

PLYMOUTH CHURCH

SHARES THE WORSHIP OF GOD

May 5, 2024
Anniversary Sunday



We embrace the mystery of a glorious God revealed to each believer. We believe in an old, old story that is ever new in the lives of God's people. We are people on a journey of faith, people endlessly becoming. We are here to proclaim the faithfulness of the Creator God, the example of our Redeemer Christ, and the energizing presence of the Spirit.

PRELUDE

Beecher

John Zundel

Kate Amrine, *trumpet*

arranged by Raymond Trapp, *Minister of Music*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Edith Bartley

Leader: Plymouth Church is a community of believers, a gathering of strugglers, and a family of faith.

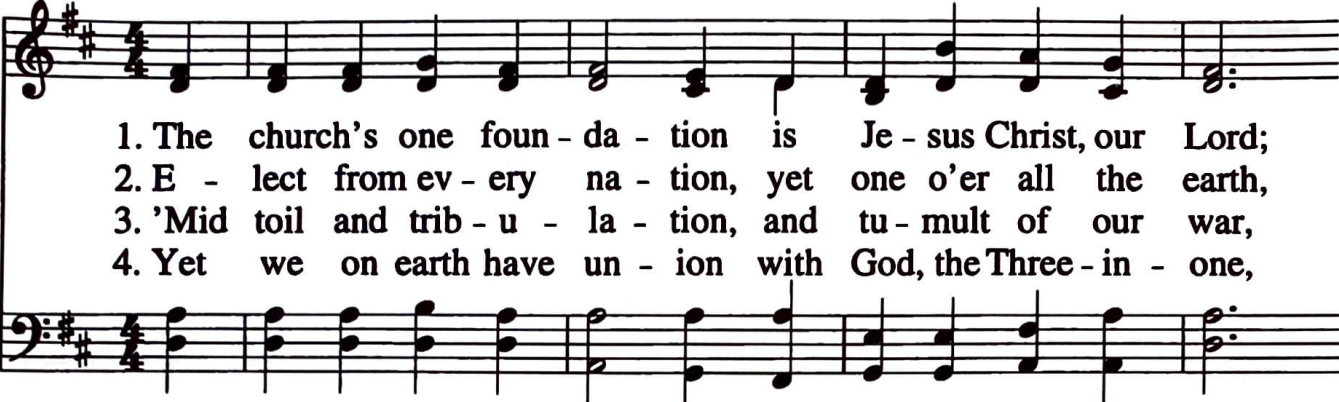
Congregation: **We worship God—revealed in Jesus Christ and known in the Spirit.**

Leader: We explore the connections between what we profess and the compassion with which we should live. We seek justice, share power, and live together in equality.

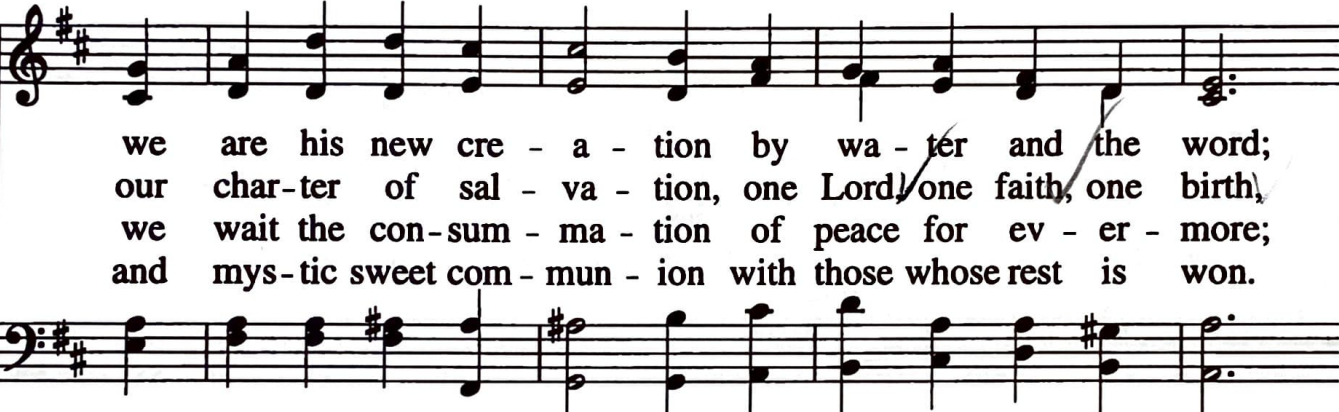
Congregation: **We celebrate the love that we have received.**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN OF PRAISE

