

Lent 4
THE WAY OF THE CROSS

9:30 CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Sunday • March 15 • 2026

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please stand in body or spirit when you see an *

Greetings

Plymouth Chimes

Prelude

Wir danken dir, Herr Jesu Christ BWV623
J.S. Bach

*Call to Worship

- Leader Claim us, O God, from complacency,
which is not even aware that it is sinning;
- People From the pride, which cannot admit that it is wrong;**
- Leader From the self-will,
which can see nothing but its own way;
- People From the self-righteousness,
which can see no flaw within itself;**
- Leader From the evasion, which always puts the blame
on someone or something else;
- People From the heart so hardened that it cannot repent.**
- All Claim us, O God, so that we may be redeemed
by your grace.**

*Once to Every Heart and Nation

Unison

1. Once to ev - ery heart and na - tion comes the mo - ment
 2. By the light of burn - ing mar - tyr, Je - sus' bleed - ing
 3. Though the cause of e - vil pros - per, yet 'tis truth a -

to de - cide, in the strife of truth with false - hood,
 feet I track, toil - ing up new Cal - varies ev - er
 lone is strong, truth for - ev - er on the scaf - fold,

for the good or e - vil side; some great cause, God's new mes - si - ah,
 with the cross that turns not back; new oc - ca - sions teach new du - ties,
 wrong for - ev - er on the throne. Yet that scaf - fold sways the fu - ture,

of - fering each the bloom or blight, and the choice goes
 time makes an - cient good un - couth; they must up - ward
 and be - yond the shad - ow's pow'r stands the One who

by for - ev - er 'twixt that dark - ness and that light.
 still and on - ward, who would keep a - breast of truth.
 holds us safe - ly, keep - ing watch through dark - est hour.

***Prayer of Confession** *(Please, join in reading.)*

**God of love, we come before you with hearts broken and weary.
We confess that we have nurtured despair
and given it safe harbor to grow within us.
We have indulged in disdain for our enemies and neighbors.
We have not loved you with our whole hearts.
Grant that being truly repentant,
We may be truly forgiven.
May your grace cover the distance
between us and all you have promised,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***Assurance of God's Love**

***Song of Response**

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days vs. 1 & 3 81
(Found in your pew hymnal.)

Children's Hymn

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley v.1 80
(Found in your pew hymnal.)

Children's Celebration

On Family Sundays kids remain in worship with their families. There is no Sunday School on Family Sundays. Nursery services are still provided. Worship bags and coloring pages can be found in the Narthex.

81 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN CM

Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873; alt.

Day's Psalter, 156

1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days For us didst fast and pray,
 2. As Thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, And didst the vic - tory win,
 3. And through these days of pen - i - tence, And through Thy Pas - sion - tide,
 4. A - bide with us, that so, this life Of suf - fering o - ver - past,

LENT

Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins, And close by Thee to stay.
 O give us strength in Thee to fight, In Thee to con - quer sin.
 Yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
 An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy We may at - tain at last!

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

American spiritual

LONESOME VALLEY 8.8.10.8

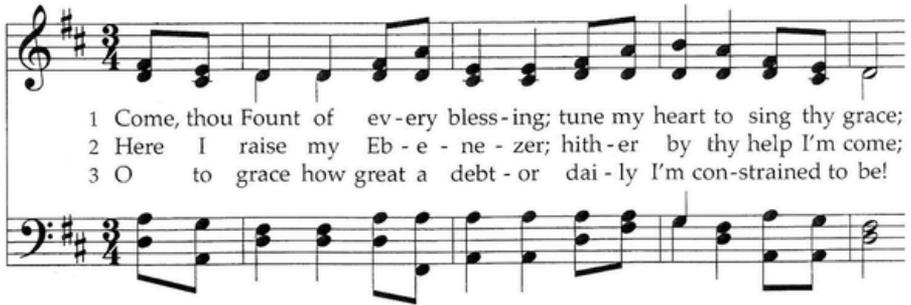
American spiritual

1. Je - sus walked this lone-some val - ley, He had to
 2. We must walk this lone-some val - ley, We have to
 3. You must go and stand your tri - al, You have to

walk it by Him - self; O, no-bod-y else could walk it
 walk it by our - selves; O, no-bod-y else can walk it
 stand it by your - self, O, no-bod-y else can stand it

for Him, He had to walk it by Him - self.
 for us, We have to walk it by our - selves.
 for you, You have to stand it by your - self.

