



Gospel of John

The Way. The Truth. The Life.

John 3:1-21

9:30 Celebration of Worship

Sunday • January 25 • 2026

How can we reclaim the
promise John offers for
our own time and context?
What kind of savior are we
longing to receive? What
in us and in our world
cries out for redemption?
How can we find our way?
Where do we turn to find
the truth about ourselves
and the world around us?
What brings us life?



Gospel of John

The Way. The Truth. The Life.

please stand in body or spirit when you see an *

Greetings

Plymouth Chimes

Prelude

Reed Schenkel

The People that Walked in Darkness from Messiah

G.F. Handel

*Call to Worship

Leader In the beginning was love, a breath moving over still waters.
People Love lives and grows here.

Leader A light shined in the darkness and it shines for all ages.
People Light and hope shine through us now.

Leader God calls us "Beloved" and provides a way in the night.
People Beloved, let us find that way together.

Leader God promises never to leave us, not now and not ever.
People Love and light will guide us home.
All Come, let us worship God!

*He Came Down

1. He came down that we may have love; he
 2. He came down that we may have light; he
 3. He came down that we may have peace; he
 4. He came down that we may have joy; he

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may
 came down that we may have light; he came down that we may
 came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may
 came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may

have love; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
 have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
 have peace; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
 have joy; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

Tune: Transcr. and arr. By John L. Bell, ©1990, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.
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*Prayer of Invocation *(Please, join in reading.)*

God of Love, we long to know the comfort of your companionship.
We would love you with our whole hearts, if we could.
We ask you to reveal more of yourself to us.
Move with us beyond the confines of familiar habits.
Set us free us from the limitations of our language,
and expand our understanding of you.
Teach our hearts to speak your love.
Shine your light through us that we might reflect
your full image among all whose lives touch ours.
In Christ we pray. Amen.

*Gloria

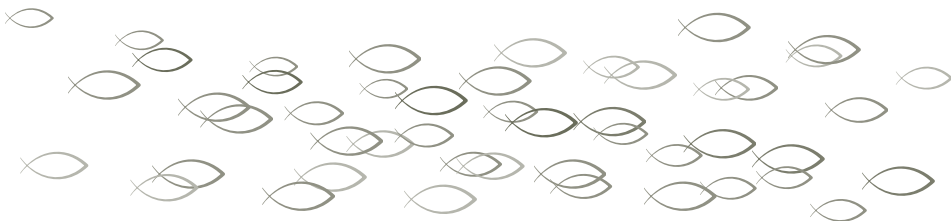
Glory to the Creator,
and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Chapel Choir

God Will Take Care of You

Kris Crunk and Becki Bice

Emily Bennett, director
Doni Mooberry Slough, piano



Children's Celebration

Children attending Sunday School go to their designated line up spot after the **Children's Celebration**. Teachers and guides will be holding signs to help you locate where your child should line up!

*As the Wind Song

1. As the wind song through the trees, as the stir - ring of the
 2. As the rain - bow af - ter rain, as the hope that's born a -

breeze, so it is with the Spir - it of God, _____ as the
 gain, so it is with the Spir - it of God, _____ as the

heart made strange-ly warm, as the voice with - in the storm, so it
 green in the _____ spring, as a kite on a _____ string, so it

is with the Spir - it of God. _____ Nev - er seen, ev - er
 is with the Spir - it of God, _____ mak - ing worlds that are

known where this wind has blown bring - ing life, bring - ing power to the
 new, mak - ing peace come true, bring - ing gifts, bring - ing love to the

world, _____ as the danc - ing tongues of fire, as the
 world, _____ as the ris - ing of the yeast, as the

soul's most deep de - sire. so it is with the Spir - it of God.
 wine at the _____ feast, so it is with the Spir - it of God.

