



Celebration of Worship
February 23, 2025

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February 23, 2025

10:30 am

Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany

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

Opening Voluntary

Adoration
Christopher Shaw, organ

Florence Price

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn

Beauty for Brokenness

Page 6 & 7

*Responsive Sentences

Clifford Depew

One: Into the held embrace of God, our Creator and Sustainer:

All: Let the weary, come.

One: Let the persecuted and the oppressed, the hungry and the exiled, come.

All: Let the brokenhearted, the lonely, the guilty, come.

One: Blessed are we when we receive one another.

All: Sacred is life when it is shared together. Thanks be to God who gathers us in.

*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, at times we are tempted to believe we do not need each other. We turn away from our pain and the pain of our neighbors. By your grace, o God, may our hearts be softened. Lead us in the ways of compassion and connection that all may thrive in body and in spirit. Lead us in the ways of 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 6:17-26

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

'Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

'Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

'But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

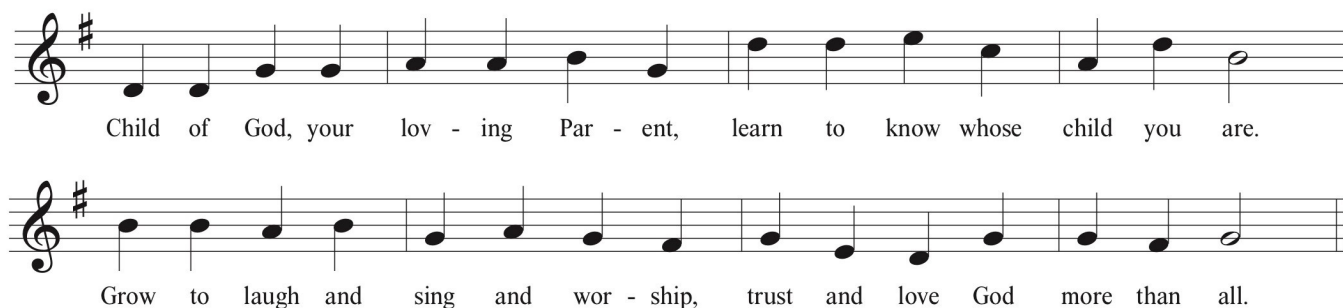
'Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

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

STUTTGART



Child of God, your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and wor - ship, trust and love God more than all.

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A Moment with Our Children

Lindsay Miller

Solo

"Turn Thee to Me"
Christopher Strecker

Antonín Dvorák
from *Biblical Songs*

Turn thee to me and have mercy,
for I am desolate and sore distressed.
Great, great are the sorrows of my heart;
bring me out of my distress.
Oh be merciful, look on my sorrow,
see mine affliction and forgive me all my wickedness.
Oh, keep my soul in safety and deliver me.
Let me never be confounded
for my hope is in Thee

Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

Invitation to Offering

Anthem

Gather at the River

arr. Susan LaBarr .

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It
is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials
should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul.

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river,
the river that flows by the throne of God.

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith
shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound,
and the Lord shall descend,
even so, it is well with my soul.

Sermon

“Blessings and Woes”

Dr. Robu

***Closing Hymn**

Trust in the Room

Page 8

***Benediction**

Closing Voluntary

Finale-Allegro, from Sonata No. 1

Florence Price

* Please stand in body, or in spirit.

*** Ushers will seat late comers

Selected prayers and liturgy adapted or taken from [Enfleshed.com](https://www.enfleshed.com)

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from Essays '2089—Blessings and Woes <https://www.journeywithjesus.net/essays/2089-blessings-and-woes>

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

Beauty for Brokenness

GOD OF THE POOR Irregular

G2 G D/F#

- 1 Beau - ty for bro - ken - ness,
- 2 Shel - ter for frag - ile lives,
- 3 Ref - uge from cru - el wars,
- 4 Rest for the rav - aged earth,
- 5 Light - en our dark - ness,

