



Meeting Tabitha on the Road | Pastor Dillon Shipman

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 11, 2025**

*"My house is a house of prayer for all people." (Isaiah 56:7)*  
**Plymouth is A Just Peace Church and An Open and Affirming Congregation**

# **WELCOME!**

Here we believe that God is love;  
and that love is for everyone.

God's extravagant love changes the world  
and moves us to respond in gratitude.

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here,  
and you are invited to shape this community with your God-given gifts.

## **Open and Affirming Statement**

Plymouth Church is an Open and Affirming congregation. We celebrate and find strength in our diversity and view it as a way to understand the inclusiveness of God. We welcome people of any age, color, ability, sexual orientation or gender expression. We embrace those of varying theological and political beliefs, and differing ethnic, socio-economic, and educational backgrounds. Our congregation joyfully welcomes all to join in worship, ministry, fellowship, leadership, sacraments and blessings. With God's guidance, Jesus' example and the Spirit's inspiration, we commit ourselves to ongoing study, prayer, conversation and action, so that it may truly be said of Plymouth Church, "My house is a house of prayer for ALL people." (Isaiah 56:7)

## **Families with Children**

Children of all ages are always welcome at Plymouth! We offer many programs and events throughout the year to foster faith development in children and fellowship among our families. We strive to make worship family-friendly and to provide support to families while attending church by offering Busy Bags, Children's Worship Bulletins, a comfort room with toys and a changing table, and a Children's Worship Space with quiet activities. Professionally-staffed childcare for kids 4 and under is available every Sunday from 9am-12pm on the second floor. Sunday School for kids Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> grade takes place during worship, except for on the first Sunday of the month when there is no Sunday School to encourage families to worship together and receive communion.

Large print bulletins and hearing enhancement devices are available.  
Please ask an usher.

# SUNDAY WORSHIP

## Our Approach to God

*Music calls us to worship so we may listen for God speaking to us. When the service begins with preparation music, please silence your voices and devices.*

*\*All are invited to rise in body or spirit*

**Preparation Music** Cantilène from Symphonie Romane.... Charles-Marie Widor  
George A. Sargeant, organ

## Welcome

**\*Call to Worship:** Luke Grube

One: Come together and sing to our God with loud voices and full hearts!

**All: Our souls bless God!**

One: Sing of humility and compassion, of service and hope!

**All: Our souls bless God!**

One: Let us be grateful servants to all those in need.

**All: Our souls bless God!**

One: Let us live with gratitude and generosity.

**All: Our souls bless God! Alleluia! Amen!**

**\*Hymn #** (insert on next page) For All the Faithful Women.....*Aurelia*

## For All the Faithful Women



For all the faith-ful wo-men who served in days of old, to  
We praise Your name for Mir-iam, who sang tri-umph-ant-ly while  
We sing of bu-sy Mar-tha, who toiled with pot and pan, while  
Lord, hear our praise of Dor-cas, who served the sick and poor. Her  
All praise to God the Fa-ther, all praise to Christ to Son, all



You shall thanks be gi-ven, to all, their sto-ry told. They  
Pha-raoh's vaun-ted ar-my lay drowned be-neath the sea; for  
Ma-ry sat in si-lence to hear the Word a-gain. We  
hands were cups of kind-ness, her heart an o-pen door. O  
praise to God the Spi-rit, who binds the Church as one. With



served with strength and glad-ness in tasks Your wis-dom gave, To  
Ruth, who left her home-land and ven-tured forth in faith, who  
praise the o-ther Ma-ry, who has-tened to the tomb and  
God, for saints and ser-vants, our fer-vent prayers we raise, that  
those who went be-fore us, with those who wit-ness still, we



You, their lives bore wit-ness, pro-claimed Your power to save.  
pledged to serve and wor-ship Na-o-mi's God till death.  
found her Lord a-ri-sen, dis-pel-ling doubt and gloom.  
faith-ful in Your ser-vice, our lives may sing Your praise.  
sing glad al-le-lu-ias and strive to do Your will.

### Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we confess that at times we do not share in the work of resurrection but are caught in the ways of the world. Forgive us for not sharing the Good News of your Love. Help us to hear the call to life, to get up and serve, devoted to good works and acts of charity, and to live in resurrection hope. Guide us to be people who seek reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

### Silent Reflection

### Words of Assurance

ONE: Lift up your hearts!

