

Plymouth Area Community Thanksgiving Service

November 24, 2020

7:00 p.m.

At Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Reflection

"The measure of the land and the measure of our bodies are the same. Say to us if you can say it, that you were sent by the Creative Power to talk to us." -Chief Joseph

Prelude

Selected Pieces for Piano

We invite you to reflection and contemplation.

Welcoming the Community

Musical Offering

Gathering God's People for Worship

*Call to Worship

One: Worship Adonai in gladness; come before God with joy. Enter God's gates with Thanksgiving; with gratitude sing out God's praise.

All: Adonai, Creator of the heavens and the earth, provides food for the hungry and brings justice to the oppressed.

One: Praise the Creator who works great wonders, Who enables us from birth, Who treats us with compassion.

All: God covers the sky with clouds, bringing rain, bringing forth bread from the earth to sustain us, providing wind to gladden the human heart. How shall we thank God for our blessings?

One: Let us share our bread with the hungry; let us not turn away from the needy.

All: Clothe the naked and shelter the homeless, help those who have no help.

One: Let us not take our blessings for granted. Let us share them with others, with thanks.

All: Sing a new song to Adonai. Where the faithful gather, let God be praised.

***Gathering Hymn**

“We Gather Together”

Adrian Valerius's *Nederlandsche Gednckclanck*, 1626
Lyrics by Dorothy Caiger Senghas and Rev. Robert Sengas

**We gather together in joyful thanksgiving,
acclaiming creation, whose bounty we share;
both sorrow and gladness we find now in our living,
we sing a hymn of praise to the life that we bear.**

**We gather together to join in the journey,
confirming, committing our passage to be
a true affirmation, in joy and tribulation,
when bound to human care and hope — then we are free.**

***Gathering Prayer**

Unison

Great Spirit of Truth: We come this evening hoping to center around humility, lamentation, and gratitude. We look for comfort and we pray for hope. Immanent Mystery, let us know that all is temporary and that this too shall pass. Let us care for one another during this hour, give us strength, we pray. Amen.

Reading One

Psalm 126 from the Hebrew Bible

Reading Two

Braiding Sweetgrass

Robin Wall Kimmerer

Reading Three

Shared Message

Prayers of the People

written by Deacon Maryan

Invitation to the Offering

This evening's offering will go to support the work of the Plymouth Area Community Closet.

Offertory

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Unison

Spirit of Life, we thank you for the out-pouring of your life-giving hope, into the world and into each one of us, guiding us, uniting us and enriching all humankind. As we bring forward this offering, we ask that our giving and our daily living may bring forth the fruits of justice and peace for all. Amen.

***Hymn**

“God of the Sparrow God of the Whale”

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

Verse 1

**God of the sparrow
God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise**

Verse 2

**God of the earthquake
God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save**

Verse 5

**God of the neighbor
God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace**

Verse 6

**God of the ages
God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home**

***Closing Words**

Unison

Postlude

Selected Pieces for Piano

The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us
into the world where our true service begins.

Participants

The Rev. Linda Barnes, Minister, Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor and Teacher, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Ashley Paine, Organist, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

The Rev. Kelly Sundberg Seaman, Vicar, Emmanuel Episcopal Church (Ashland/Holderness/Plymouth)

Eileen Torrey, Worship Coordinator, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

David Williams, Director of Music, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