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Scripture Reading

John 3:1-21

Pew Bible NT pg. 93

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

Sermon **For God So Loved the World**

Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman

Call to Offering

Offertory **Lord of the Dance**

John Ferguson

Chancel Choir

“Lord of the Dance” written by English composer Sydney Carter portrays the life of Jesus as a dance that invites all to join in. The lyrics are a narrative of the key events in Jesus’ life, exploring joy, death, resurrection, and the ongoing presence of Christ in our lives. Carter’s intention was to create a hymn that resonates with the idea of Christ as a vibrant, living presence, inviting all to join in the dance of life. The music SIMPLE GIFTS, an American Shaker song adds to the rhythmic and uplifting nature.

Carter wrote “I see Christ as the incarnation of the piper who is calling us. He dances that shape and pattern which is at the heart of our reality.” Inspiration came from Jesus’ life, the English carol “Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day” and a statue of the Hindu god Shiva in a dancing pose.

***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.**

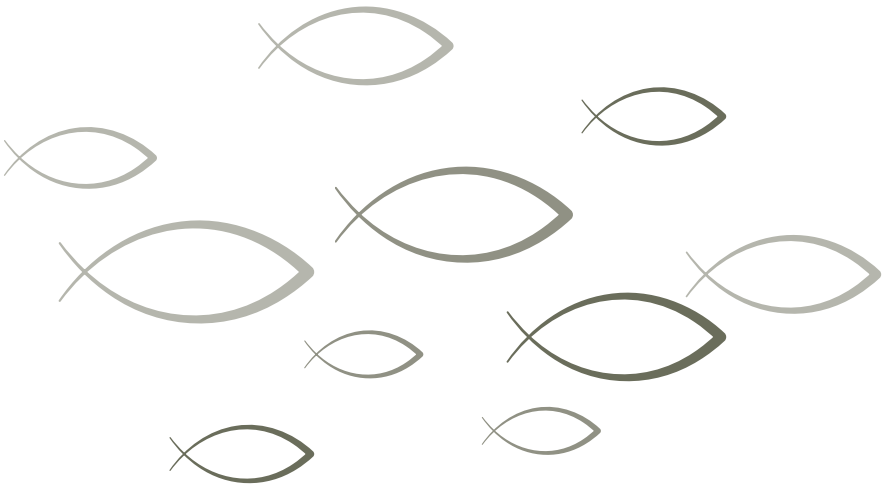
*Prayer of Dedication

*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.**

Come, Lord Je - sus, Come, Lord Je - sus,
Come, Lord Je - sus; come and be born in our hearts.

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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, Come, Lord Jesus...)

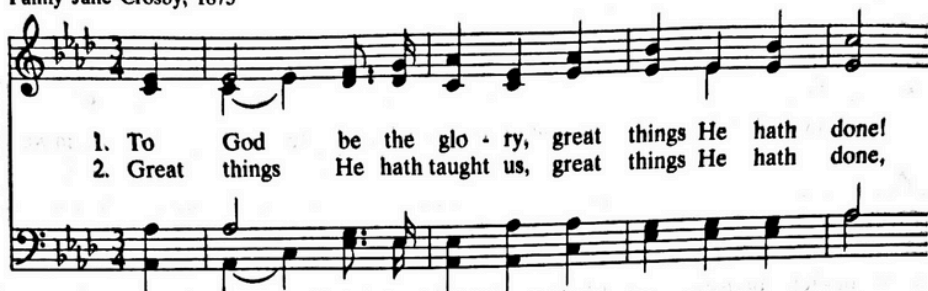
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To God Be the Glory

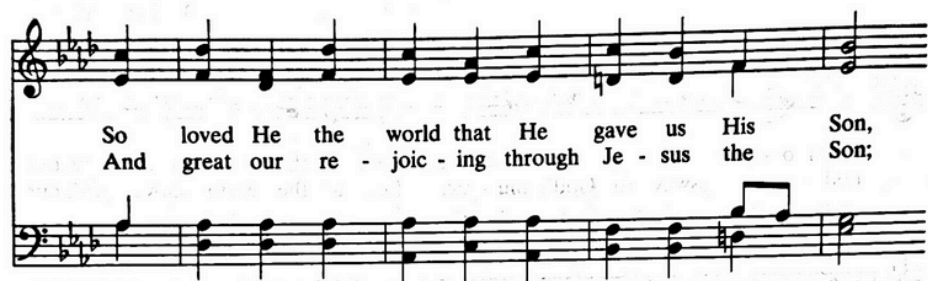
TO GOD BE THE GLORY 11.11.11.11 with refrain