ALL: We lift them up to God!

**\*Hymn of Praise**..... *Kremser*

With voices united our praises we offer,  
And gladly our songs of true worship we raise.  
Our sins now confessing, we pray for thy blessing;  
To thee, our great Redeemer, forever be praise.

**\*Passing of the Peace**

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

*Children in pre-school through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to depart for Sunday School.*

## **The Proclamation of God's Word**

**Choral Anthem** Now is the Hour of Darkness Past ..... Daniel Pinkham  
Plymouth Choir

Alleluia.

Now is the hour of darkness past; Christ has assumed His reigning pow'r.  
Behold the great accuser cast down from the skies to rise no more.

Alleluia.

'Twas by Thy blood, immortal Lamb, Thine armies trod the tempter down;  
'Twas by Thy word and pow'rful name they gained the battle and renown.

Alleluia.

Rejoice, ye heav'ns! Let every star shine with new glories round the sky!  
Saints, while ye sing the heav'nly war, raise your Redeemer's name on high.

Alleluia.

**Scripture Reading**

Acts 9:36-43

**Sermon**

Meeting Tabitha on the Road

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**\*Hymn #28** (black hymnal) For the Beauty of the Earth ..... *Dix*

**Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer** (debts/debtors)

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.

**Prayer Response** Confitemini Domino.....Taizé

Come and fill our hearts with Your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with Your peace. Alleluia.

**Living Out the Word of God**

**Announcements of Church Life**

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory** Chaconne for Bells..... Hal Hopson  
Plymouth Ringers

**\*Doxology**.....*Lasst uns erfreuen*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, you call us to be present to others inside and outside these sanctuary walls. With our whole lives, we offer ourselves afresh unto your will. We dedicate these offerings to be used for ministries of life, hope, and healing. Infuse us with a sense of courage as we seek out those who need your good news. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**\*Hymn #76** (black hymnal) Sent Forth by God's Blessing .....*The Ash Grove*

**\*Commission and Benediction**

**\*Congregational Response** Alleluia No. 1..... Donald Fishel

### Alleluia No. 1

*Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give thanks to the Ri - sen Lord, al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give thanks to His name.

*Verse*



Spread the good news to all the earth,



Je - sus has died and has ri - sen.

**Voluntary** Finale from Piano Sonata #3 in F Minor, op. 5.....Johannes Brahms  
Lynna Bao, piano

*Many in the congregation wish to remain seated for the Voluntary. If you choose to leave, please be aware of those still participating in this part of the service. The Voluntary is music for worship and we ask that all be respectful of one another's worship practices, including those participating via livestream. Following the Voluntary, you may greet the ministers.*

## For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, Foliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.

St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,  
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
 4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,  
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,  
 For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

## Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

*Foliott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.*

Tune: DIX 7.7.7. with refrain  
 Conrad Kocher, 1838  
 Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861



## Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Omer Westendorf, 1964

*Descant*

2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

*Unison*

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the  
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave. The ser - vice is  
 tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the fruits of our wor - ship in  
 shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

Omer Westendorf, author of numerous hymns, compiler of several hymnals, and founder of World Library Publications, included this hymn in People's Mass Book, 1964, the first vernacular Roman Catholic hymn and service book to implement the decrees of Vatican II.

Tune: THE ASH GROVE 6.6.11.6.6.11.D.  
 Welsh folk melody  
 Harm. Leland Sateren, 1972  
 Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with  
 all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach - ing, re -  
 each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with

your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this  
 cep - tive hearts reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for  
 your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this

life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -  
 God and for all. God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u -  
 life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -

giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.  
 nite us to work for God's realm and to an - swer the call.  
 giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

## MUSIC NOTES

Charles-Marie Widor composed ten symphonies for organ. Of these, the last two were inspired by forms of architecture - Gothic and Romanesque. Both take Gregorian Chant as their starting point. The tenth is based on the Psalm appointed for Easter Day *Haec dies, quam fecit Dominus (This is the day which the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.)* This chant is absent from *Cantilène*, the third movement. Instead, fragments of another Easter chant, the sequence *Victimae paschali laudes (Christians to the Paschal Victim)* are cleverly woven into what at first appears to be an original melody.

