



Celebration of Worship
February 9, 2025

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10:30 am

Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

Enter in Prayer, Worship with Gratitude, Go Forth to Serve

Opening Voluntary Meditation on He Comes to Us as One Unknown arr. Robert Hobby
Christopher Shaw, organ

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship

***Opening Hymn** *Praise with Joy the World's Creator* Page 8

***Responsive Sentences** Cindy Perkins

One: In the midst of a world aching in pain

All: We gather together to remember the Good News.

One: The Spirit of the Living God still moves among us today!

All: When truth breaks through the lies of evil...

One: When the oppressed rise up...

All: When the complicit awaken...

One: When the hungry, thirsty, and weary are tended with care...

All: When we recognize each other as beloved...

One: God takes on flesh among us, in ways great and small.

All: Thanks be to God, who brings us Life.

***Response of Praise** Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls

Come, let us join with faith-ful souls our song of faith to raise; One
fam - i - ly in heart are we, and — one the God we praise.

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***Invocation and Lord's Prayer**

Holy One, Liberator of the captive and Lover of the outcast, may your Spirit move among us. Keep us fixated on Sacred Possibilities of a world rich in justice and overflowing with love. Do not let us get distracted from the causes of our neighbor or swept away by the spirit of despair. For in you, we trust we are more powerful than we can even begin to imagine. Thanks be to you who makes it so, and to the one who prayed...

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.

Scripture Readings

Luke 4:14-30

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

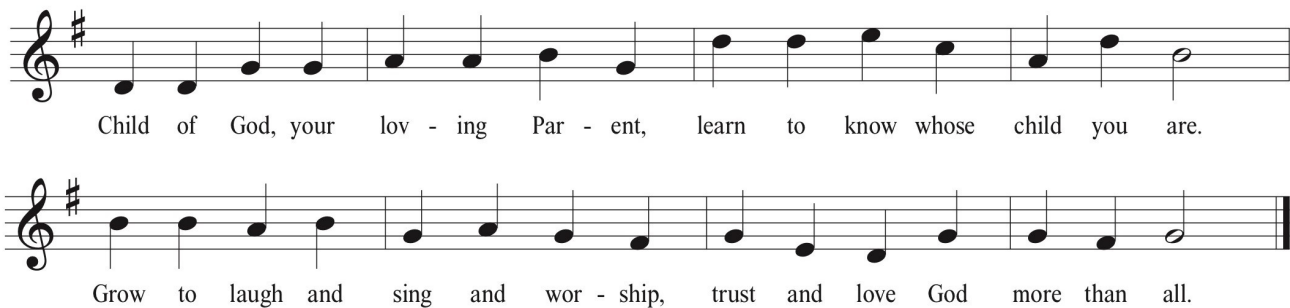
When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum." '

And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Welcoming Song *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* STUTTGART
 (Let the children come forward.)



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A Moment with Our Children Lindsay Miller

Solo *O Healing River* arr. David Cherwin
 Aubrie Culver

O healing river,
 Send down your waters, upon this land.
 O healing river,
 send down your waters, and was the blood
 from off the sand.
 This land is parching, this land is burning,
 no seed is growing in the barren ground.
 O healing river,
 send down your waters, O healing river,
 send your waters down

Let the seed of freedom awake and flourish.
 Let the deep roots nourish, let the tall stalks rise.
 O healing river,
 send down your waters.
 O healing river,
 from out of the skies.
 O healing river.

Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

Invitation to Offering

Anthem

Ubi Caritas

Victor C. Johnson

Translation from Latin:

Where there is charity and love,
God is there.
The love of Christ has gathered us together.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
And from a sincere heart let us love one another.

Sermon

“Throwing Jesus Off a Cliff”

Dr. Robu

*Closing Hymn

Holy is the Refugee

Page 6 & 7

*Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Christe Sanctorum-

David Blackwell

* Please stand in body, or in spirit.