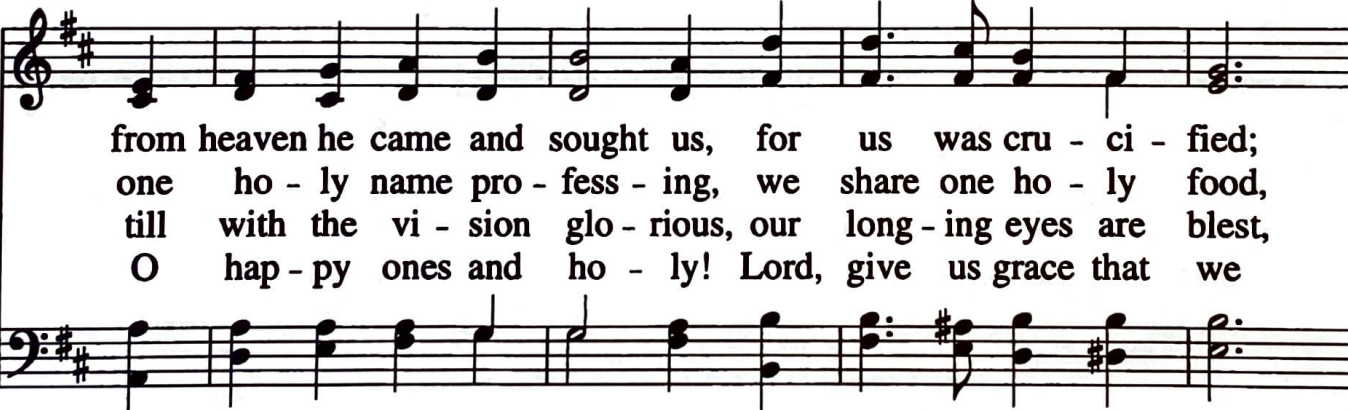
The Church's One
Foundation



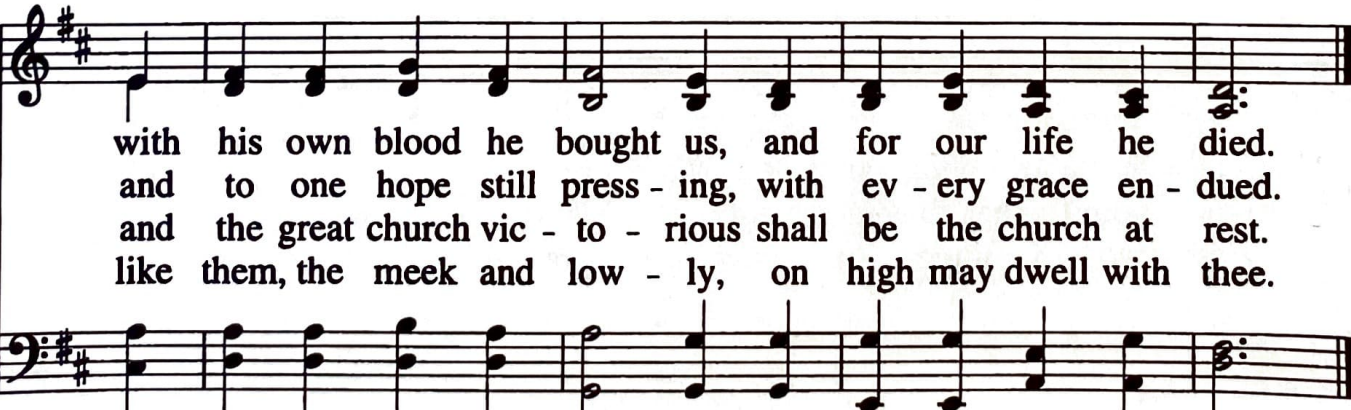
1. The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, our Lord;
2. E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3. 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,
4. Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three - in - one,



we are his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;
our char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth,
we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.



