



Enter In

at Plymouth Church

11:30 • Gathering of Grace
April 28 • 2024

...to Courage

Matthew 25:14-30



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please stand in body or spirit when you see an *

Welcome and Announcements

Mission Moment

Enter In Capital Campaign

*Where Could I Go But to the Lord

Living below in this old sinful world
Hardly a comfort can afford
Striving alone to face temptation
So, won't you tell me where could I go but to the Lord

**Where could I go oh where could I go
Seeking the refuge for my soul
Needing a friend to save me in the end
Won't you tell me where could I go but to the Lord**

Life here is grand with friends I love so dear
Comfort I get from God's own word
Yet when I face that chilling hand of death
Won't you tell me where could I go but to the Lord

**Where could I go oh where could I go
Seeking the refuge for my soul
Needing a friend to save me in the end
Won't you tell me where could I go but to the Lord**

*Passing of the Peace

*Prayer of 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

Matthew 25:14-30
The Message translation

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

Word Through Music

Sermon

Enter in... *Now*

Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean

The Rite of Confirmation

Invitation
Baptism
Sharing of Statements of Faith
Questions of the Confirmands Laying on of Hands
Affirmation of Local Membership

*Congregational Response

We welcome you as members of the church universal
and as partners in the ministry of Plymouth Church.
We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share
in the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ.
By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together
in God's wisdom and love, and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Call to Offering

May You Find a Light

Josh Garrels

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.

Angels Walk

Paul Westerberg

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.

***Wait for the Light to Shine**

When the road is rocky and you're carrying the load,
wait for the light to shine.
If you find you're friendless on that weary lonesome road,
wait for the light to shine.

Wait for the light to shine.
Wait for the light to shine.
Pull yourself together and keep looking for the sign.
Wait for the light to shine.

Don't forget all others as you travel through this land,
wait for the light to shine.
They may be in trouble and may need a helping hand,
wait for the light to shine.

Chorus 2 times

***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.**



*The flowers on the chancel are given by Margaret Kramar
in memory of Spenser Thomas Good.*

Today's Service Participants

Preaching: Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean
Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman
Gathering of Grace Band: Pam Gibbs,
Arthur Dodge, Tom Holland, Patrick McCarty
Lay Readers: Milo Scotten and Tim O'Brien
Sound, Light, and Radio: Gretchen Meyer
Cameras and Video: Jeremy Winfrey

April 2024 Confirmands at Plymouth Church



Maddox Lyons

“I have grown in faith here by learning so many new things and starting from the ground up. I know a lot more about the Bible, my faith, Jesus, and God. I want to join Plymouth so that I can continue this quest for knowledge about my faith. I also want to be a part of a supportive and loving community.”



Lucy Miller-Coleman

“Plymouth is community and support, casseroles and cookies, church ladies at their finest and “you did so good!” from so many people I can’t even begin to count. An integral part of my Plymouth journey so far has been the confirmation program. There isn’t a formula or calculation that I can do to figure out how we grow in our faith. But I can say that I have grown immensely in my faith during this program.”



Cooper Salmans

“The prodigal son is one of my favorite Bible Stories because of the lesson it teaches us all about forgiveness and how we should forgive no matter what decisions we make. I want to join Plymouth because I want to get closer to God and closer to this wonderful community. I think that if I had one chance to ask God a question, I would ask, Why did you create all of this, including people who create suffering, wars, diseases, and pain?”



Lily Salmans

“God is the Creator of life and the earth. I believe that God is also the creator of love and faith. Jesus is the person who did all of these amazing things for us. He died for us and served for us, he healed so many people and he did so much more. My wish to join Plymouth church centers around how loved, included and supported I feel in this community.”



Moses Reuman

“I believe that God has no shape, no form, no boundaries and certainly no gender. There is nothing that you, anyone or anything can do to prevent God from creating and loving. If I were to describe God, I would talk about love. Love for everything and everyone, everywhere and in every time.”



Harrison Schmidt

“Jesus was an unselfish and very humble person. He prayed for the people heckling him while he was being crucified. Jesus is love and he was a friend to everyone met. He is my savior. God is my creator. God is the one who made me. God is the father of life. Plymouth is a home where I can go to hang out with friends and a place to find help with troubles in my life. Plymouth is a place where I can grow closer to God.”



Milo Scotten

“This journey helped me grow. I want to join the church to support this community. It will help me to understand my purpose more as I grow and build relationships with the Plymouth community. I don’t want to drift. I hope it will ensure that others feel comfortable encouraging me and sharing their experiences with me.”



Colin Watt

“I believe that Jesus is the one true Son of God. He is all the good that can come from people. He sacrificed himself for all of us. Plymouth is like a second home where I can feel good, spread good, and have a good time worshipping God.”



coffee hour

MAYFLOWER ROOM

fellowship • coffee • tea • cookies
sundays between services

contemplative practices & meditation

MEETING BETWEEN SUNDAY SERVICES
ROOM 205N THIS SUNDAY



Men's Coffee & Conversation

**Fridays • 8am
at HyVee**

**3504 Clinton Parkway
Lawrence, KS 66047**



Enter In

Fellowship Forum Series

Sundays April 14, 21, 28, and May 5
10:40–11:20 in the Heritage Room

For the third week in the Fellowship Series, **Enter In** for the 2024 Capital Campaign, the conversation will center on the courage it takes to fulfill our potential. Focus will be on pages 25 to 28 of the **Enter In** spiral notebook. Matthew 25:14–15 is the key scripture for the session. Reflection questions will include:

- What does life look like when we not only exercise our ability, but have the courage to live up to our potential?
- How does living into our potential help us move forward and grow in our generosity?
- What is the difference between doing good, doing better, and doing the best? How do these three levels reflect our potential?