*** Ushers will seat late comers

Selected liturgy adapted or taken from Enfleshed.com

Plymouth Staff

Rev. Dr. Karen Robu, Senior Minister
Dr. Henry Waters, Director of Music
Christopher Shaw, Organist
Julie Martin, Administrative Assistant
Lindsay Miller, Sunday School Teacher
Robert Safley, Youth Group Leader
Tim Robu, Maintenance Engineer
Erik Breckenridge, Video Tech

HOLY IS THE REFUGEE

Hannah C. Brown

REFUGEE
Mark A. Miller



1. Ho - ly is the ref - u - gee, ho - ly is the guest,
2. Ho - ly are the ques - tion - ing, ho - ly are the queer,
3. Ho - ly are the dis - pos - sessed, ho - ly are the spurned,
4. Ho - ly is the en - e - my, ho - ly is the friend,



ho - ly, those who wan - der far from home.
ho - ly, those who chal - lenge, dance, and dare.
ho - ly are the pro - filed and pa - trolled.
ho - ly, ev - 'ry spir - it as it flames;



Ho - ly are the bod - ies seek - ing safe - ty, warmth and
Ho - ly are the bod - ies choos - ing joy in - stead of
Ho - ly are the bod - ies harmed by ha - tred taught and
Ho - ly is each bod - y, held by love un - til the



1.
rest; be - lov - ed, find a wel - come as you roam.
fear; be -
learned, be -
end, be -



2.-4.
lov - ed, claim a free - dom all can share,
lov - ed, now be shield - ed and con - soled,
lov - ed, may we know what God pro - claims,



Sing - ing, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God who

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made us in their like - ness; ho - ly ev - 'ry bod-

Last time to Coda † **D.C.**

y, breath, and soul.

† **Coda**

soul, sing-ing, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God who

made us in their like - ness; ho - ly ev - 'ry bod-

y, breath, and soul, breath and soul,

ev - 'ry bod - y, breath, and soul, breath, and

soul, ev - 'ry bod - y, breath, and soul.

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Praise with Joy the World's Creator

LAUDA ANIMA 8.7.8.7.8.7

D A D A G D G D G A

1 Praise with joy the world's Cre - a - tor, God of jus - tice,
 2 Praise to Christ who feeds the hun - gry, frees the cap - tive,
 3 Praise the Spir - it sent a - mong us, lib - er - at - ing
 4 Praise the Mak - er, Christ, and Spir - it, one God in com -

Bm Em A F# Bm B7 E7sus Fdim7

love, and peace, source and end of hu - man knowl - edge,
 finds the lost, heals the sick, up - sets re - li - gion,
 truth from pride, forg - ing bonds where race or gen - der,
 mu - ni - ty, call - ing Chris - tians to em - bod - y

F#m E A D Bm E A D G A

God whose grace shall nev - er cease. Cel - e - brate the
 fear - less both of fate and cost. Cel - e - brate Christ's
 age or na - tion dare di - vide. Cel - e - brate the
 one - ness and di - ver - si - ty. This the world shall