from heaven he came and sought us, for us was cru - ci - fied;
one ho - ly name pro - fess - ing, we share one ho - ly food,
till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blest,
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we



with his own blood he bought us, and for our life he died.
and to one hope still press - ing, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

WORDS: Samuel J. Stone, 1866, alt.
MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

AURELIA
76.76D

*INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

READING FROM THE PSALTER

Psalm 84:1-5

Jim Waechter

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place,
O God of hosts.

Congregation: My soul longs, indeed it faints for the
courts of God. My heart and my flesh sing
for joy to the living God.

Leader: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the
swallow a nest for herself, where she may
lay her young, at your altars, O God of
hosts, my ruler and my God.

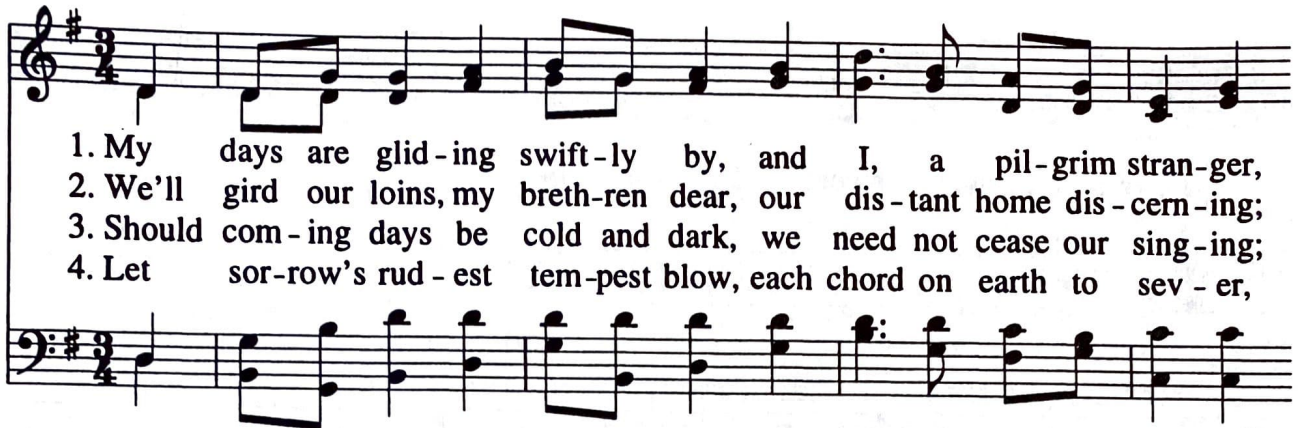
Congregation: Blessed are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.

