

# Plymouth

Congregational  
Church

*Sharing Faith's Journey*



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***Celebration of Worship***  
**September 15, 2024**

# Celebration of Worship

September 15, 2024



10:30 am

## Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Enter in Prayer, Worship with Gratitude, Go Forth to Served*

*Deliverance ceased, ceased in Israel, till you arose, O Deborah,  
arose O mother, of Israel.  
Judges 5:7*

**Opening Voluntary**      *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*      arr. Michael Burkhardt  
Christopher Shaw, organ

**Welcome and Announcements**      **Alan Fearey**

**Mission Possible**      Hope Ranch for Women      Amy Engel-Hudson

**Introit**

**Call to Worship**      **Alan Fearey**

**Opening Hymn**      *Will You Come and Follow Me*      Page 10

## \*Responsive Sentences

Ken Arnold

One: Beloveds, the Holy One gathers us together with purpose:

**All: To dream of futures yet imagined.**

One: To bolster our courage before powers and principalities.

**All: To nurture our love for one another.**

One: God's blessing is upon us as we come to wrestle:

**All: with meaning and justice,**

One: with questions of love,

**All: with the calling upon our lives. The Spirit is moving! Let us worship together.**

Adapted from Enfleshed.com

## Response of Praise

*Praise to God, Immortal Praise*

DIX

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Praiseto God,im-mor-tal praise, For the love that crowns our days! Boun-teous source of ev-ery joy,". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "Let thy praise our tongues em-ploy: Sing-ing thus through all our days, Praiseto God,im-mortal praise.".

Words: Anna L. Barbauld, 1772, altered, public domain; DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1838, public domain.

## \*Invocation and Lord's Prayer

Ken Arnold

**God who calls and sends, you have poured out your Spirit upon us all. You raise us as prophets, healers, teachers, artists, companions, and seekers. With courage and humility, you ask us to live faithfully to these gifts and to one another. May we encourage and be encouraged in living our deepest truths and following in the ways of the one who taught us to pray...**

**Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, they 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.**

Invocation adapted from Enfleshed.com

## Scripture Readings

### Exodus 15:20-21

**Judy Frick**

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: 'Sing to the Lord, for the Lord has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider the Lord has thrown into the sea.'

### Judges 4:1-5

**Holly Yager**

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgement.

### 2 Kings 22:8-14

**Claire Watson**

The high priest Hilkiyah said to Shaphan the secretary, 'I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord.' When Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, he read it. Then Shaphan the secretary came to the king, and reported to the king, 'Your servants have emptied out the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of the workers who have oversight of the house of the Lord.' Shaphan the secretary informed the king, 'The priest Hilkiyah has given me a book.' Shaphan then read it aloud to the king.

When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes. Then the king commanded the priest Hilkiyah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Achbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary, and the king's servant Asaiah, saying, 'Go, inquire of the Lord for me, for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our ancestors did not obey the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us.'

So the priest Hilkiyah, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to the prophetess Huldah the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah, son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; she resided in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter, where they consulted her.

### John 20:16-18

**Lindsay Miller**

Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

# **Installation of the Rev. Dr. Karen Robu**

## **Opening**

**Judy Frick**

As we honor the intentions of this day, we pause to remember that we do so in the presence of ancestors. Surrounded by a cloud of witnesses, we welcome the memories of our honorable ancestors of faith, our given and chosen family, within and beyond the church. We pause to remember those who made us – their struggle and love and offerings – to welcome them, not as distant relatives but as those still present who hold us accountable to past and future. May their witness challenge us as we heed God’s call to push farther, love deeper, and build together a future worthy of generations to come.

## **Moderator**

**Alan Roskam**

In accordance with actions previously taken by this congregation, we are here for the purpose of installing the Reverend Dr. Karen Robu as the Minister of this Church. I would ask that she come forward.

Plymouth Congregational Church of Wichita, Kansas, a member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, being well satisfied with your qualifications for ministry and confident that we have been led to one another by the Holy Spirit, and believing that God has called us to share a mutual and common ministry in Christ, earnestly and solemnly call you, Rev. Dr. Karen Robu, to undertake the office of Senior Minister of this congregation. Are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ?

## **Karen**

I am willing, and I promise, with the help of God, to serve this church faithfully, preaching and teaching the word of God, administering the sacraments, and fulfilling the pastoral office.

## **Moderator**

Will the congregation stand in body or in spirit and affirm your covenant with your minister?