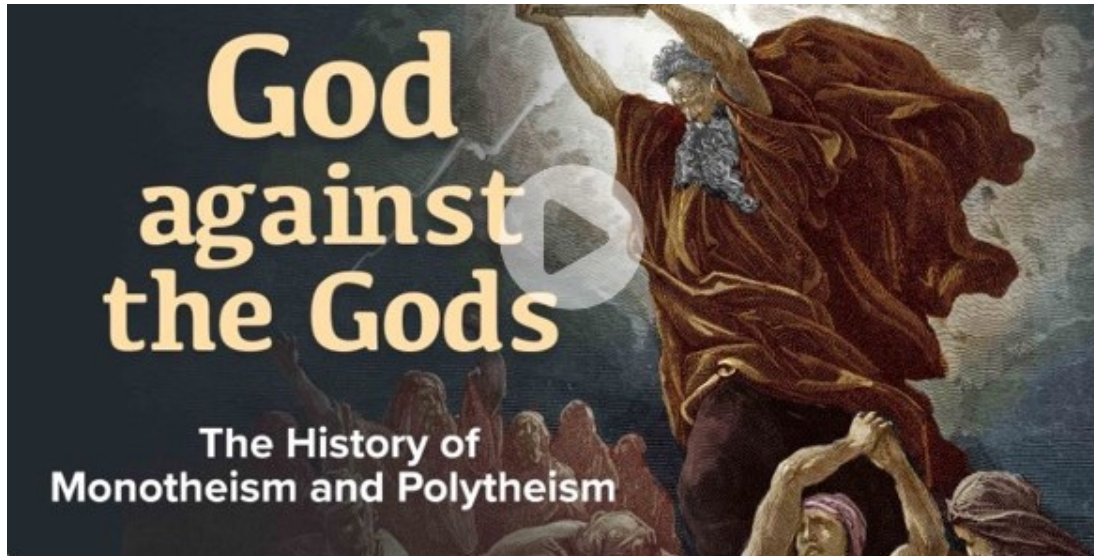
Bm A7 Bm A G Em D A D

Mak - er's glo - ry— pow'r to res - cue and re - lease.
 con - stant pres - ence— friend and strang - er, guest and host.
 Spir - it's trea - sure— fool - ish - ness none dare de - ride.
 see re - flect - ed: God is One and One in Three.

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Join Us!

Great Courses Series begins Sunday, January 19th for 12 weeks.



Gathering each Sunday at 9 AM in the Turner Room.

moderated by Anna Uhlig

Course Overview

Robert Garland, Ph.D. Professor, Colgate University

Religion is foundational to what it means to be human. Our quest for meaning is as ancient as our very existence, stretching back to a time when Neanderthal burials and Paleolithic figurines suggest our ancestors recognized a power that transcended visible reality. From ancient civilizations to the 21st century, belief in a higher power seems to be a universal human instinct. It tells us much about where we came from—and who we are today.

What's fascinating is that this universal instinct has led some cultures to believe in one God while others worship a pantheon of higher beings. This divide between God and the gods raises unique questions in humanity's search for existential meaning, such as:

- What is the role of a higher power in human affairs?
- How do we reach out to a deity (or deities), and which deity do we contact?
- Do good and evil exist in human morality, or are they products of religious doctrine?
- What happens when we die? Is there an afterlife?



Intergenerational 2025 Service-Learning Trip Black Mountain, North Carolina

Ages

Middle School Students, High School Students, College Students, Adults

Dates

Leave Wichita Saturday, July 19. Stop for the night around the halfway point. Arrive in Black Mountain, NC on July 20. Work days are July 21-24. Leave for Wichita July 25. Stop for the night. Arrive home in Wichita Saturday, July 26.

Cost

\$460 per person **plus** transportation, hotel for 2 nights, and meals not covered by Be the Neighbor. Youth may earn credit toward their trip by working youth fundraisers.

Black Mountain, North Carolina sits just outside of Asheville in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. In the fall of 2024 Hurricane Helene devastated this beautiful part of western North Carolina. It is not common for hurricanes to hit mountain towns with such intense force. On this trip you and your group will participate in disaster recovery while learning about disaster preparedness and environmental justice to help prevent future destruction.

You will stay in cabins at the beautiful Christmount Camp and Conference Center and your work will include hands on projects working for environmental care and disaster recovery efforts both at Christmount and within the greater community. Each day will also include activities and speakers who will teach about disaster preparedness and environmental care. More info at betheneighbor.org

Senior (age 55+) Service-Learning Trip With Re-Member on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation

Ages

The week is geared toward those 55+ but is open to ages 18+.

Dates

September 13 – 19, 2025.

Cos

\$800 per person plus transportation. [All inclusive except transportation]

Responding to immediate needs, Re-member provides resources that improve the quality of life for members of the Oglala Lakota Nation, and creates meaningful opportunities to build understanding for their volunteers. Volunteers can expect to build wheelchair ramps, bunk beds, and outhouses as well as learn from tribal members who share their wisdom, music, art, and teachings.