Rev. Fred Kandeler, the Spiritual Life Director for the 2024 Capital Campaign, will guide this Fellowship Forum conversation.



SAVE THE DATE!
**Plymouth Celebrates
with Lawrence Pride**

Saturday, June 1st
Parade at 11am
Party in South Park at 12pm

Learn more and
volunteer online here!



Does the date January 22, 2015 ring a bell?

You may not have been a member here yet or maybe you were too young... but **that was the day President Barack Obama visited Plymouth Church.** The reason he came to our church was to visit the Head Start classrooms as part of his agenda to promote high quality early education for children. The History Committee of Plymouth wanted to commemorate this historic occasion by having a plaque created and installed outside the Head Start area where he spent some time. This plaque also serves to remind members how important this mission to young children has been to Plymouth.

Between services, please come to South Church to view this new memorial. Members of the History Committee will be there. We'd be happy to answer questions and to show off the plaque!





Justice Matters Action Assembly

Sunday, April 28th • 3-4:30pm
at the Lied Center

Join us to learn about Ending Chronic Homelessness and Supporting the Elder Care Workforce in Douglas County



Visit the **Enter In** website for information on the capital campaign, how you can join the effort, daily prayer, and even **Enter In** background screens for your phone!





*Chancel Choir Spring
Major Choral Work*

The Gift of Life

Six Canticles of Creation

John Rutter

Sunday, May 5

The six movements of this beautiful choral work reflect different facets of the miracles of creation and life. It is a celebration of the living earth and its creation. According to John Rutter, the composer, “it offers a kaleidoscope of moods from contemplative and prayerful to majestic and inspirational.”

The Gift of Life is accompanied by piano, organ, harp, timpani, and percussion.

Please support the choir and the gift of music that they share each Sunday. What a great Sunday to invite guests to experience worship at Plymouth!

Children's Musical

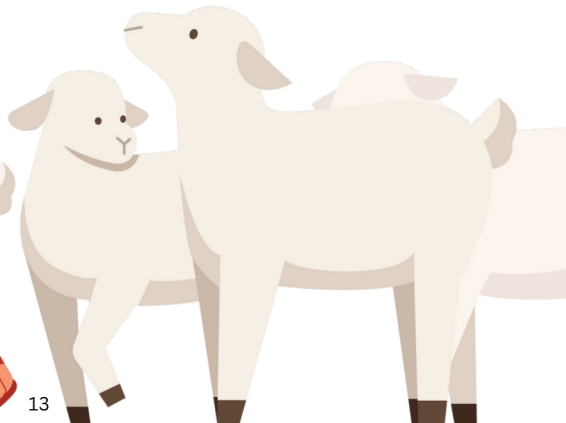
Sunday, May 12

Once Upon a Parable

The Carol and Chapel Children's Choirs are busy rehearsing for their musical "Once Upon a Parable."

Jesus was the consummate storyteller. The parables he told taught, puzzled, amused, and even irritated.

As the children learn the lessons of these stories they understand how relevant they are even today. You'll meet Mary, Martha, some Pharisees, a Prodigal Child, Zaccheus and more.



VBS 2024

KINDOM CRAFTERS

Plymouth Congregational, Trinity Lutheran, and First Baptist are partnering together for Vacation Bible School.

This year's curriculum and theme is Kindom Crafters from Chalice Press. We'll have all the VBS classics: music, bible stories, games, crafts, and snacks.

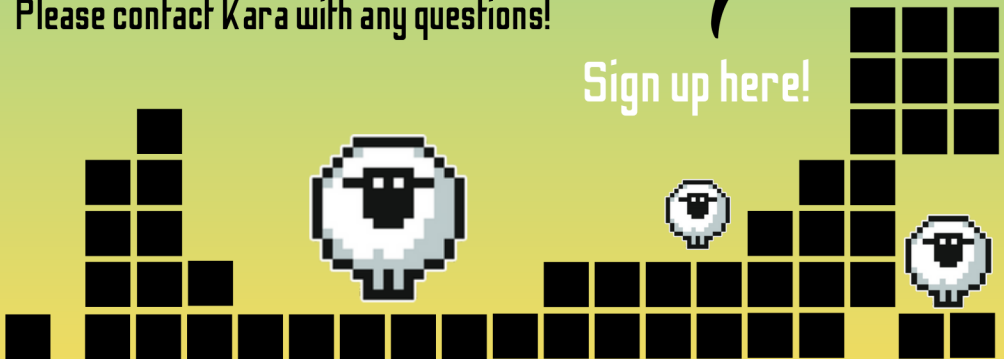
June 10th-13th, 6-7:30pm
First Baptist Church 1330 Kasold Drive Lawrence, KS

Kids ages 4 through finishing 5th grade.

Please contact Kara with any questions!



Sign up here!



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 to Kara Holcombe, Director of Faith Formation at christianed@plymouthlawrence.com.



Plymouth
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH



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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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Rev. Heather Coates, Pastor of Care & Welcome
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Kara Horrix, Director of Faith Formation
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An Open & Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