of the following::

- Two members of the Board of Trustees
- Two members of the Deacons
- Two at-large members
- The moderator
- The moderator-elect

Note: A small nominating committee composed of Cabinet members will determine the representatives from the Deacons and Trustees as well as those who submit their names for the at-large positions.

Activities will include: (Timeline: November 2023 – March 2024)

- Reviewing our 2023 spring survey results
- Conducting a minister attribute survey
- Completing the Church Information Form
- Creating a position description that incorporates the above feedback
- Determining the need for a search

Communication is always important and becomes even more so during this time. The Transition Committee will include updates in the weekly E Blast, the Sunday Bulletin, at Wednesday night dinners, and in church announcements.

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 10:30am Sunday Worship All Church Picnic following Worship	11 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	12 5:30pm Growth Steering	13 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 7pm Choir Rehearsal	14 11:30am Walk & Lunch 2pm Plymouth Projects	15	16 Adult Service Learning Trip
17 9am Fine Arts Brd Mtg Mission Possible Sunday 10:30am Sunday Worship	18 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	19 5:30pm Investment Club	20 9am Present Day Club 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 7pm Choir Rehearsal	21 11:30am Walk & Lunch 2pm Plymouth Projects 5:45pm CE Mtg	22	23 7pm FAS #1
Adult Service Learning Trip						
24 8am Blood Drive 10:30am Sunday Worship	25 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers 5:30pm Deacons	26 5:30pm Trustee	27 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 7pm Choir Rehearsal	28 11:30am Walk & Lunch 2pm Plymouth Projects	29	30

**Please join us for worship next Sunday, September 17th
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.