Daniel Pinkham was organist at King's Chapel in Boston from 1958 to 2000. A student of many 20<sup>th</sup>-century musical luminaries such as E. Power Biggs, Wanda Landowska, Aaron Copland, and Nadia Boulanger, much but not of all his compositional output was written for the religious community he served. His setting of famed hymnwriter Isaac Watts' Easter text *Now is the Hour of Darkness Past* was published in 1975 and has the feel of a modern-day madrigal.

Hal H. Hopson is a full-time composer and church musician residing in Cedar Park, Texas. His extensive output of published choral and instrumental compositions and arrangements numbers over three thousand. His original hymn tunes and psalm settings can be found in many recent denominational hymnals. His *Chaconne for Bells* takes its inspiration from a dance form in triple meter that made its way from South America to Europe in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It soon evolved into a set of variations on a harmonic progression and is closely related to the *passacaglia*.

Johannes Brahms' *Piano Sonata No. 3 in F minor* was composed in Düsseldorf in 1853. It was published the following year. The work is dedicated to Countess Ida von Hohenenthal of Leipzig. It is unusually ambitious in scope, consisting of five movements, as opposed to the traditional three or four. When Brahms composed this sonata, the genre was seen by many to have passed its heyday. Brahms, who deeply admired Beethoven and the classical style, composed the

sonata with a masterful combination of free Romantic spirit and strict classical architecture.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Today

**Ushers:** Team 3

**Greeter:** Charlene & Mendle Adams

**Coffee Hour:** Celebration for Lynna Bao, the Plymouth Choir, & Plymouth Ringers

## This Week at Plymouth

**Cleveland Food Bank** – A group of volunteers will be serving at Cleveland Food Bank Tuesday, May 13 and Wednesday, May 21, from 6-8 pm. The gift of food is even more important during the summer months with budget cuts and no school lunches and snacks. The group will meet for dinner at Muldoon’s patio after volunteering. Contact Paul Qua (pqua@driveclassic.com, 216-544-7501) with questions or to volunteer.

**Fossil Fuel** – Join us on Wednesday, May 14, at 8:30 am in the Candy Circle Room for Bill Green’s presentation on Thomas Jefferson and “The Fate of the Union”.

**A Symposium on Immigration and Reconciliation** – Join members from Plymouth’s Adult Faith and Life Department on Friday, May 16, who are heading to Severance Music Center for this presentation, part of this year’s Mandel Opera and Humanities Festival. Visit the Welcome Center for more information and a sign-up sheet! (Reserved tickets distributed on a first come, first serve basis.)

**Plymouth Workday** – On Saturday, May 17, from 9 am – 1 pm, volunteer to help out with projects around the Plymouth property. Then, share a lunch from Barrio with the other volunteers! Sign up in the Welcome Center! The Youth Group will have some time for fellowship and games after volunteering and lunch.

## Upcoming Events

**AMIS Presentation** – HCC is hosting members of AMIS (Americans Making Immigrants Safe) after their worship service next Sunday, May 18, and have invited us to participate. We will hear about what AMIS is doing and how we might be able to help. Refreshments will be served – we hope you will join us at 12 noon for this discussion!

**Save the Date: Church Picnic!** – The annual church picnic will take place right after worship, from 11:00-12:30, on Sunday, June 1st. More details for the event can be found in the May Perspective. We hope you can attend!

**Lunch Club** – Wednesday, May 21, at 12:30pm in Fellowship Hall, we will share a lunch of honey mustard glazed chicken, rice blend, green beans with almonds, and dessert. Join us as folks from Plymouth and HCC get to know each other better during our last Lunch Club of the program year! We'll resume in September. The suggested donation for lunch is \$10. RSVP by Sunday, May 18, signing up in the Welcome Center or emailing Pastor Dillon.

**May 25 Worship** – Beginning next Sunday, May 25, worship will move to **10:00 AM** for the summer (June – August). Please note the new start time! During this service, we will have a time of prayer and blessing for Rev. Matt and his wife, Betsy, as they leave for their three-month sabbatical. Join us after the service for a special reception.

