

Lent 3
THE
WAY
OF
THE
CROSS

9:30 CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Sunday • March 8 • 2026

Lent 3 THE WAY OF THE CROSS

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please stand in body or spirit when you see an *

Greetings

Plymouth Chimes

Prelude

Covenant Ringers

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Michael Ryan

*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.**

*My Song Is Love Unknown

(Found in your pew hymnal.)

verse 1: all in harmony
verse 2: high voices
verse 3: low voices

verse 4: all in unison
verse 5: all in harmony

My Song Is Love Unknown

76

LOVE UNKNOWN 6.6.6.6.4.4.4

Samuel Crossman, 1664

John Ireland, 1918

1. My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to me, Love
 2. Christ came from heav - en's throne Sal - va - tion to be - stow, But
 3. Some - times they strew His way, And His sweet prais - es sing, Re -
 4. They rise, and needs will have My dear Lord made a - way; A
 5. Here might I stay and sing, No sto - ry so di - vine: Nev -

to the love - less shown That they might love - ly be. O who am
 peo - ple scorned and none The longed-for Christ would know. But O my
 sound - ing all the way Ho - san - nas to their King. Then "Cru - ci -
 mur - der - er they save, The Prince of life they slay. Yet stead - fast
 er was love, dear King, Nev - er was grief like Thine. This is my

I That for my, sake My Lord should take Frail flesh, and die?
 Friend, My Friend in - deed, Who at my need His life did spend!
 fy!" Is all their breath, And for His death They thirst and cry.
 He To suf - fering goes, That He His foes From thence might free.
 Friend, In whose sweet praise I all my days Could glad - ly spend.

*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

(Found in your pew hymnal.)

81

Sacrament of Baptism

Charlie and Jack Stratton

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.**

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

81 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN CM

Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873; alt.

Day's Psalter, 1562

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!

*God, When Human Hearts Are Broken

1 God! When hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill
2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in-to our world of stress,
3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re-lease
4 Send us, God of new be-gin-nings, hum-bly hope-ful in-to life;
5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,

to re-store the hope of heal-ing, give us grace and make us still.
for the sake of Christ for-giv-ing all the fail-ures we con-fess.
from the pain of ear-lier liv-ing; set us free and grant us peace.
use us as a means of bless-ing; make us strong-er, give us faith.
give us love to go on learn-ing: God! En-cour-age and re-new!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line, with line numbers 1 through 5 corresponding to the first system and the continuation of the lyrics in the second system.

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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!**

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman

Don't I Know You?

Call to Offering

Offertory

Wondrous Love

Eric Nelson

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 simple harmonic accompaniment with some melodic lines in the treble clef.

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/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.**

(Sing again, Stay with me...)

*Before Your Cross, O Jesus

1. Be - fore your cross, O Je - sus, our lives are judged to - day;
2. The hopes that lead us on - ward, the fears that hold us back,
3. Yet hum - bly, in our striv - ing, we rise to face its test.

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The treble staff contains the vocal melody, and the bass staff contains the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

the mean - ing of our ea - ger strife is test - ed by your way.
our will to dare great things for God, the cour - age that we lack,
We crave the power to do your will as once you did it best.

The second system continues the musical notation and lyrics from the first system. The treble staff shows the vocal line with some rests, and the bass staff provides harmonic support.

A - cross our rest - less liv - ing the light streams from your cross,
The faith we keep in good - ness, our love, as low or pure,
On us let now the heal - ing of your great Spir - it fall,

The third system continues the musical notation and lyrics. The treble staff features a melodic line with some ties, and the bass staff continues the accompaniment.

and by its clear, re - veal - ing beams we mea - sure gain and loss.
on all, the judg - ment of the cross falls stead - y, clear, and sure.
and make us brave and full of joy to an - swer to your call.

The fourth system concludes the musical notation and lyrics. The treble staff ends with a double bar line, and the bass staff also concludes with a double bar line.

*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

Katherine Lenz, violin
Judy Kettle, piano

Wondrous Love

Lee Burswold

Today's Service Participants

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman
Liturgist: Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean
Minister of Music & Fine Arts: Kim Manz
Lay Reader: Robin Wood
Acolyte: Bennett Lyon
Welcome Team Leader: Ruth DeWitt
Sound, Lights, and Radio: Mark Gleeson
Cameras and Video: Gretchen Meyer



Welcome

New to Plymouth?

Please, let us know!



Available online here!

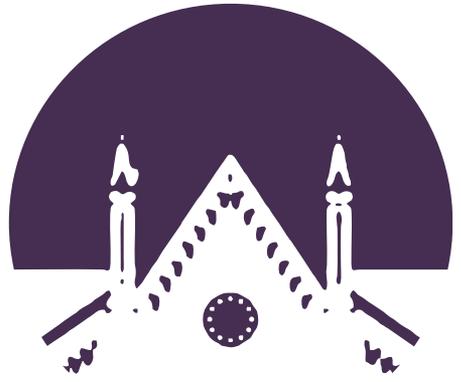


Outgrow

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

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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.



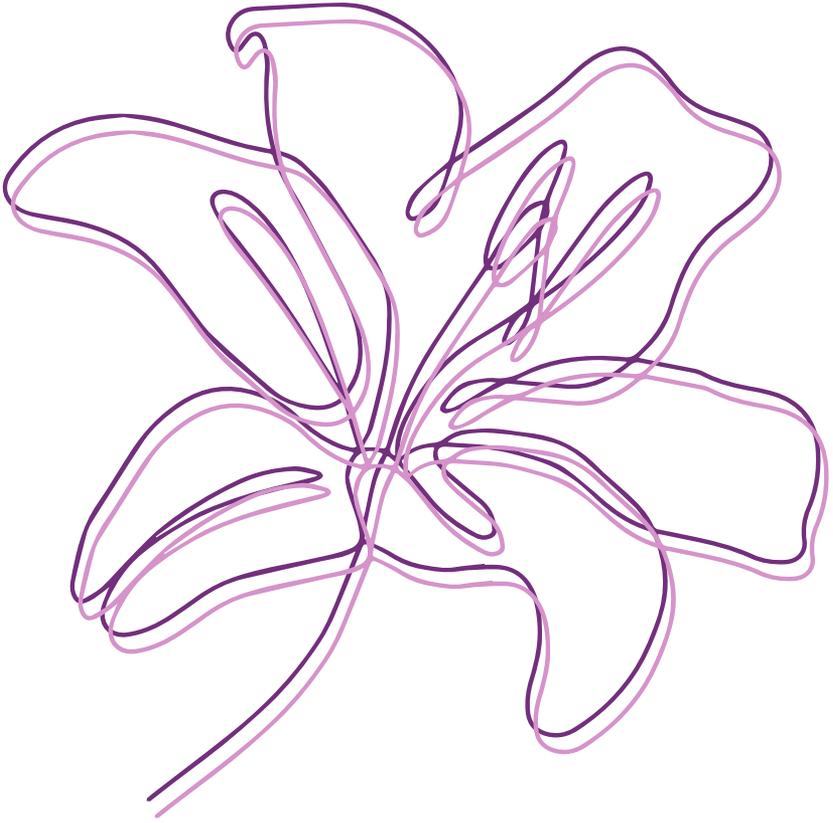
FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING

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!



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!

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
Chapel
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

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