

**Plymouth United Church of Christ**  
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**Pastor**  
Rev. Doug Van Doren  
**Organist/Accompanist**  
Marilyn Pikaart

**Director of Music**  
William Bokhout  
**Sunday Sessions Director**  
Angela Wheeler

**Third Sunday after Epiphany – January 21, 2018**  
**Open and Affirming Celebration**

**CENTERING THOUGHT**

“Human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of [men and women] willing to be coworkers with God...”  
-Martin Luther King, Jr.

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** *We gather in dialogue with each other, planning and sharing our response to God’s call to discipleship.* (If you wish to make an announcement, please come forward and sit in the front pew to use a microphone.)  
*WE GATHER IN WORSHIP, our dialogue with God, the ground of being.*

**HYMN** *You Are Welcome Here* -Led by gracenotes  
Gerard DeMan, from the UCC “Sing! Prayer and Praise Hymnal

\***OPENING SCRIPTURE** Revelation 22:16, 17

\***HYMN** *Morning Star* -Mary Sue Gast, from “Sing! Prayer and Praise”  
*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You* 4

\***PRAYER OF INVOCATION** and Lord’s Prayer using “debts and debtors.”

\***CONG’L GREETING** Greet one another in the peace of Christ.  
Sung Response *“We Are All One Family”* -Wm. Bokhout

**We are all one family, you and I** (Repeat)  
**Though we come from different places and we all have different faces, we are all one family, you and I** (Repeat all)  
(During the singing, children are invited to come forward)

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

+ + + Children depart for Sunday Sessions

**SERVICE OF PRAYER**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns  
Pastoral followed by Silent Prayer

**CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS OF BEING  
OPEN AND AFFIRMING**

**REMEMBERING OUR PAST**

-Jamie Hemphill for the ONA Committee  
-slide presentation compiled by Melissa Anderson  
Guitar accompaniment, Kevin Dobreff, *Draw the Circle Wide*

**OPEN AND AFFIRMING LITANY (Responsive)**  
(Adapted by DVD from Plymouth’s Open and Affirming Declaration)

We believe we are called to be a church that celebrates and shares a common communion and the assurance that all are created by God, reconciled by Christ, and empowered by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

**We believe that people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions are children of God.**

We believe that the few Biblical passages used to justify condemnation were not intended to address loving, faithful, and just relationships between two persons of the same sex and maturity and that Jesus demonstrated an ethic of inclusive love.

**We believe that all persons need, and are entitled to, a safe place for spiritual growth and mutual ministry.**

We know that the church suffers when our LGBTQ+ siblings and their gifts are excluded.

**We know that people who are LGBTQ+ have been injured, ignored, or condemned by the Church in most times and places and thus have not felt welcome.**

We repent on behalf of the church universal and we apologize for its past, and too often present, denial and oppression of same-sex loving and gender non-conforming persons.

**Therefore, we openly welcome LGBTQ+ persons into the life and ministry of Plymouth United Church of Christ and affirm them in the loving committed ways they live out who they are.**

**(All) We testify that we are an infinitely richer community for being Open and Affirming, and believe that we are thus more faithful to the will and way of Jesus Christ.**

**HYMN** *Draw the Circle Wide* -Gordon Light from “Sing! Prayer and Praise”

**SCRIPTURE** Mark 1:16-27 (CS p 35), Hebrews 10:23-25 (CS p 224)

**SERMON** Called to Wholeness Rev. Doug Van Doren

**ACT OF DEDICATION**

Invitation

Offertory *Banner of Hope* -Mary Sue Gast, “Sing! Prayer and Praise”  
gracenotes

\***Doxology** *I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* -Trad. African American  
**I’m gonna live so \_\_\_ God can use me \_\_\_ an-y-time, Lord \_\_\_ and an-y-where. \_\_\_.** (Repeat)

\*Prayer of Dedication

\***HYMN** *In the Midst of New Dimensions* 391

\***BENEDICTION**

\***POSTLUDE**

\*Indicates those who are able are asked to stand.