## Congregational Response

We, the members of Plymouth Congregational Church, do gladly receive Karen Robu as our preacher and teacher, and in accordance with the usage of our Free Churches, do install her as our Senior Minister. We promise to labor with her in the ministry of the gospel and to give her all proper support and encouragement so that she may be free to devote full time to the ministry of the Word among us. We reaffirm our 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.

**Welcome from the NACCC (video)**

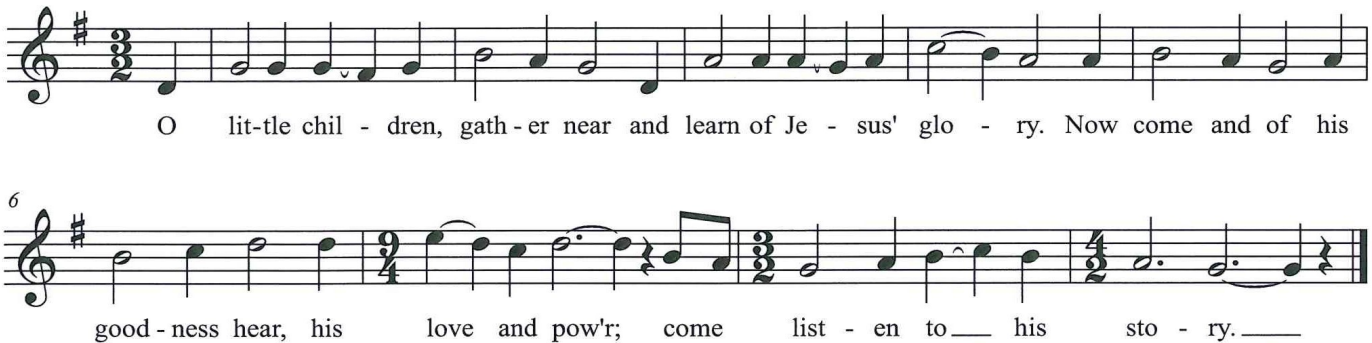
**Jodee Lord**

**Welcoming Song**

*O Little Children*

BEAUTIFUL FLOWER

(Let the children come forward.)



O lit-tle chil - dren, gath - er near and learn of Je - sus' glo - ry. Now come and of his  
good - ness hear, his love and pow'r; come list - en to\_\_\_ his sto - ry.\_\_\_\_

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**A Moment with Our Children**

Lindsay Miller

## **Anthem**

*Let the River Run*  
Dr. Robu, solo

*arr. Jay Althouse*

We're coming to the edge, running on the water,  
coming through the fog, your sons and daughters.

Let the river run.  
Let all the dreamers wake the nation.  
Come, the new Jerusalem.

Silver cities rise; the morning lights the streets that lead them.  
And sirens call them on with a song.  
It's asking for the taking, trembling, shaking.  
Oh, my heart is aching.  
We're coming to the edge, running on the water,  
coming through the fog, your sons and daughters.

We, the great and small, stand on a star  
and blaze a trail of desire through the dark'ning dawn.

It's asking for the taking.  
Come run with me now; the sky is the color of blue  
you've Never even seen seen in the eyes of love.  
My heart is aching.

We're coming to the edge, running on the water,  
coming through the fog, your sons and daughters.

It's asking for the taking, trembling, shaking.  
Oh, my heart is aching.  
We're coming to the edge, running on the water,  
coming through the fog, your sons and daughters.

Let the river run.  
Let all the dreamers wake the nation.  
Come, the new Jerusalem.

## **Prayer Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

[video]

**Dr. Davison\***

**Prayer Response**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Anthem**

*The Meditations of My Heart*

Elaine Hagenberg

May the words of my mouth  
and the meditations of my heart  
be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord.

O Lord my Rock,  
O Lord my strength,  
O Lord my God and my Redeemer.

(text based on Psalm 19: 14)

\*Dr. Lisa Davison is Phillips Theological Seminary's VP of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Seminary. Jodee Lord is moderator for the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.

**Sermon**

**“On the Shoulders of Giants”**

**Dr. Robu**

**\*Closing Hymn**

*Here I Am Lord*

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**\*Benediction**

**Closing Voluntary**

*Fanfare*  
Christopher Shaw, organ

Jacques Lemmens

\* Let all who are able please stand.