G7/F C/E Am7 D Bm7 Em7

hope for de - spair— Lord, in the suf - fer - ing,
 cures for their ills, work for the ar - ti - sans,
 ha - vens from fear, cit - ies for sanc - tu - ar - y,
 o - ceans, and streams, plun - dered and poi - soned, our
 breathe on this flame un - til your jus - tice burns

Em/A D B Em

this is our prayer. Bread for the chil - dren,
 trade for their skills. Land for the dis - pos - sessed,
 free - doms to share. Peace to the kill - ing fields,
 fu - ture, our dreams. Lord, end our mad - ness,
 bright - ly a - gain; un - til the na - tions

C G Bm7 C

jus - tice, joy, peace, sun - rise to sun - set, your
 rights for the weak, voic - es to plead the cause of
 scorched earth to green, Christ for the bit - ter - ness, his
 care - less - ness, greed; make us con - tent with the
 learn of your ways, seek your sal - va - tion, and

Am7 D 1, 3 G C/G G C/G 2, 4, 5 G

king - dom in - crease. speak.
 those who can't need.
 cross for the pain. praise.
 things that we
 bring you their

Refrain

God of the poor, friend of the weak, give us com-pas-

- sion, we pray. Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like

rain. Come, change our love from a spark to a

flame.

4 To verses

Last time Em D G

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TRUST IN THE ROOM

John Thornburg

THORNBURG
Mark. A. Miller

1. When there's trust in the room, we can
 (2. When there's) trust in the room, we can
 (3. When there's) trust in the room, we can

breathe; when we don't un - der - cut or de -
 see; when the blin - ders come off, and we're
 dream; when our mo - tives are just what they

ceive; when there's grace in the air and re -
 free; when we're hon - est and fair, and re -
 seem; when our thoughts free - ly flow, and we're

spect ev - 'ry - where, when there's trust in the room,
 cep - tive to care, when there's trust in the room
 chal - lenged to grow, when there's trust in the room

1. we can breathe. 2. When there's
 we can see.
 we can dream.

Hal - le - lu - jah! Sing hal - le - lu - jah!
 Hal - le - lu - jah! Sing hal - le - lu - jah!

When there's trust in the room we can see;
 When there's trust in the room, we can dream;

when we're hon - est and fair, and re -
 when our thoughts free - ly flow, and we're

cep - tive to care, when there's trust in the room,
 chal - lenged to grow, when there's trust in the room,

1. we can see. D.S. 2.
 we can 3. When there's
 can dream.

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WELCOME TO

A Taste of Ireland

6 pm
Sunday, March 16, 2025

An evening of Irish food, beverages, and music.
Featuring the group, Mead's Ghost.



TICKETS: \$20



plymouth-church.net 202 North Clifton Wichita, KS

Plymouth's Fine Art Series News:
The 2025 Spring Event will be 'A Taste of Ireland', back by popular demand, featuring an evening of Irish song, dance, drink, and dining! The originally selected 'Side-by-Side by Sondheim' is being postponed indefinitely due to the circumstances of the collaborators.

Hope you'll join us Sunday, March 16th to usher in St. Patty's Day in style!

New Member Sunday - March 30th

Thinking about becoming a member? Benefits include an opportunity to serve on boards and committees, and the right to vote during church meetings. We'd love to have you join the Plymouth family! Please contact Dr. Robu.



Progressive Pilgrim's Book Club Dates—following Wednesday Night Dinners

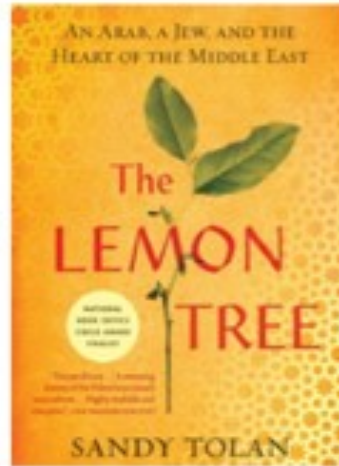
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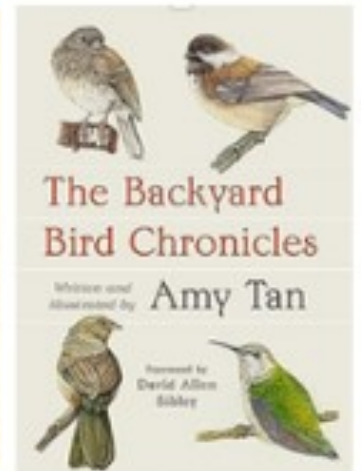
MAR 26