Fanny Jane Crosby, 1875

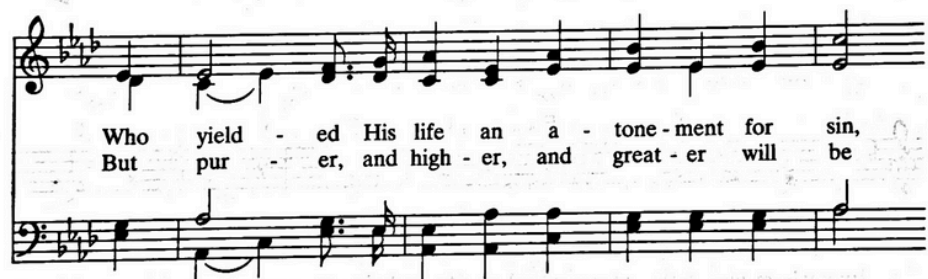
William Howard Doane, 1875



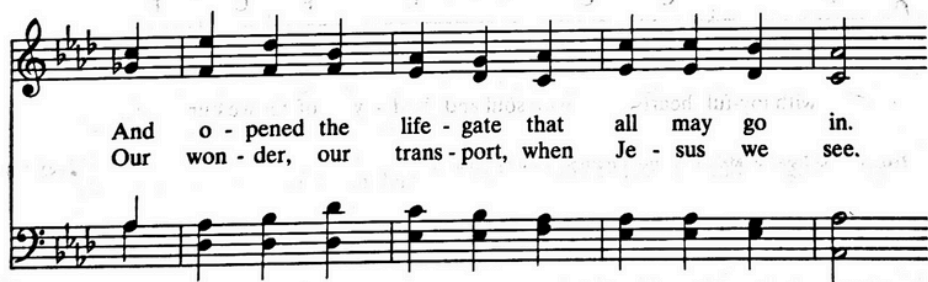
1. To God be the glo - ry, great things He hath done!
2. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,



So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
And great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;



Who yield - ed His life an a - tone - ment for sin,
But pur - er, and high - er, and great - er will be



And o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
Our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

MORNING AND OPENING HYMNS

Refrain



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the peo - ple re - joice!



O come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son,



And give Him the glo - ry: great things He hath done!



*To God Be the Glory

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(Found in your pew hymnal.)

*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

Middle School Handbell Choir

The Church's One Foundation

Dan Edwards

Today's Service Participants

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman
Liturgist: Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean
Lay Reader: Quent Kaufman
Minister of Music & Fine Arts: Kim Manz
Children's Celebration: Colton Pasquale
Acolytes: Lorelei Reuman
Welcome Team Leaders: Chris and Ken Johnson
Sound, Lights, and Radio: Mark Maziar
Cameras and Video: Jeremy Winfrey



coffee hour

IN THE **HERITAGE
ROOM** THIS SUNDAY!

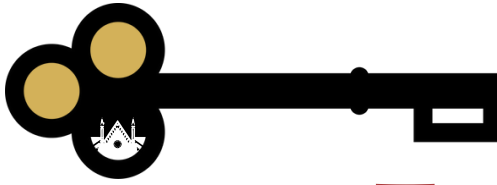
fellowship • coffee • tea • cookies
sundays between services



Welcome

New to Plymouth?

Please, let us know!



