

Lent 3
THE WAY OF THE CROSS

11:30 GATHERING OF GRACE

Sunday • March 8 • 2026

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please stand in body or spirit when you see an *

Welcome and Announcements

*Love Lifted Me

I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore,
Very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more;
But the Master of the sea heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me, now safe am I.

**Love lifted me, love lifted me,
When nothing else could help,
Love lifted me;
Love lifted me, love lifted me,
When nothing else could help,
Love lifted me.**

All my heart to Him I give, ever to Him I'll cling,
In his blessed presence live, ever his praises sing.
Love so mighty and so true merits my soul's best songs;
Faithful, loving service too, to Him belongs.

Chorus

*Passing of the Peace

*Invocation

*Gloria

**Glory to the Creator,
and the Christ and the Spirit so near,
as it was from the start,
so it shall be forever, one God, always here.**

Reception of New Members

*Pledge of the Congregation

**We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church.
We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the
hope and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of
the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's
knowledge and love, and be witnesses of our risen savior.**

Scripture Reading

John 18:12-27

Pew Bible NT pg. 112

Reader The Word of God for the people of God.
All Thanks be to God!

Word Through Music

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman

Don't I Know You

Call to Offering

Why Me

Kris Kristofferson

Prayer of Dedication

*Plymouth Covenant *(Please, join in reading.)*

**In the love of truth and in the spirit of Jesus,
we unite for the worship of God, and the service of all.
We seek to know the will of God and to walk in God's ways,
made known or to be made known to us;
to love one another; to proclaim the Gospel to all the world;
to work and pray for the progress of knowledge,
the promotion of justice, the reign of peace,
and the realization of our shared humanity.
And we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness
and the gift of life eternal. Amen.**

Count on Me

Bruno Mars

People's Prayer

Respond after each petition with "**Lord, Hear Our Prayers.**"

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Creator, 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.**

*Boundless Love

I woke up this morning to a garbage truck.
Looks like this old horseshoe's done run out of luck.
If I came home, would you let me in?
Fry me some pork chops and forgive my sin?

**Surround me with your boundless love.
Confound me with your boundless love. I was
drowning in the sea, lost as I could be, when you
found me with your boundless love**

Sometimes my old heart is like a washing machine.
It bounces around 'til my soul comes clean.
And when I'm clean and hung out to dry.
I'm gonna make you laugh until you cry.

Chorus

If by chance I should find myself at risk,
Of a falling from this jagged cliff.
I look below, and I look above.
I'm surrounded by your boundless love.

Chorus

You dumbfound me with your boundless
love. You surround me with your boundless love

*Blessing

*Closing Song

**God be with you 'til we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a Shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you 'til we meet again.**

Today's Service Participants

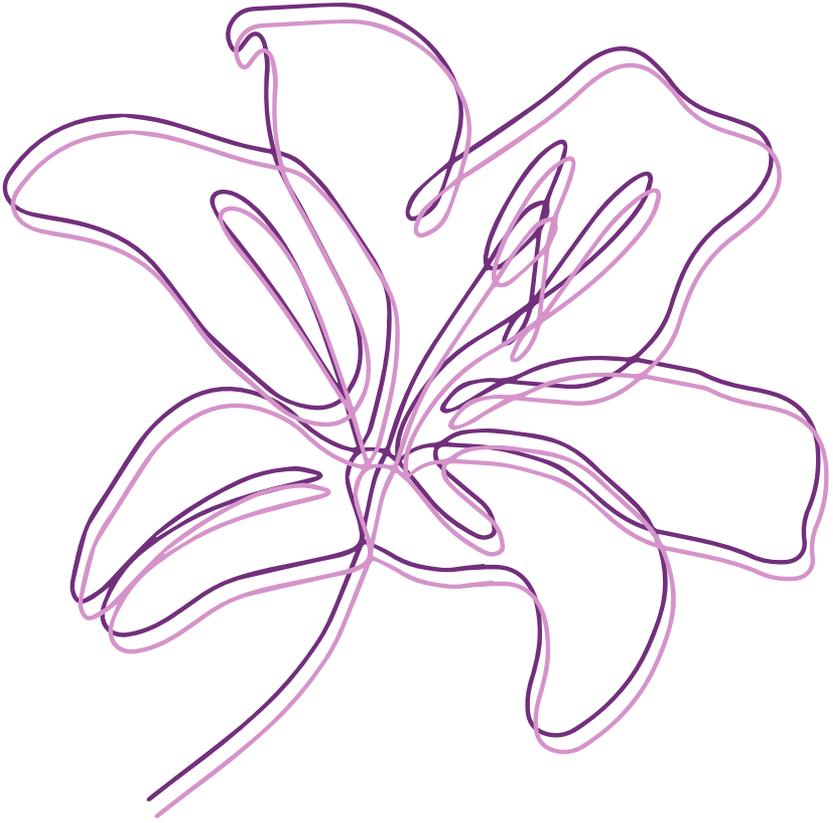
Preaching: Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman
Liturgist: Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean
Lay Reader: Cindy Epperson
Gathering of Grace Band: Pam Gibbs,
Arthur Dodge, Tom Holland, Patrick McCarty
Sound, Lights, and Radio: Mark Gleeson
Cameras and Video: Gretchen Meyer



