

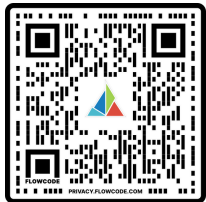
LITURGIST: Kevin Dobreff
USHER: Ray Attema, Jerry Hoffman
FELLOWSHIP: Laura & Cloe Van Oss
NURSERY: Elisabeth Ankrum, Brenda Cripps
SUNDAY SESSIONS: Lisa Cook

Mission Statement

We are an inclusive and welcoming community that practices Jesus' radical love and affirmation. In worshipful response to God's transformative work in our lives, we pursue the liberation of all people from injustice and oppression.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 28 Inquirer's Class 11:30AM
Friday, May 3 Drinks & Deconstruction 7PM
Sunday, May 5 Plymouth Annual Leadership Retreat 12PM
Wednesday, May 8 Lunch Bunch 11:30AM



Want to stay connected to what is happening here at Plymouth?

Subscribe to our weekly email by using the QR code or contact the office at plymouth@plymouthchurchgr.org

Pastor: Rev. Jo Bahr
Director of Music: William Bokhout
Accompanist: Dr. Caleb Wenzel
Sunday Sessions Director: Kris Locker

Plymouth United Church of Christ
www.plymouthchurchgr.org
616-455-4260



PLYMOUTH
united church of christ

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 28, 2024

CENTERING THOUGHT

"Whoever teaches learns in the act of teaching, and whoever learns teaches in the act of learning." - Paulo Friere, *Pedagogy of Freedom: Ethics, Democracy, and Civic Courage*

PRELUDE

Fourth Sunday Band

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Pastoral Prayer

Jesus' Prayer

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS



* CALL TO WORSHIP

Kevin Dobreff

MOMENT OF GENEROSITY



All is not lost

It must not be

There are children

There are wildflowers

Love creeps into our lives like vines

Rooting into our hearts the ways of liberation

We are interconnected, branches of the same corner of the universe,

reaching for sunlight, yearning for transformation,

tenderly caring for all that still longs to live.

Let us worship God—

Our Sunlight, Our Salvation,

Our Ancient Ever New Hope.

Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING SONG

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'm gonna live so God can use me
an-y-time, Lord, and an-y-where.

I'm gonna live so God can use me
an-y-time, Lord, and an-y-where.

I'm gonna work so God can use me
an-y-time, Lord, and an-y-where.

I'm gonna work so God can use me
an-y-time, Lord, and an-y-where.

I'm gonna pray so God can use me
an-y-time, Lord, and an-y-where.

I'm gonna pray so God can use me
an-y-time, Lord, and an-y-where.

I'm gonna sing so God can use me
an-y-time, Lord, and an-y-where.

I'm gonna sing so God can use me
an-y-time, Lord, and an-y-where.

* OPENING PRAISES

You Are Welcome Here

There's a Spirit of Love in This Place

* OPENING PRAYER

* GREET ONE ANOTHER IN PEACE

TIME FOR ALL AGES

We Are All One Family

BAPTISM OF: Cadence, Cohen & Casey Pratt

Child of Mine

Fourth Sunday Band

SCRIPTURE

Acts 8:26-40

Kevin Dobreff

SERMON

"Where All Belong"

Rev. Jo Bahr

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Crowded Table
Fourth Sunday Band

The Highwomen

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fourth Sunday Band

* Indicates those who are able are asked to stand.

You Are Welcome Here

(Chorus) You are welcome here,
No matter who you are,
No matter where you are - on life's journey.
You are welcome here,
No matter who you are,
Come and join with us,
We're u-ni-ted in the church of Christ

Come now all people, join in the song,
Come be a part of the fam'ly of God.
We are God's people - and you belong,
Share in the joy of Christ. Chorus

We pray for jus-tice; we pray for peace;
We hear the word of the Savior of all;
We find God's mer-cy
We find re-lease,
Shar-ing the joy of Christ. Chorus

Lift-ing each other;
Do-ing what's right;
Stand-ing to-geth-er, what-ev-er may come;
Prais-ing our Sav-ior, shin-ing our light,
Shar-ing the joy of Christ. Chorus

There's a Spirit of Love in This Place

There's a spirit of love in this place,
There's a spirit of love in this place.
You can't see it, but it's there, just as precious as the air.
There's a spirit of love in this place...

There's the presence of peace in this room,
There's the presence of peace in this room.
In God's tenderness is found
Peace that passes human bounds.
There's the presence of peace in this room.

O alleluia, sing al-le-lu-ia, sing al-le-lu-ia!
We bless your holy name.
O al-le-lu-is! Sing al-le-lu-is!
There's a spirit of love in this place.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Cadence, Cohen & Casey Pratt

*Congregational Assent:

One: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism.

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?

All: We promise our love, support and care.

*Congregational Affirmation of Faith:

One: We believe in God, who is love and who has given the earth to all people.

All: We believe in Jesus Christ, who came to heal us and to free us from all forms of oppression.

One: We believe in the Spirit of God, who works in and through all who have turned towards the truth.

All: We believe in the community of Faith, which is called to be ambassadors of love and hope.

One: We believe in God's promise to forgive the sin in us all and to establish the reign of justice and peace for all humankind.

All: We do not believe in the rule of might, the force of arms, or the power of oppression.

One: We believe in human rights, the solidarity of all peoples, and the power to overcome evil.

All: We do not support racism, sexism, homophobia, oppression, or religious imperialism.

One: We believe that all people are equally human, and that God intends for the world an order based on justice, love, and community.

All: We do not believe that war, hunger, and division are inevitable, or that peace and justice are unattainable.

One: We believe in the beauty of simplicity, love with open hands, and peace on earth.

All: We do not believe that suffering need be in vain, that death is the end, or that the earth was meant to be broken.

All: We believe in God's power to transform and transfigure, fulfilling the Biblical promise of a new heaven and a new earth, where justice and peace will flourish.

(Adapted from a Litany prepared for the World Convocation on Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation)

*Indicates those who are able are asked to stand

CHILD OF MINE

When you're in danger I'll do everything I can to keep you safe
Child of Mine,

When you are hungry, tired, sick, or scared I'll cross the line, every time
I will swim across the river, I will leap a giant chasm, I will face down
any demon you encounter on your path, I will walk ten thousand miles
and pick you up when you get sleepy, I will cross, every line
Child of mine.

If you are bullied, I will stand beside you, I will have your back,
Child of Mine,

I will put myself between you and the evils of this big wide world,
Child of Mine,

I will swim across the river, I will leap a giant chasm, I will face down
any demon you encounter on your path, I will walk ten thousand miles
and pick you up when you get sleepy, I will cross, every line
Child of mine.

I will do anything, I'll break a wall, I'll brace your fall, I'd take a fall for
you.

I will do anything, I'll break a wall, I'll brace your fall, I'd take a fall for
you.

I will swim across the river, I will leap a giant chasm, I will face down
any demon you encounter on your path, I will walk ten thousand miles
and pick you up when you get sleepy, I will cross, every line
Child of mine.