Enter In

UPDATE FROM THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

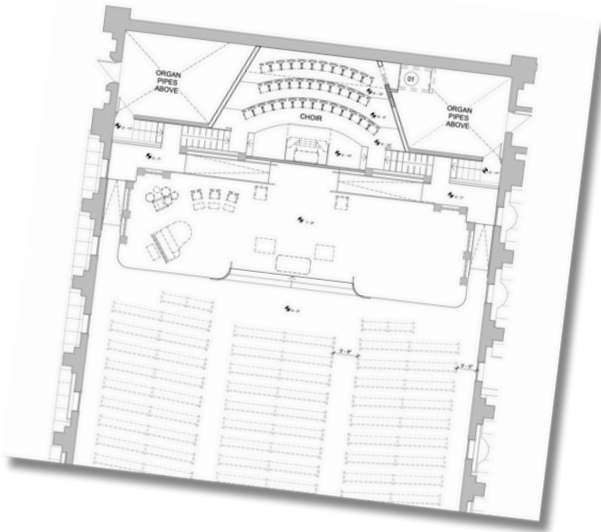
The Project Management Committee is planning a series of information exchange sessions with Plymouth Congregants. Significant progress has been made with the Enter In Project. Note these important dates and plan to attend one or all of them. Families are encouraged to attend.

Interactive Learning Session

TODAY • 10:45 - 11:30am

The Mayflower Room

Interactive Learning Session with Eric Keebler of Wyomissing, Pennsylvania: Eric will join Plymouth Congregants via a Zoom link. He will discuss his preparations to design the renovated west end of the sanctuary through a study of changes made with Plymouth the pipe organ, the choir loft, and organ casework. Eric has completed the new casework design for Enter In with acoustic improvements for Plymouth's new organ.



Soup, Learn, Share

Wednesday, February 11 • 6:30pm

The Mayflower Room

The Project Management Committee will host a soup supper beginning at 6:30pm with several information roundtables available to share current news from the Project Management Committee and to answer your questions and hear your concerns. Some of the roundtables will include: **Designing a Worship Experience with an Enlarged Chancel, Touring the Sanctuary to See/Hear About Proposed Changes, Financing “Enter In,” How it Works with Risks/Rewards, Worshiping in a Renovated Sanctuary – What and How, and Sharing Facts About Enter In.**

The History of Change at Plymouth Church

Sunday, February 15 • 10:45 - 11:30am

The Mayflower Room

The History of Change at Plymouth Church presented by Plymouth Congregant Susan McCarthy from the History Committee. Susan will review the significant changes made with the Plymouth Church structure, giving special attention to sanctuary changes. Time will be allotted for questions and comments.

Save the Date:

Called Congregational Meeting February 22

JUST FOOD CLASSROOM CUPBOARD FOOD DRIVE

The second half of the school year has begun, and Plymouth Church is conducting another food drive during the month of January to provide snacks for schools, ranging from crackers and sunflower seeds to dried fruits and breakfast bars. Throughout the month you may drop food items off in the Just Food Barrel at the North and South entrances to the Church.

A list of the items we are collecting can be found at the Mission table.



**DONATION BARRELS
ARE LOCATED AT THE
NORTH AND SOUTH
ENTRANCES TO THE
CHURCH.**





The Light Still Shines

Plymouth's 2026 Annual Meeting

The 2026 Annual Meeting is **Sunday, February 1**, immediately following a combined worship service at 9:30am.



2025 Annual
Report online

[PDF]





DADS TALK GOD

THE LAST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH
JOHNNY'S WEST • 7:30PM

Join fellow Plymouth Dads to take time out of your busy schedule to reflect and talk about your own faith and spiritual growth. Whether you are deeply rooted in faith, full of doubt, new to Christianity, or a lifelong practitioner, you are welcome and encouraged to bring your experience to the group. A conversation prompt will be given each month – no study or prep work necessary.

This group is for any Plymouth dad with high school aged kids or younger. We hope you can join the conversation!

Prompt for this week's meeting:

"What's one thing you used to believe about God that you're not sure about anymore?"