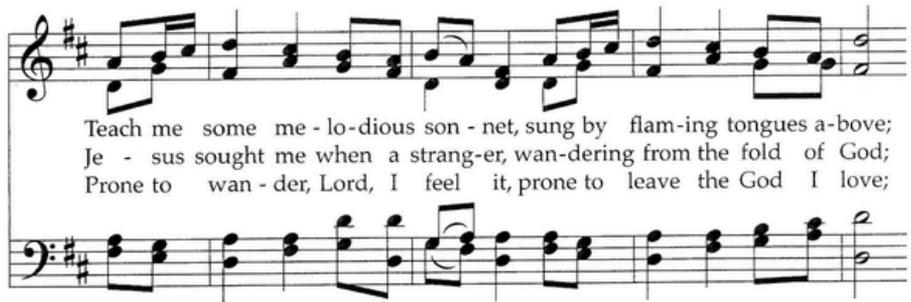
*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



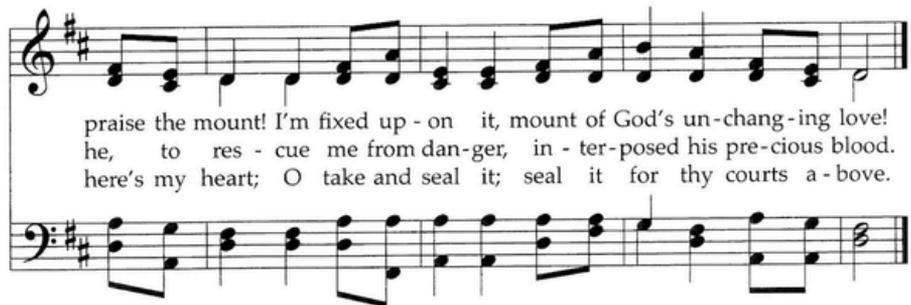
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

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!**

Sermon

Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean

Call to Offering

Offertory

Ah, Holy Jesus

John Ferguson

Chancel Choir

*Doxology *(Please, join in singing.)*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, you heavenly host;
praise God, and Christ and Holy Ghost.**

*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.**

Call to Prayer *(When prompted, join in bold text and singing.)*

Leader The Lord be with you,
People **and also with you.**

Musical score for 'Call to Prayer' in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of two systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The lyrics are: 'Stay with me; re - main here with me; watch and pray. Watch and pray.' The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. The music features a mix of chords and single notes, with some lyrics underlined in the original image.

Text and Music: Jacques Berthier, ©1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net#A715821.

Pastoral Prayer

The 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 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.**

(Sing again, Stay with me...)



*Cherub, Carol, and Chapel singers are dismissed to choir rehearsal!
Paula, Kathy, and Emily are at the back of the sanctuary to meet them.*

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE 12.9.12.12.9

Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835
Harm. *Cantate Domino*, 1980

American folk hymn, c. 1811

1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

What won - drous love is this, O my soul!
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;

What won-drous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful be.

To bear the *heav - y cross for my soul, for my soul,
 While mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
 And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

To bear the *heav - y cross for my soul!
 While mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
 And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!

*Or "dreadful curse" (as original text).

*What Wondrous Love Is This

(Found in your pew hymnal.)

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*Benediction

Congregational Response *(People seated and singing.)*

God be with you till we meet again.
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.
Amen.

Plymouth Chimes

Postlude

Love Consecrates the Humblest Act

Michael Burkhardt

Today's Service Participants

Preaching: Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean
Liturgist: Rev. Michael Brecke
Minister of Music & Fine Arts: Kim Manz
Lay Reader: Stacey Reasoner
Welcome Team Leader: Mary Lake
Sound, Lights, and Radio: Mark Maziar
Cameras and Video: Jeremy Winfrey



Welcome

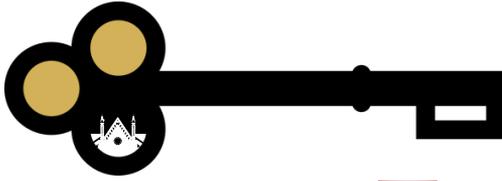
New to Plymouth?