Welcome

New to Plymouth?

Please, let us know!



Easter Lilies

Pastors' Emergency Fund 2026
at Plymouth Congregational Church



Online
Order
Form



Available online here!

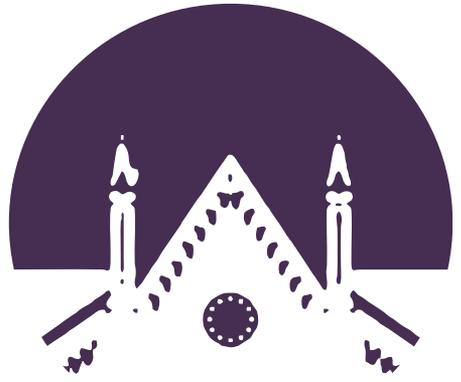


Outgrow

2026

LENT DEVOTIONAL

Lenten devotionals have arrived! Deacons have 100 copies available on a first come first served basis. Stop by the featured ministries table to get yours. *Also available online.*



New Members at Plymouth Church



Rebecca and Justin Hughes

Rebecca and Justin moved to Lawrence about a year ago and feel so lucky to have found a church like Plymouth! Justin is a credit analyst for a Texas-based bank, and they moved to Kansas because Rebecca is completing a term clerkship for a judge in Topeka. Both are graduates of Oklahoma State University and Rebecca is also a graduate of OU Law. They are expecting a baby boy any day now and are so excited for their baby to grow in an affirming and justice-minded congregation. You will probably run into them walking in East Lawrence with their dog Teddy (and occasionally their cat, Roosevelt, in a cat backpack).



Jill Ice

Jill has called Lawrence home for more than 30 years. She earned both her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and her Master of Science in Nursing in Organizational Leadership from the University of Kansas. She later became a Board-Certified Patient Advocate and founded Sunflower Health Advocates in 2021.

Jill has three adult daughters: Erin (Sebi) in Austin, Texas; Allix (Luke) in Madison, Wisconsin; and Emily in Manhattan, Kansas. Jill enjoys knitting and sewing in her free time.

Faith has been an important part of her life. After stepping away from organized religion for a few years, she recently felt a need to reconnect with a church community and looks forward to becoming involved in meaningful ways.



Ryan Manuel

Ryan has lived in Lawrence since 2012 and was recently called to find a church home. He is a full-time lead custodian at KU and plays and sings country music around Kansas and Missouri. Ryan also runs Willow Rose's Country for the Kids, an annual effort to raise money and collect toys for the Snowflake Shop at Children's Mercy Hospital every Christmas.



Stephen Miller and Deborah Fuller

Deborah and Steve live in Lawrence, Kansas, and are grateful for their two children and their families. Steve grew up in Missouri and the Kansas City Northland in a family where faith and church life were supported. He studied philosophy at William Jewell College and later earned a Master of Divinity from Louisville Seminary. After a brief pastorate, he returned to graduate school to become a teacher and spent over 31 years in education before retiring in 2024. Steve enjoys reading, cycling, spending time at Clinton Lake, and cheering on KU sports. Deborah is in her 29th year at the Topeka VA as a pharmacist and retirement is on the horizon. She is originally from Iowa and was raised on a farm. She enjoys taking her pups (Teddy and Maple) to the dog park, working in the yard and playing "granny basketball". They're excited to be joining the Plymouth community and look forward to sharing the life of the church.