**Cleveland Pride** – Cleveland Pride March and Festival will take place on Saturday, June 7. Join Plymouth members to march and/or volunteer at the UCC festival booth. The 1-mile-long march starts at 11 AM and will take about 30 minutes. Information on staging area and meet time for marchers will be communicated closer to the event. Volunteers from Plymouth and Pilgrim UCC churches will also host a table featuring carnival games and information about Plymouth, which will be manned by volunteers from 11 AM to 5 PM. All are welcome to participate. To join and receive more details, sign up in the welcome area or contact Lucas Hershberger at [lucas.hershb@gmail.com](mailto:lucas.hershb@gmail.com)

## Community Life

**Photo Directory** – We are creating a new photo directory to help members connect names to faces. You can submit your own photo by uploading it to your Realm profile or by emailing it to [office@plymouthchurchucc.org](mailto:office@plymouthchurchucc.org). We will also have a photo booth at the Church Picnic if you would like your picture taken for you. For photo specifications and lots of helpful information, please see pg. 9 in the May Perspective.

**Class of 2025** – We will recognize our graduating seniors, both high school and college, during worship on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please let Pastor Dillon know if you are a member of Plymouth graduating this year so you can be included in the events of the day. Please submit your information by Sunday, May 25.

**Pastoral Care** – If you have a Pastoral Care need or have an emergency, please contact Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster at 330-714-9471.

**Little Free Pantry** – Shelf stable food is available 24/7 from our Little Free Pantry, located in the north end of the parking lot, near the Children's Garden.

**Financial Assistance** – Do you need help paying a bill, rent, or buying food and other essentials? Through the loving support of this community, funds are available. If you are in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to email Rev. Matt Wooster at [mwooster@plymouthchurchucc.org](mailto:mwooster@plymouthchurchucc.org) (this is confidential) with your needs.

### **Plymouth Family**

**Happy Anniversary to:** Book & Meghan Chrobak, Cliff & Lynne Megerian, and Raymond Graves & Angela Zawada

**Happy Birthday to:** Val Arbie-McClelland, Andy Lang, Sullivan Baker, Nick Cheadle, Andrew Cleminshaw, Graham Cruz, David Turner, Suzanne Ruff, Yumi Ndhlovu, and Brian Shields

### **This Week's Calendar**

#### **Sunday, May 11**

9:30 am Coffee House @ Candy Circle Room  
10:30 am Worship @ Sanct  
11:00 am HCC Worship @ Chapel  
11:30 am Coffee Hour @ FH  
12:00 pm B&G Meeting @ Library

#### **Monday, May 12**

5:30 pm Bible Study @ Zoom

#### **Tuesday, May 13**

6:00 pm Cleveland Food Bank Volunteering

#### **Wednesday, May 14**

8:00 am Foundation Meeting @ 102  
8:30 am Fossil Fuel @ Candy Circle Room  
1:00 pm Meditative Arts @ Atrium  
7:00 pm E&G Meeting @ Zoom  
8:00 pm AA Meeting @ KR

#### **Thursday, May 15**

7:00 pm Scout Meeting @ FH  
7:30 pm Plymouth Choir @ Choir Room

#### **Friday, May 16**

1:00 pm Women's AA Meeting @ Parlor

#### **Saturday, May 17**

9:00 am Church Work Day  
1:00 pm Youth Group @ Plymouth

#### **Sunday, May 18**

9:30 am Coffee House @ Candy Circle Room  
10:30 am Worship @ Sanct  
11:00 am HCC Worship @ Chapel  
11:30 am Coffee Hour @ FH  
12:00 pm HCC Immigration Event @ Parlor

## Ministers of Plymouth Church

The Congregation of Plymouth Church  
Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster  
Designated Associate Minister, Pastor Dillon Shipman  
Director of Music & the Arts, George Sargeant  
Director of Children & Family Ministries, Leslie Szalay  
Facility Manager, Paul Holter  
Office & Communications Administrator, Brenna Threatt  
Finance Manager, Kathryn Kundrat  
Church Sexton, Derrick Williams  
Organ Scholar, Lynna Bao



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[kkundrat@plymouthchurchucc.org](mailto:kkundrat@plymouthchurchucc.org) to request access.