Leader: Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

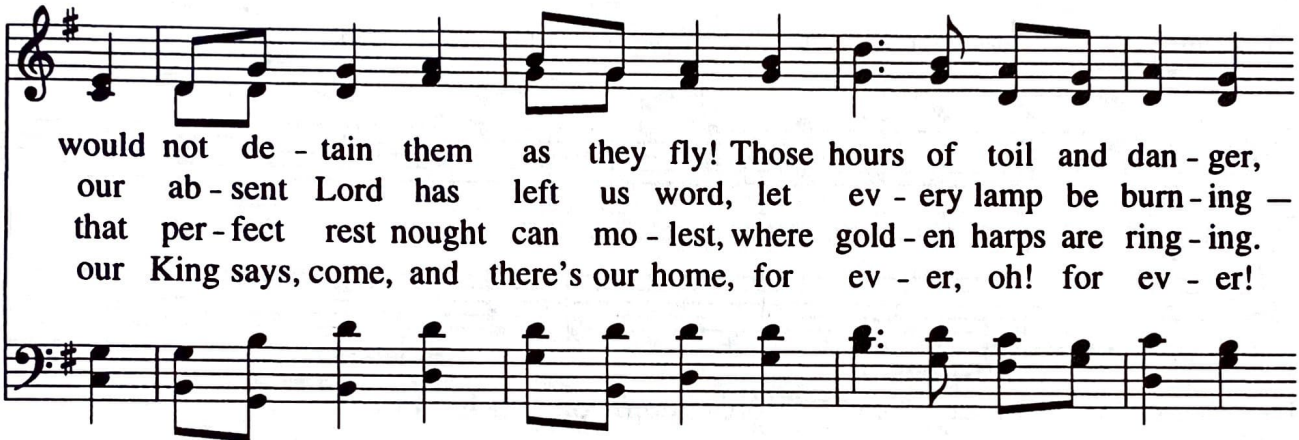
*HYMN ON ETERNITY

The Shining Shore

This was Henry Ward Beecher's favorite hymn.



1. My days are glid-ing swift-ly by, and I, a pil-grim stran-ger,
2. We'll gird our loins, my breth-ren dear, our dis-tant home dis-cern-ing;
3. Should com-ing days be cold and dark, we need not cease our sing-ing;
4. Let sor-row's rud-est tem-pest blow, each chord on earth to sev-er,



would not de-tain them as they fly! Those hours of toil and dan-ger,
our ab-sent Lord has left us word, let ev-ery lamp be burn-ing -
that per-fect rest nought can mo-lest, where gold-en harps are ring-ing.
our King says, come, and there's our home, for ev-er, oh! for ev-er!

Refrain



For oh! we stand on Jor-dan's strand, our friends are pass-ing ov-er,



and just be-fore, the shin-ing shore we may al-most dis-cov-er.

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE 1 Chronicles 16:7-12
Heather Gallivan

Then on that day David first appointed the singing of
praises to the Lord by Asaph and his kindred.

O give thanks to God, call on God's name,
make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Sing to God, sing praise,
tell of all God's wonderful works.

Glory in God's holy name;
let the hearts that seek God rejoice.

Turn to God, to God's strength,
seek God's presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works God has done,

OUR SHARED MINISTRY WITH THE MISSION SCHOOL OF HOPE

Charles Sagay

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR OUR PARTNERSHIP

CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO CONFESSION *Let us Break Bread
Together*

African-American spiritual
arranged by Carlton Young

Let us praise God together on our knees.

Let us praise God together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me.

LITANY ON CONFESSION

Leader: Majestic God, in your loving and merciful presence, we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You know how often we have gone astray, and you are familiar with our imperfections.

Congregation: We have foolishly questioned your hopes. Have compassion on us, God, and forgive our mistakes. Help us worship you and walk in your ways. Live within us and move among us.

Leader: Let us confess our sins to God.

In this moment, we go to God in prayer, silently confessing our sins so that we may take hold of the forgiveness God gives.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: May God hold you in God's warm embrace.

Congregation: May God's strong arms support you and keep you from harm.

Leader: May our church surround you with affection and respect.

Congregation: May you live in harmony and joy.

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen, Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Brett Younger

CHORAL ANTHEM

Today We Celebrate Our Faith
Joseph Martin

Today, we celebrate our faith.
Unto God we offer our thanksgiving.
We join our hearts to give the glory to God,
as one, we lift a song of honor and praise.
Our Lord has blessed us with unity and love,
and he is working great wonders in this place.
His word is faithful and ever true.
Let every heart rejoice,
break forth with joyful noise.
Let all the church lift its voice.

Today we celebrate our faith.
Unto God we lift our adoration.
Today, we dedicate our lives to the call,
the everlasting call of grace.
Today we celebrate our faith.

For Christ has been our sure foundation,
his word has been our light.

The cross has led us through our
time of shadows,
and through the darkest night.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home!

Today we celebrate our faith,
unto God we raise our song of gladness.
Today, we consecrate our hearts
to the Lord.

Today we dedicate our all.

May we walk worthy in all we say and do,
with hand in hand, we will follow in your way.
Lead us, O Lord, and our strength renew.
With every step we take, your grace we celebrate,
our lives a journey of faith.
Today, we celebrate our faith.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children are invited to gather at the front of the sanctuary.