\*\*\* Ushers will seat late comers

Select liturgy adapted or taken from [Enfleshed.com](http://enfleshed.com) and the United Church of Christ Book of Worship

**North Entry Greeter** Cindy Perkins

**Communion Table Flowers** Abby Arthur and Tom Safley in celebration of the installation of the Rev. Dr. Karen Robu

### **Cover Attribution**

Crossing of the Red Sea and Miriam Dancing and Singing, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55470> [retrieved September 11, 2024]. Original source: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chludov\\_Miriam.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chludov_Miriam.jpg)

### **Men's Club Red Wheel Fundraiser**

Come see us after worship service!

The Plymouth Men's Club will be selling Red Wheel products from September 1st through the 30th. Product distribution will take place on October 9th. Please support the club in this venture by purchasing and enjoying good products. Funds will go to the betterment of Plymouth Church. Thank you.



**America's Tastiest**  
[www.redwheelfundraising.com](http://www.redwheelfundraising.com)



## Fine Arts Hallway Display

### Introducing our new Hallway Artist—Denice Brueggeman!

On display now through October. “Leaf of Faith” **About this show:** “Leaf of Faith” is a theme that brings together the beauty I find in everyday nature and its deep connection to my faith. It’s easy to take surrounding nature for granted, especially in plants I see in my yard, on a nature walk, even on a rural drive – after all I see them daily. Yet when I reflect on the absolute artistry found in each design element – the brilliant colors, the patterns found in the foliage, the variety – I’m reminded, at every level, that it was created by and gifted to us by our Creator. As an appreciator of beauty in all forms – I’m completely honored to share my interpretation with your congregation and community.

## Fine Arts Display Case

### August/September — Linda Gebert’s

Linda Gebert’s beautiful enamel and silver work remains on display in the Fine Arts Display Case through September.

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## Fine Arts Series 2024-25 begins September 21st. Don’t miss it!



## *A Night of High Notes*

*Saturday, September 21, 2024*  
*7 PM*

Please join us for a night of high notes featuring four spectacular sopranos: Lydia Bechtel, Victoria Olson, Holly Swartzendruber, and Carter Tholl. Musical selections will include works by Bach, Britten, Strauss, Verdi, and many more. Not only will you hear selections from famous operas in the Western canon, you will also hear works from musical theatre including *St. Louis Woman* (1946) and *Floyd Collins* (1925). The concert will be presented in two sets with a 10-minute intermission. The singers will certainly need it! One piece of music has over two hundred notes for the soprano! This concert will also feature Christopher Shaw, Plymouth staff organist, as the accompanist.

General admission tickets are \$20. Student tickets for \$5 are available for purchase at the door with a current student ID. Reception to follow.



QR Code for online  
ticket purchase



# Will You Come and Follow Me

## The Summons

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)  
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?  
 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?  
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?  
 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?  
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)  
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B<sup>b</sup> F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?  
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus)(A)  
 Gm7 B<sup>b</sup> Am7 B<sup>b</sup> Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)  
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B<sup>b</sup> F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"  
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"  
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"  
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"  
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Words: John Bell © 1987, WGRG c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent; Music: KELVINGROVE, traditional Scottish melody, public domain. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-722558. All rights reserved.

# I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

## Here I Am, Lord

G Am D G C G D  
*Leader or All*

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.  
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

G Em C Am7 D G

All who dwell in dark and sin <sup>4</sup> my hand will save. I, who  
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will  
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

Am D G C G D

made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.  
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

G Em C Am7 C/G D D7

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

*Refrain*  
 All G C G D G C G D G

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

Am7 G Am7 D G C G C

call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

G C G D G Am7 D7 G Am7 G

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

# September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>15</b> 9:00 am Mission Board 9:00 am Fine Arts Board 10:30 Sunday Worship + Installation 11:30 <b>CHURCH PICNIC</b>	<b>16</b> 2pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	<b>17</b> 5:30 pm Investment Club	<b>18</b> 5:30 WED Night Dinner 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> PARKING LOT CLOSED • WE HOPE!	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> “A Night of High Notes” Fine Arts Series 7 pm w/ reception
<b>22</b> 8:30—1:30 Red Cross Blood Drive 10:30 Sunday Worship	<b>23</b> 2pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers 5:30 pm Deacon’s Meeting	<b>24</b> 5:30 pm Trustees Meeting	<b>25</b> 5:30 pm WED Night Dinner & Book Club 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> Preschool Carnival	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:15 CE Board Meeting 10:30 Sunday Worship 11:30 Deacon’s Meeting	<b>30</b> 2pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	<b>1</b> 5:30 pm Cabinet Meeting	<b>2</b> 5:30 WED night dinner + Blessing of the Animals 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

**Please join us for next Sunday’s Sermon from Dr. Robu**

## 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.