

**A SERVICE TO UNITE US IN SPIRIT
FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2022
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
2401 Atwood Avenue, Madison WI*



Pastor: Rev. Leslie Schenk

Accompanist: Lyle Anderson

Ministers: All the people of Plymouth Congregational UCC

*Worship Help: Bob Moore (reader), Sharon Larson & Steve Landkamer (greeters),
Kevin Voit & Kathy Gentz (ushers), Bill Mollway (tech and audio support), Marianne
Mollway (Social Hour)*

The Community Gathers

Lighting of the Candles

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

♪Prelude Chorale prelude on “O Herre Gott, dein göttlich Wort,” BWV 1110, by
J. S. Bach

Gathering Prayer

Pastor: God is remarkable—ever-changing and steadfast!

All: God the Prophet creates all things new!

Pastor: God is mysterious—experienced in the stillness and in the public square!

All: God the Catalyst inspires a future with hope!

*Pastor: God is innovative—upturning expectations and calling and equipping the
unlikely!*

**All: Together we worship God—the mysterious, remarkable Prophet, the
innovative Catalyst!**

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:1b-3

Plymouth Catalysts: Leadership/Officers (Ann Lacy)

Message for Young Christians

♪ Opening Hymn No. 8 *Praise to the Living God*

**Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.**

**Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused them to evolve, unwitting, toward God's goal,
Till humankind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls.**

**Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.
God toils where-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.**

**Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.**

The Community Shares God's Word

Reading: Plymouth Mission Statement

The mission of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ is:

—To joyfully celebrate God's love and the gospel of Jesus Christ in our worship, our teaching, and our lives;

—To create a diverse, accepting faith community that welcomes all and empowers all to accept the grace God freely offers to each of us, no matter who we are or where we are on life's spiritual journey; and

—To develop, demonstrate, and strengthen Christian discipleship by reaching out to all God's people, caring for those in need, and seeking to lead the world toward love, justice, and peace.

Scripture: Hebrews 10:24-25a, 13:1-2

Plymouth Catalysts: Congregational Life Team (Kevin Voit)

Scripture: Proverbs 15:22

Plymouth Catalysts: Business Team (Daniel Hacker)

Scripture: Psalm 150:1-6

Plymouth Catalysts: Worship Team (Carol Walker)

Scripture: Matthew 28:19

Plymouth Catalysts: Education Team (Marianne Mollway)

Scripture: Isaiah 58:6-8

Plymouth Catalysts: Discipleship Team (Carol Martell)

Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-16

Plymouth Catalysts: All of Us (Pastor Leslie)

The Community Responds to God's Word

♪ Hymn of Response No. 397 *Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers*

Thank our God for sisters, brothers, one by grace, in harmony,

Joining heart to heart with others, making strong community.

With the cross of Christ our standard, let us sing as with one voice,

Glory, glory, yours the promise: we who are the church rejoice.

Praise to God for congregations, keeping faith with Christ as guide;

Many tongues of many nations, song and service unified.

Sweet the psalm and sweet the carol, when our song is raised as one.

Glory, glory, yours the power, as in heaven your will be done.

Holy is your name forever! Heal divisions that remain;

Bless the church's new endeavors; make our witness one again.

One in Christ and in Christ's gospel, make us one we now implore.

Glory, glory, yours the glory, then and now and evermore.

Joys & Concerns, Prayers of the People

Pastor: *Let us pray...as Jesus taught us to pray to You, saying*

All: **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, for ever. Amen.

Offering

Thank you for your offerings (in-person, electronic, or mailed in) for the ministry and mission of this congregation. Through your generosity, we are doing God's work in the world.

Offerings can be placed in the basket by the door at the back of the sanctuary, for those attending in person.

Thank you for your offerings for our third-quarter Jane's Pockets collection for bus tickets for migrants being bussed from Texas to northern cities. These funds will help them find a way to families and other communities where they can find a welcome. If you are writing a check, make it to "Plymouth UCC" and write "Jane's Pocket" in the memo line.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Pastor: *Thank you, loving God,*

All: **for your presence and your guidance in changing times.**

Pastor: *Help us to always "be in the mix," in whatever way we can,*

All: **as you continually "stir us" to make all things new. Amen.**

The Community Goes Forth

♪ Sending Hymn No. 391 *In the Midst of New Dimensions*

**In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?**

Chorus:

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever,
Now and ever more.*

**Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?**

Chorus

**As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams.**

Chorus

**We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.**

Chorus

**Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.**

Chorus

Blessing and Sending Prayer

Pastor: *We go forth with the living Christ.*

All: **We go forth, in faith and hope and joy!**

Pastor: *We go forth sharing our gifts and our spirit.*

All: **We go forth as God's heart and hands in the world.**

Pastor: *The blessings of God—Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer—be with you all!*

All: **Our worship has ended, our service begins, as we take God's light out into the world with us!**

♪ **Postlude** *Pièce par Monsieur Babou* 1709

Elements of our worship service are adapted from resources provided by the Catalyst Team of the Wisconsin Conference UCC, made possible through our contributions to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and to the Strengthen the Church special offering (summer).

What is Catalyst?

Catalyst's mission is to resource and encourage vital and innovative ministries that transform lives. The Catalyst Team, made up of representatives from all four associations, works to spur, spark, and stimulate innovation and creativity in congregations throughout the Wisconsin Conference by providing grant funding to our congregations. We look for projects through which congregations are developing vital and innovative ministries that transform lives in partnership with their local communities. We seek projects that further the Wisconsin Conference's core justice initiatives: racial justice, immigration justice, and care of creation. We get excited

about projects that reveal how local congregations are expanding the notion of the church beyond the walls of their buildings and the memberships of their congregations.