*Children, ages 3-12, are encouraged to join us for
Sunday school after the children's message.*

HYMN ON THE TABLE

Let us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees.

Let us break bread together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees.

Let us drink wine together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me.

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As we prepare for the Lord's Table,
let us share in God's generous hospitality.

*We invite you to give as the offering plate
is passed, or online.*



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Family of Christ
Don Besig and Nancy Price

This is a family of Christ,
where faith and love and friendship grow.
Binding our hearts as one in service to our Lord.
This is a family of Christ,
where hope and trust and kindness show.
Calling us all to come to worship him,
and hear his mighty word.

For Christ is our foundation, on him this church will stand,
and we are his creation, our life is in his hands.
He calls us to be faithful, to hear him and obey.
We promise to be grateful and follow him each day.

Here in the family of Christ,
where faith and love and friendship grow.
We will give thanks to the Lord,
and all his works proclaim.
Here in the family of Christ,
where hope and trust and kindness show,

we will join hands and go forth to do
God's will and praise his holy name.
Praise his name!

***DOXOLOGY**

Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

READING FROM THE PROPHETS

Jeremiah 7:1-15

A word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: Stand in the gate of the Lord's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the Lord, all you people of Judah, you who enter these gates to worship the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and let me dwell with you in this place. Do not trust in these deceptive words: "This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord."

For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave to your ancestors forever and ever.

Here you are, trusting in deceptive words to no avail. Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not

known and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, “We are safe!”—only to go on doing all these abominations? Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your sight? I, too, am watching, says the Lord. Go now to my place that was in Shiloh, where I made my name dwell at first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel. And now, because you have done all these things, says the Lord, and when I spoke to you persistently, you did not listen, and when I called you, you did not answer, therefore I will do to the house that is called by my name, in which you trust, and to the place that I gave to you and to your ancestors just what I did to Shiloh. And I will cast you out of my sight, just as I cast out all your kinsfolk, all the offspring of Ephraim.

For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God within us,
for the Word of God around us,
thanks be to God.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

“Loving the Church We Have”

*COMMUNION HYMN

God of Life

1. God of life, in Christ you lead us, guid - ing us a -
 2. God of words and Word In - car-nate, words that chal - lenge
 3. God of mus - ic, psalms and an-thems, help us sing your
 4. God of days and years and e - ons, still you call as

long the way. In our past, through joys and sor-rows,
 and em - brace, grant us bold - ness in our speak-ing,
 faith a - new: mel - o - dies ex - pand - ing wor-ship,
 in the past. Work un - done de - mands our la - bor;

you have been our strength and stay. Keep us faith - ful,
 while we know your lov - ing grace. Give us words both
 har - mo - nies en - rich - ing, too. May our lives be
 jus - tice yearns for peace at last. Yours the vi - sion

true dis - ci - ples, in our learn - ing and our praise,
 clear and win - some, lov - ing hearts and list'n - ing ears,
 hymns in ac - tion, tuned to Christ in note and rhyme,
 and the chal - lenge; ours the mis - sion and the praise.

WORDS: Jane Parker Huber, 1992
 MUSIC: Cyril V. Taylor, 1941

ABBOT'S LEIGH
 87.87D

LORD'S SUPPER

God invites all of us to share the table. Throughout the history of the church, communion has been celebrated in a variety of ways. Today you are welcome to share the eucharist in one of two ways. You may choose to partake of the pre-packaged elements or come to the front to receive the bread and cup. We give thanks together for the church we share through the love of God.

Leader: Loving God, may we take seriously this gift of grace. As the Holy Spirit strengthens the church, may this, your blessed bread, broken for us, bring life to us.

Congregation: May we be living signs of the commitments we share with one another.

Leader: May this, your holy cup, poured out for all, be grace to us.

Congregation: We pray that we who drink from the cup be faithful signs of your love.

Leader: Come to the table.

CHORAL ANTHEM

For Everyone Born

Shirley Erena Murray and Brian Mann

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead.

And God will delight when we are creators,
of justice and joy, compassion and peace,
yes, God will delight when we are creators,
of justice, justice and joy!

