

**Lent 4**  
**THE  
WAY  
OF  
THE  
CROSS**

**11:30 GATHERING OF GRACE**

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Sunday • March 15 • 2026

# Lent 4 THE WAY OF THE CROSS

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please stand in body or spirit when you see an \*

## Welcome and Announcements

### \*I Love to Tell the Story

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.  
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true;  
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.  
**I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory  
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.**

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat,  
What seems each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.  
I love to tell the story; for some have never heard,  
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word.  
**I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory  
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.**

I love to tell the story; for those who know it best,  
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
'Twill be the old, old story, that I have loved so long.  
**I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory  
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.**

## \*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.**

## Scripture Reading

**John 18:28-40**

*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. Caroline Lawson Dean

## Call to Offering

# The Land of Plenty

Leonard Cohen

## 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.**

## Your Life is Now

John Cougar Mellancamp

## 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 wandered so aimless, life filled with sin  
I wouldn't let my dear Savior in  
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

**I saw the light, I saw the light  
No more darkness, no more night  
Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light**

Just like a blind man I wandered along  
Worries and fears, I claimed for my own  
Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

### **Chorus**

I was a fool to wander and stray  
Straight is the gate and narrow the way  
Now I have traded the wrong for the right  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

### **Chorus**

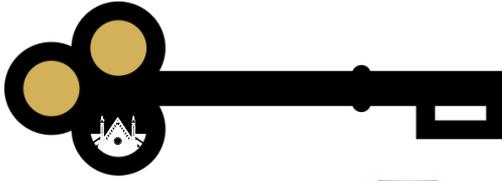
## \*Blessing

## \*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. Caroline Lawson Dean  
**Liturgist:** Rev. Michael Brecke  
**Gathering of Grace Band:** Pam Gibbs,  
Arthur Dodge, Tom Holland, Patrick McCarty  
**Lay Reader:** Irene Soderstrom  
**Sound, Lights, and Radio:** Mark Maziar  
**Cameras and Video:** Jeremy Winfrey



# Enter In

## Important Update!

At the congregational meeting on February 22, Plymouth voted to adapt the existing chancel for accessibility. The next big challenge is to figure out how. Good accessibility design lines up with our weekly commitment that “wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.” But there are space constraints and existing structures to consider. So where do we look for guidance?

Here are two starting points:

1. **Expert advice**– Throughout this project we have followed the advice of experts – for the organ and casework, engineering, acoustics, and more. Experts have training and experience, imagination and problem-solving skills.

Good news! We are blessed with an in-house expert of our own. Plymouth member, **Dr. Dorothy (Dot) Nary**, is a nationally-recognized disability expert, researcher, and advocate. Dot has graciously lent her expertise to the Accessibility Subcommittee, which includes two other members with extensive personal and professional disability experience.



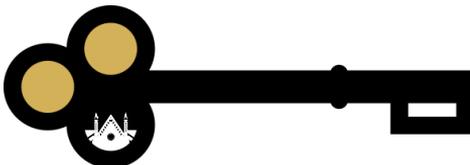
Email Plymouth Moderator,  
**Jenny O'Brien**

2. **Your Stories** – Do you or someone you love have mobility challenges? How do barriers affect your worship experience? What solutions do you prefer? Council would love to hear from you! Please email your comments to me at **[tjbrobrien@gmail.com](mailto:tjbrobrien@gmail.com)**.

At the Council meeting on **March 24**, the Accessibility Subcommittee will present their findings and recommendations. Council will consider these, and congregational input, to determine the direction for chancel accessibility.

Getting this right means the heart of our worship space will be welcoming to the full participation of all. What a great thing to shout from the rooftops!

Jenny O'Brien,  
*Plymouth Moderator*





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.*



# Lenten Fellowship Forum

**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 in the Heritage Room.**

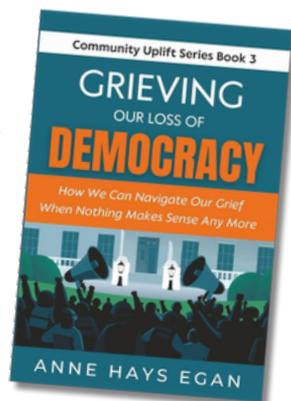


# Taizé

The next in-person Taize service for the 2026 season is this Friday, March 20 • 6pm at First United Methodist Church

# Grieving our Loss of Democracy Discussion

April 26 & May 3  
BETWEEN SERVICES



Watching and reading the news and scrolling on social media can lead to sadness, fear, anger and helplessness. We might even be grieving. But wait, there is always hope at the intersection of our current world crises and our faith!