We know schedules get crazy, so don't worry if you can't arrive right at 7:30. Please mark your calendar for the following dates:

For questions, contact:

Ben Miller-Coleman

benjamin.t.coleman@gmail.com

or Brantley Dean

brantleyqdean@gmail.com



FIRST ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT

NAVIGATING NEW DIRECTIONS

TALL OAKS CONFERENCE CENTER
LINWOOD, KANSAS

MARCH 6-8 2026

The **First Annual Men's Retreat** will be led by **Pastor Keith Herron** as we explore **Navigating New Directions**, learning to travel in our stories, even as they change.

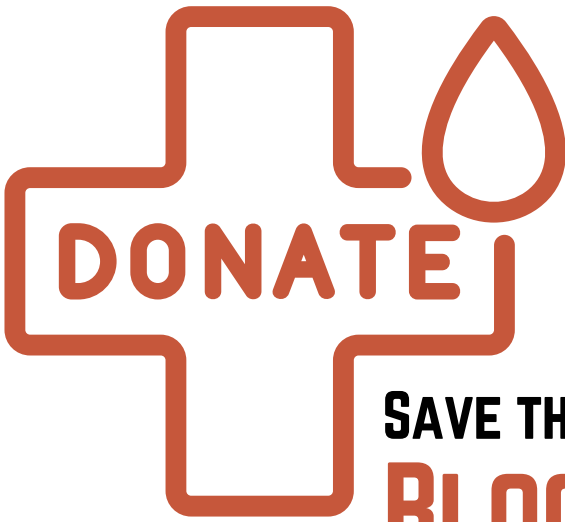
Life can be seen as a cycle of from dependence to independence to interdependence and circling back again.

We'll explore stories we hold in the library of our own lives, and we'll explore how we change the trajectory of our lives by navigating new directions as we consider the threshold moments of formation, integration, and intimacy as part of a meaningful whole.



**MORE DETAILS
& REGISTRATION**





SAVE THE DATE!

BLOOD DRIVE

MARCH 3 • 10AM-3PM

**We need another volunteer
for our Sunday morning
sound and lights team!**



Training is provided for this volunteer position involving running sound and lights for both services approximately once every 4-5 weeks.

Please contact Bob Newton if you're interested by email at **bnewton@sunflower.com** or by phone at 785-331-5787.

TATTOOS ON THE HEART

RETURNING TO OURSELVES

PLYMOUTH WOMEN'S RETREAT

FEBRUARY 27 & 28, 2026

SOPHIA SPIRITUALITY CENTER

ATCHISON, KANSAS

**FULL DETAILS AND
REGISTRATION
ONLINE HERE**



TOGETHER WE WILL EXPLORE PARABLES OF KINSHIP ILLUMINATING GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND EACH PERSON'S INHERENT GOODNESS THROUGH SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES, INDIVIDUAL JOURNALING, PRAYER PRACTICES AND THE ARTS.

FATHER GREGORY BOYLE WRITES BEAUTIFULLY ON THESE THEMES IN HIS BOOKS "TATTOOS ON THE HEART" AND "CHERISHED BELONGING."

THERE IS NO REQUIRED READING FOR THE RETREAT; HOWEVER, READING EITHER/OR (OR EVEN A PART OF ONE!) WOULD BE AN INSPIRING WAY TO DEEPEN YOUR RETREAT EXPERIENCE.

Sunday School and Children's Choir

Rooms for Sunday School

- Preschool
- K-1st Grade
- 2nd-3rd Grade
- 4th-5th Grade

Room 106 S
Room 205 S
Room 210 S
Room 206 S

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

Rooms for Choir

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

Room 205 S
Room 204 S
Chapel

Chapel Choir meets at 10:30am

Worship Bags and Coloring Pages can be found in the Narthex. Children are dismissed to Sunday School after the Children's Celebration (approximately at 9:45am) and go to Children's Choir afterwards from 10:30-11am.

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

Rich Bireta, Moderator (lay leader)

rbireta@gmail.com



**Plymouth
Congregational
Church**

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www.plymouthlawrence.com • 785-843-3220

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



SAFE SPACE