For all who share life, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for all who share life, a system that's fair.

For those we neglect, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for those we neglect, the right to belong.

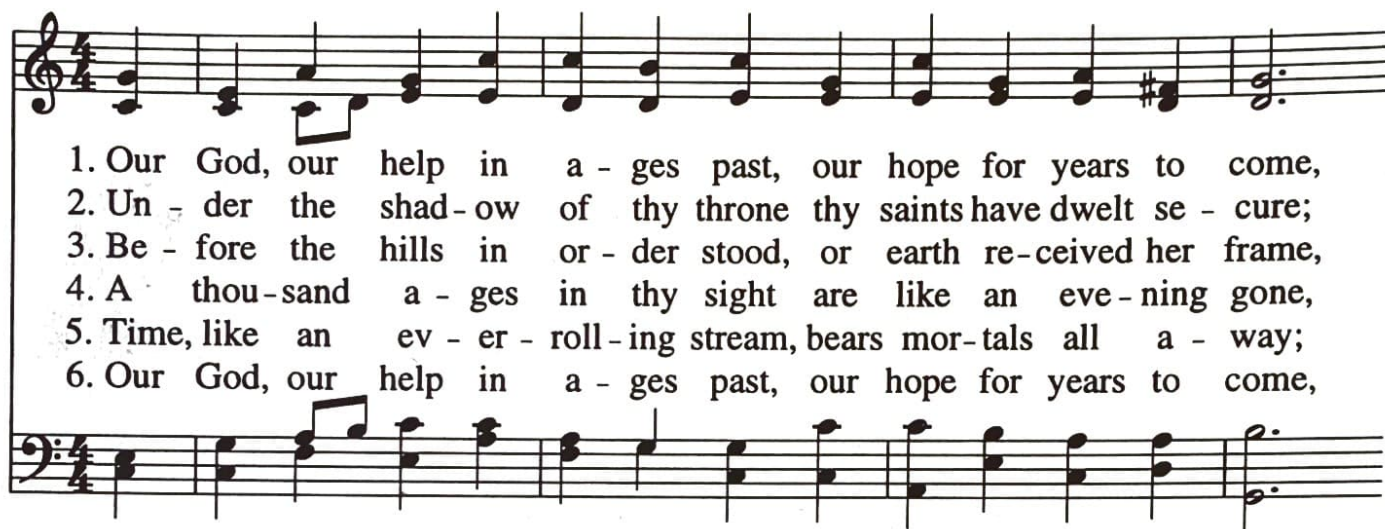
For all who have breath, a place at the table,
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,
a rainbow of race and gender and color,
for all who have breath, the chalice of grace.

For you and for me, a place at the table,
though wounded and sore, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for you and for me, a new way to live.

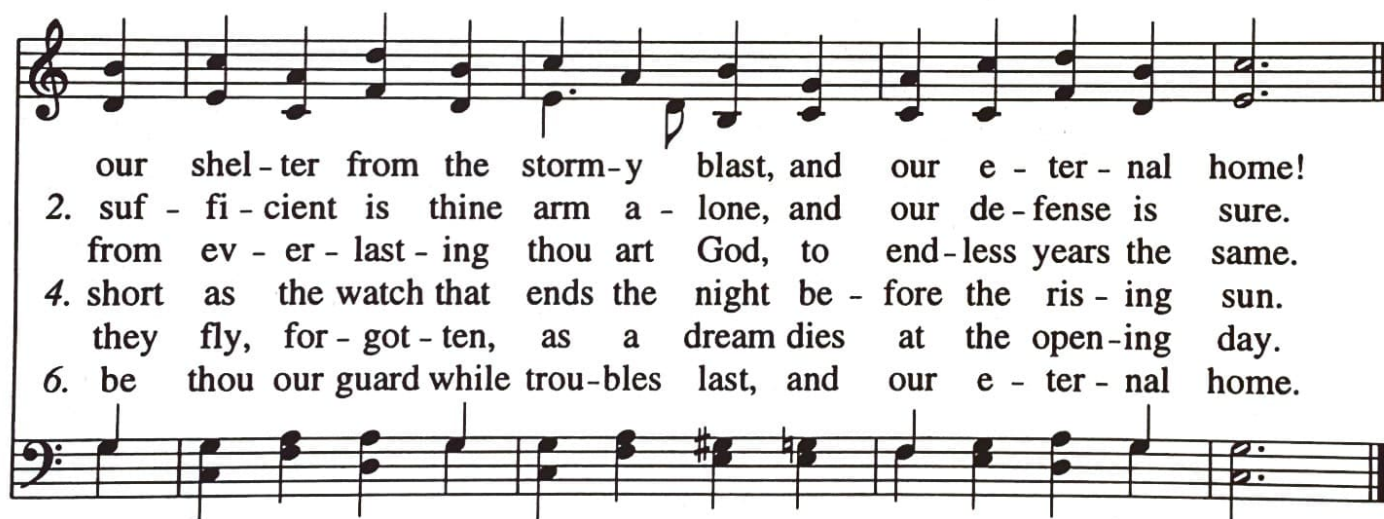
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past