We can seek to grieve prophetically, seeing our world, even at its darkest, with the spirit and energy of the Hebrew prophets and the resurrected Christ.

We are called to make a difference and contribute to the greater good.

We'll discuss the book, **Grieving our Loss of Democracy** by Anne Hays Egan, with **Rev. Marc Giedinghagen** leading our discussion.

Marc is a retired parish minister, chaplain and Clinical Pastoral Educator.

Join us **April 26 and May 3** in the Heritage Room between worship services.



# 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.





# CHILI COOK OFF

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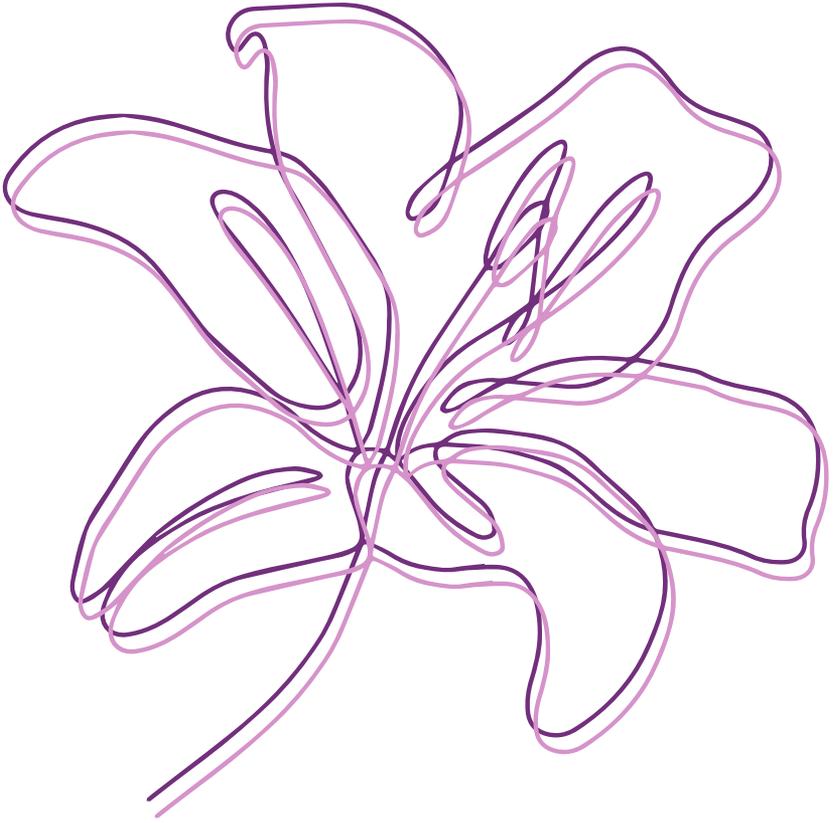
**THE BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS TRIP TEAM WILL BE HOSTING OUR ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF FUNDRAISER ON APRIL 10 AT 6PM AT PLYMOUTH IN THE MAYFLOWER ROOM**

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We need Chili Cooks! You must fill out the form to participate as a cook in the Chili Cook Off competition. Sign up by **April 6**.

If you are not able to cook, save the date to attend the Chili Cook Off and support our youth service-learning trip. May the best Chili Cook win!

This year our high school youth and mentors are raising funds for a trip to Bentonville, Arkansas • July 5-10 • **Focusing on Economic Justice**



# Easter Lilies

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Pastors' Emergency Fund 2026  
at Plymouth Congregational Church



Online  
Order  
Form

# 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.

# EASTER SUNDAY

## AT PLYMOUTH CHURCH

**Sunday, April 5 • 9:30 & 11:30am**

Our journey culminates in the  
celebration of resurrection life!

Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed!

# 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](mailto:christianed@plymouthlawrence.com)

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**Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman, Senior Pastor**

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**Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean, Associate Pastor**

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



SAFE SPACE