APR 30



MAY 21



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

If you and/or your child plan to participate we will need a non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person by Wednesday, March 5. I cannot secure spots until I have the deposit as the church has lost money in the past from having people drop out and not pay.

Cost of the trip is \$460 per person plus the cost of transportation, hotel for two nights, and meals not covered by Be the Neighbor. Youth can earn credit toward the trip by working the bierock sale in April. Those who worked the bread sale last December have already earned \$100 each toward the final balance. Credits may not be used to pay the down payment. They will be taken off the final balance due

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

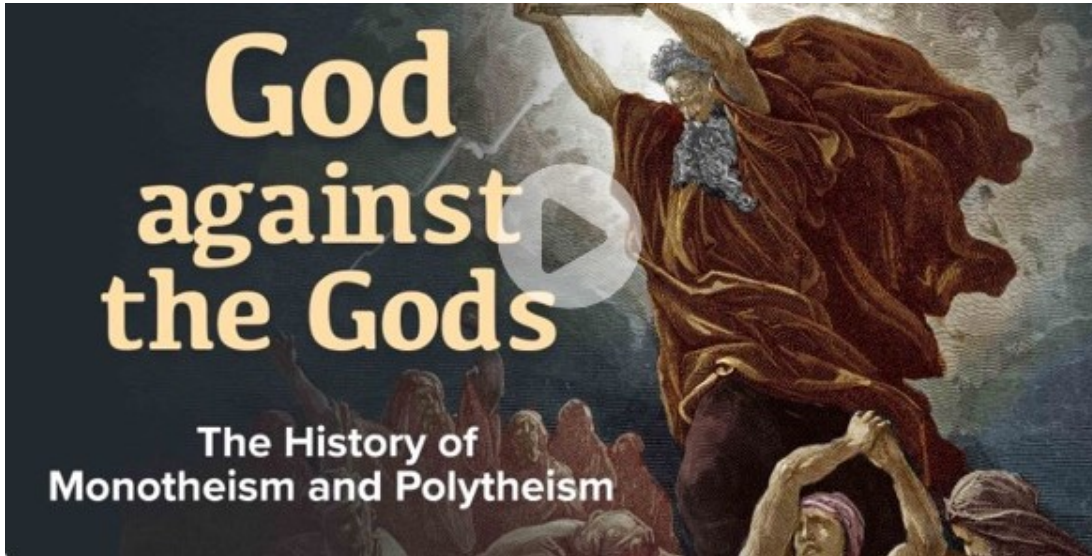
September 13 – 19, 2025.

Cost

\$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.



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



Gathering each Sunday at 9 AM in the Turner Room.

moderated by Anna Uhlig

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 appears 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?

February—March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 5:30 pm Trustees	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
2 9 AM Great Courses 10:30 AM Worship Service	3 8 AM Aerobics 2pm Prairie Wind Folk	4 6:30 PM Spinning Boots 6:30 pm Cabinet	5 8 AM Aerobics 5:30 PM Wed Night Dinner— <i>Ash Wednesday Service</i> 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	6 11:30 am Lunch & Walk! 12:30 pm Plymouth Projects 1:30 pm Women's Coffee	7 8 AM Aerobics	8
9 9 AM Great Courses 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— Lenten Speaker 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	13 11:30 am Lunch & Walk! 12:30 pm Plymouth Projects 1:30 pm Women's Coffee	14 8 AM Aerobics	15

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.