1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2. Un - der the shad - ow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
4. A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone,
5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears mor - tals all a - way;
6. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!
2. suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
4. short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the open - ing day.
6. be thou our guard while trou - bles last, and our e - ter - nal home.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
MUSIC: Attr. William Croft, 1708

ST. ANNE
CM

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

The Lord Bless You and Keep You
Peter Lutkin

The main reason I make Sam go to church is that I want to give him what I found in the world, which is to say a path and a little light to see by. Most of the people I know who have what I want are people with a deep sense of spirituality. They are people in community, who pray, and practice their faith.

—Anne Lamott

AT PLYMOUTH CHURCH, OUR MISSION IS

To *know God* by placing Jesus Christ at the center of our lives through worshipping God, studying God's word, and responding to God's call;

to *grow together* in community by learning together, serving together, and caring for each other;

to *live out* our faith boldly and generously by pursuing God's *shalom* in the world.

**JOIN IN THE LIFE OF PLYMOUTH CHURCH
AT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Virtual Prison Visit

Wednesday, May 8, 6-8:00 PM | Online

Together, with our friends at Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, we will participate in another virtual visit with men from the Bent Correctional Facility in Colorado. The Frederick Douglass Project facilitates group visits between people on the outside and prisoners to share meaningful conversation and create human connection. To participate, please contact Lesley-Ann for the registration link.

Plymouth Cares | Meals for CHiPS

May 13, 14, 20, 21

CHiPS is Plymouth's long-time partner feeding our hungry neighbors in Gowanus. Their guests have doubled this past year as they serve new migrants and asylum seekers in two nearby shelters. Our church has committed to providing 420 hot meals on May 13 & 14, May 20 & 21. We need cooks, cookie donations and two drivers per day.

Contact Beth Fleisher to sign up.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 19, 12:30 PM | Reception Room

Please join us for Plymouth's congregational Annual Meeting. You will get the latest updates on our church programs, as well as vote on the budget and slate for 2024-25. We look forward to seeing you there!

Lunch and childcare will be provided.

Discover Plymouth

Sundays, June 2 & 9, 9:30 AM | Reception Room

Mark your calendars for our next Discover Plymouth class. Our ministerial team will be leading a two-part session for newcomers to learn about the congregation's history, beliefs, worship, and ministry opportunities through conversation and fellowship. If you are seeking an opportunity to join an engaged community, or simply curious about Plymouth, we are looking forward to talking with you.

Find up-to-date details and reserve your place on our website:





WORSHIP @ PLYMOUTH

Sunday, May 12

Confirmation Sunday

“Finding God” | Isaiah 40:21-31

Lesley-Ann Hix Tommey, *preacher*

Sunday, May 19

Pentecost

“Some Said It Thundered” | John 12:20-32

Sunday, May 26

Trinity Sunday

“Worshipping Like You Mean It” | Isaiah 6

Sunday, June 2

“Jesus, Enemy of the People” | Mark 10:17-31

Sunday, June 9

“Measuring Success” | 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

Brett Younger preaching unless otherwise noted.