Janet and Paul Robinson

Paul and Janet lived in Overland Park for 30 years before moving to Lawrence to be closer to their daughter. Their son is married and lives in Rhode Island. Paul and Janet are both retired. Paul was a computer programmer at Commerce Bank and Janet was a teacher in Olathe. While in Overland Park, they attended Atonement Lutheran Church and later, the Church of the Resurrection.





Erika and Evan Shaw

Erika and Evan are excited to be joining Plymouth Church. They have lived in Lawrence for the past 15 years. Evan grew up in Manhattan, KS, and Erika is originally from Staten Island, NY. Evan works as a hospitalist at LMH, and Erika is a cardiology and wound care nurse practitioner. They have three children, AJ (17), Theo (8), and Holland (6). As a family, they enjoy traveling to new places, family game nights, cheering each other on in sports and activities, and caring for their growing menagerie of exotic (and a few “normal”) pets. They look forward to becoming involved in Plymouth Church and participating in community service projects.



Jytte Klarlund

Jytte is from Copenhagen, Denmark. She immigrated with her husband first to Canada, then the US where they became citizens. After some time in NJ, they settled in Missouri where they kept a small farm. In 2011 they followed their granddaughter and her parents to Lawrence. Her husband passed away in 2013. She has three children and three grandchildren. She enjoys gardening, creating stained glass items & writing her life's story as a Danish immigrant.



THIS TUESDAY!

Register for **KIFA DAY!**

bit.ly/KIFADay26

10

March 2026



KANSAS
INTER
FAITH
ACTION

Advocacy Day



The catering deadline has passed, but **you can STILL register for the event!** You'll just need to find your own lunch. There are multiple options to purchase a lunch at the capitol!



Register here!



Trans Day of Visibility

March 27

Join Unity of Lawrence for a screening of **The Gender Reveal Party**, a powerful, funny, and deeply human solo performance by Jay Pryor.

 **Screening at 7pm**

 **Doors open at 6:30pm**

 **Unity of Lawrence, 901 Madeline Lane, Lawrence, KS**

 Snacks before the show and at intermission, provided by **Plymouth Congregational Church!**

Stay after the screening for a live talkback with Jay Pryor. The Lawrence Trans Coalition will be present with a table and available to answer questions and share resources. Visibility matters. Stories matter. All are welcome.





Lenten Fellowship Forum

Facilitated by
Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman

Hard times are easier to bear together.
Come reflect on what the life of faith means in a time of great change and uncertainty.

We don't promise any simple answers. *All are welcome.*

Between services starting today in the Heritage Room.



FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING

It is time again for Plymouth to host families at Family Promise!

Sunday, March 15 through Saturday, March 21

As an anchor group, we are responsible for hosting by providing dinner and hospitality on Sunday and Friday, and we need your help!

MORE INFORMATION AND SIGN UP!

HOLY WEEK

AT PLYMOUTH CHURCH

Palm Sunday Services

Sunday, March 29 • 9:30 & 11:30am

Our Holy Week pilgrimage begins.

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 2 • 7:30pm

The journey to the cross intensifies.

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 3 • 7:30pm

Dramatic presentation of the Passion
Narrative using still life characters
and music.

Plymouth Children's Ministry

Welcome to the Gathering of Grace!

Children and youth are encouraged to worship with their families in this service.

Nursery services are available for infants, toddlers and Pre-K children in Room 205 South. We ask you to please bring your children to the nursery by 11:45!

There is also a family room for nursing parents in Room 204 South.

There are worship bags located on the north side of the narthex that are filled for activities and coloring pages for all ages!

If you are interested in learning more about our children's programs, please reach out!

christianed@plymouthlawrence.com

Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman, Senior Pastor
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Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean, Associate Pastor
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Kim Manz, Minister of Music and Fine Arts
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Colton Pasquale, Director of Faith Formation
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Rev. Michael Brecke, Interim Pastor of Care & Welcome
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Jenny O'Brien, Moderator (lay leader)
tjbrobrien@gmail.com



**Plymouth
Congregational
Church**

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**An Open & Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ**



SAFE SPACE