



Worship Service for September 10, 2023

Prelude	Marshall Davies
Chiming of the Hour	Marcy Schmich
Welcome	Pastor Felix Carrión
Centering Moment	Pastor Felix Carrión
*Praise & Worship Songs	Congregation

“How Then Shall We Live”

In times like these, all hope seems lost as we wander
through the wilderness;
In this disease, we're turned and tossed as our neighbors
find new ways to oppress.
As we withstand the storm, will we be transformed so that
one day truth may be restored?
Out of isolation, be the invitation into one love, one mind, of
one accord.

We are starting again, though we bear the weight of all
through which we've been;
As we journey down this road, we are called to carry on and
share the load.

How then shall we gather? How then shall we lament?

How then shall we hope? How then shall we live?

We've drifted apart through time and space; how will we overcome the distance?

When fear rules hearts and hate is embraced, what chance do we have for coexistence?

What can we let go as we learn to grow as disciples for justice in Christ's way?

Seeking liberation in co-creation, we will breathe new life into each day.

We are starting again, though we bear the weight of all through which we've been;

As we journey down this road, we are called to carry on and share the load.

How then shall we gather? How then shall we lament?

How then shall we hope? How then shall we live?

Announcements

Marcy Schmich

Call to Worship

Marcy Schmich

LEADER: In the brightest of day, in the deepest of night,
on the mountain, in the valley, in every place we find
ourselves God touches us, and we are transformed.

ALL: In this time, together, we invite God to open our eyes to the transformation of our lives and our congregation.

LEADER: And through the change –we praise a God who is the author of transformation.

ALL: This is the Holy One who brings us into new life. Therefore, we do not lose heart and take courage in what is being revealed and unfolding.

***Praise & Worship Song**

Congregation

TNCH #391, “In the Midst of New Dimensions” vs. 1, 3, 5

In the midst of new dimensions,
in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples
wandering in their separate ways?

God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey
now and ever, now and ever,
now and evermore.

As we stand a world divided
by our own self-seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village,

might envision wider dreams.

God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey
now and ever, now and ever,
now and evermore.

Should the threats of dire predictions
cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit
recreate the church again.

God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey
now and ever, now and ever,
now and evermore.

Gathering Prayer

Marcy Schmich

**ALL: O Holy One, as we stand in awe of your
grace and mercy, we invite you to be present
amongst us. Thank you that you have made
the transformative way of love known to us in
Jesus. We pray that you would reveal the truth
of your path to us so that we may walk it.**

May your love empower us for mission in our community and beyond. May we pour forth praise and thanksgiving as an expression of our worship and witness. We pray in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

Biblical Witness

Pastor Felix

2 Corinthians 4:1 & 2, 7 & 15

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Contemporary Witness

Marcy Schmich

“Dawnings”

Song of the Simple Truth: the Complete Poems of Julia de Burgos

Dawnings in my soul!
Dawnings in my mind!
When the intimate door is opened
To enter one's self,
What dawnings!

To gather the hour that passes trembling at our side,
it make it now,
and make it robust,
and make it universal.

Dawnings in my soul!
Dawnings in my mind!

There inside,
deep inside,
to approach life.

To see...
To listen...
To smell...
To taste...
And touch...
Earth.

Reflection

“Transformation”

Special Music

“Open My Eyes, Spirit Divine”

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for Thee, ready my God, Thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit Divine.

Open my ears, that I may hear, that I may hear,
voices of truth Thou sendest clear, Thou sendest clear;
and while the scriptures fall on my ear, on my ear,
everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for Thee, ready my God, Thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit Divine.

Open my mouth, and let me bear,
Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere,
gladly to warmth truth everywhere;
Open my heart, and let me prepare,
open my heart, prepare love
love with Thy children thus to share,
love with Thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for Thee, ready my God, Thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit Divine.
Silently I wait for Thee, Silently I wait for Thee
Spirit Divine.

Pastoral Prayer with Joys & Concerns

Pastor Felix Carrión

Invitation to Offering

Marcy Schmich

Covenant House Texas

Offertory Music

Marshall Davies

* Doxology

Congregation

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God for all that Love has done

Creator, Christ, and Spirit one Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Marcy Schmich

ALL: God, we have been made in your image. So, in your generosity, make us generous. In your faithfulness, make us faithful. So that whatever gift we bring to you might be an offer of worship before you, sanctified for the blessing of one and all. Amen.

*Praise & Worship Song

The Faith We Sing #2130 "The Summons"
vs. 1, 4 & 5

Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown,

will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around?

Through my sight & touch & sound
in you and you in me.

God, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.

In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Benediction

Pastor Felix Carrión

***Song of Parting**

Congregation

Sing! #205 "Dance into Joy" vs. 4

So dance into joy with hands upraised.
Greet each new day as the holiest of days,
and to your God sing great songs of praise.
To your God sing praise!

Weave now each one this web of light
surrounding our world both day and night
with healing love and inner peace.
Joining together, joy will increase.

So dance into joy with hands upraised.
Greet each new day as the holiest of days,
and to your God sing great songs of praise.
To your God sing praise!

Postlude

Marshall Davies

Today's Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Marcy Schmich

Sound: Mark Vines

Video: Sarah Bowman

Projector: Cathy Normand

Pastor Felix Carrión

Designated Pastor

Plymouth United Church (UCC)

5927 Louetta Road, Spring, Texas 77379

pastor@plymouthunited.org

Moderator: Aimee Broadhurst

281-414-5487

moderator@plymouthunited.org

Interim Office Manager: Amie Friday

281-251-8147

officemanager@plymouthunited.org

Music Director: Dr. Marshall Davies

musicdirector@plymouthunited.org