Please, let us know!



LINK

**Sign up for LINK
THIS SUNDAY at
the Featured
Ministry Table!**



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**.

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.

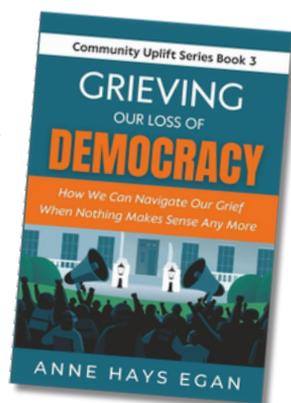


Taizé

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.





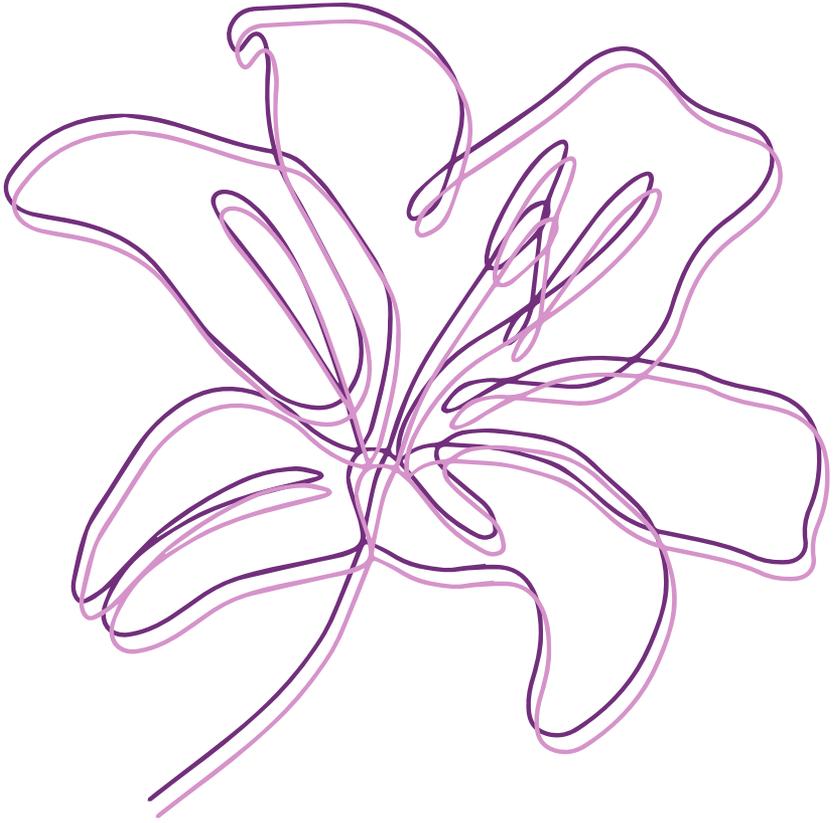
CHILI COOK OFF

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

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

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!

Family Sundays at Plymouth Church

On Family Sundays kids remain in worship with their families. There is no Sunday School on Family Sundays. Nursery services are still provided.

Worship bags and coloring pages can be found in the Narthex.

Nursery is in Room 105 S • A nursing/quiet room is in 104 S

Rooms for Choir

- **Cherub Choir (Pre K-1st Grade)** Room 205 S
- **Carol Choir (2nd-5th Grade)** Chapel
- **Chapel Choir (6th-12th Grade)** Chapel

Chapel Choir meets at 10:30am

Additional Sunday School and Children's Choir information can be found on the bulletin board at the South Entrance.

Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman, Senior Pastor

seniorpastor@plymouthlawrence.com

Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean, Associate Pastor

associatepastor@plymouthlawrence.com

Kim Manz, Minister of Music and Fine Arts

music@plymouthlawrence.com

Colton Pasquale, Director of Faith Formation

christianed@plymouthlawrence.com

Rev. Michael Brecke, Interim Pastor of Care & Welcome

welcome@plymouthlawrence.com

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