[Trip dates are filling up.](#)

[Please let Dr. Robu know asap if you are interested in going on either trip.](#)





Winter
 Wine & Cheese
 Saturday
 February 22nd

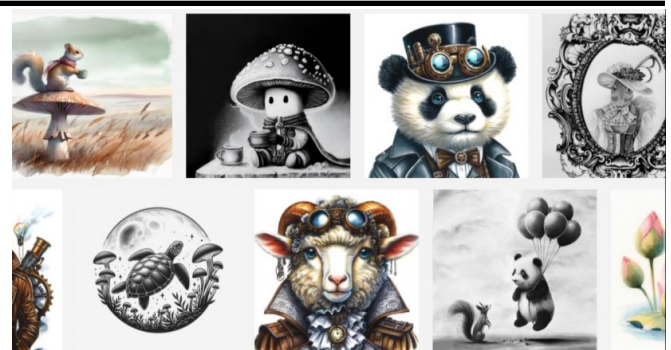


Plan to join us for our *Winter Wine & Cheese* event on Saturday, February 22, 2025 from 5:00-7:00pm. This event will include a wine tasting with remarks by a guest wine specialist and small plates that go along with each wine. We will also have a silent auction, music and lots of FUN. Tickets are just \$25 and may be purchased online or through the church office. Proceeds will be used to promote Plymouth Congregational Church in the community. Please feel free to invite guests. All auction items will be donated by the congregation. If you would like to donate an item for the silent auction, please contact Holly Yager at holly.yager@gmail.com.



Display Case Artist - Teresa Calvert

"My goal is to make pottery that is functional, colorful, and used by people in their daily lives. My love of clay began in earnest in 1994 when I began taking class in the back room of the local supplier's retail location. When the supplier quit offering classes, I went to The Center for the Arts, now Mark Arts, for classes. In 2000 my time for pottery diminished so much that I gave up classes. In 2015, when I retired, I returned to clay. Soon, taking classes once a week was not enough so I invested in a home studio, giving me the opportunity to work in clay daily."




Hallway Artist - Diana Carbajal

"My goal is to inspire the viewers, and to invite them to join me in exploring the wonders and mysteries of my animal world.

I hope to share my personal connections and experiences with the viewers, and to celebrate the diversity and uniqueness of the people personified as animals in my life."

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9 9 AM Great Courses Series 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Growth Steering	10 8 AM Aerobics 2pm Prairie Wind Folk	11 6:30 PM Spinning Boots	12 8 AM Aerobics 5:30 PM Wed Night Dinner 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	13 11:30 am Lunch & Walk! 12:30 pm Plymouth Projects 1:30 pm Women's Coffee 6:30 pm**** Auburn Spirits Wine Dinner	14 8 AM Aerobics	15
16 9 AM Great Courses Series 9:00 AM Fine Arts & Mission 10:30 AM Worship Service	17 8 AM Aerobics 2pm Prairie Wind Folk	18 6:30 PM Spinning Boots	19 8 AM Aerobics 5:30 PM Wed Night Dinner— Game Night! 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	20 11:30 am Lunch & Walk! 12:30 pm Plymouth Projects 1:30 pm Women's Coffee	21 8 AM Aerobics	22 5 to 7 pm Winter Wine and Cheese + Silent Auction <div style="text-align: center;"></div>
23 9 AM Great Courses 9:15 AM CE Board 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Deacons	24 8 AM Aerobics 2pm Prairie Wind Folk	25 6:30 PM Spinning Boots	26 8 AM Aerobics 5:30 PM Wed Night Dinner— Book Club 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	27 11:30 am Lunch & Walk! 12:30 pm Plymouth Projects 1:30 pm Women's Coffee	28 8 AM Aerobics	1

Join us next Sunday!

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.