



Worship Service for March 19, 2023

Prelude	Marshall Davies
Chiming of the Hour	Paula McKnight
Praise & Worship Celebration	Congregation

Sing! #123 "Draw the Circle Wide"

Draw the circle wide.

Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song,

No one stands alone,

Standing side by side,

Draw the circle wide.

God the still-point of the circle,

'Round whom all creation turns;

Nothing lost, but held forever

In God's gracious arms.

Draw the circle wide.

Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song,
No one stands alone,
Standing side by side,
Draw the circle wide.

Let our hearts touch far horizons,
So encompass great and small;
Let our loving know no borders,
Faithful to God's call.

Draw the circle wide.

Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song,
No one stands alone,
Standing side by side,
Draw the circle wide.

Let the dreams we dream be larger,
Than we've ever dreamed before;
Let the dream of Christ be in us,
Open every door.

Draw the circle wide.

Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song,

No one stands alone,

Standing side by side,

Draw the circle wide.

Welcome & Announcements

Paula McKnight

Centering Moment

Kyle Riley

Call to Worship

Paula McKnight

LEADER: We rejoice in the Divine as we make our way
through this Lenten Journey.

**ALL: In the wilderness our hunger is filled by Holy
Hope.**

LEADER: In the desert our thirst is quenched from the
stream of God's Presence.

**ALL: On the road to Jerusalem our weariness is
transformed into strength by Grace.**

LEADER: We each walk our own journey as led by the Spirit.

**ALL: We all walk together as the Body of Christ in
the world.**

***Hymn**

Congregation

Sing! #33 "There's a Spirit of Love in This Place"

There's a spirit of love in this place,

There's a spirit of love in this place.

You can't see it, but it's there,

Just as precious as the air.

There's a spirit of love in this place.

O alleluia, sing alleluia!

We bless your holy name.

O alleluia, sing alleluia!

There's a spirit of love in this place.

There's the presence of peace in this room,

There's the presence of peace in this room.

In God's tenderness is found

Peace that passes human bounds.

There's the presence of peace in this room.

O alleluia, sing alleluia!

We bless your holy name.

O alleluia, sing alleluia!

There's a spirit of love in this place.

Biblical Witness

Paula McKnight

Psalm 23 - adapted from the NRSV

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

They make me lie down in green pastures;

They lead me beside waters of rest;

they restore my life.

They lead me in paths of righteousness

for their name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff-

they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

Contemporary Witness

Kyle Riley

A Blessing for When You Suffer Alone

(adapted for a communal setting from *The Lives We Actually Have*, pg 98)

I see you there, suffering alone,
with the illness or pain that lingers
though friends do not,
—or cannot.

You, in isolation,
locked in, or locked out.

You, the caregivers
struggling in the certainty

that there is not enough
strength, time or resources.

You who counsel others in their trauma,
but suffer deeply from your own.

You who are grieving losses,
too many to name,
too complex or unbecoming to speak aloud.

Blessed are you, dear one.
Searching for someone to understand,
see your wounds and your hope for healing.
You are seen, as you walk that hard
and lonely road.

Blessed are you because your loneliness
speaks a deep truth:
you were never meant to do this alone.

God, comfort us, guide us,
that our hope for more—

a prayer which will be answered—
might be protected too.

Sermon

“Lonely in a Crowd”

Kyle Riley

Special Music

Plymouth Choir

"Be Still and Know"

Be still and know that God is grace;

Be still and know that God is grace.

God will comfort you, keep and strengthen you;

Be still and know that God is grace.

Be still and know that God is peace;

Be still and know that God is peace.

God will comfort you, keep and strengthen you;

Be still and know that God is peace.

In your time of tribulation, God will be your strength;

In your moments of loneliness, God will bring you peace,

God will bring you peace.

Be still and know that God is love;

Be still and know that God is love.

God will comfort you, keep and strengthen you;

Be still and know that God is love.

Be still, be still.

Pastoral Prayer

Kyle Riley

Invitation to Offering

Paula McKnight

Plymouth's General Fund &

“Global H.O.P.E - Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal”

- Loose Offering

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

Paula McKnight

LEADER: God of the journey, we give these offerings in
gratitude,

ALL: rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.

LEADER: We give these offerings in faith,

ALL: trusting that you will provide for our needs.

LEADER: We give these offerings in hope,

**ALL: knowing you can use them to spread your love
in this world.**

LEADER: And with these offerings, we give ourselves;

**ALL: may we live with generous hearts, with open
hands. Amen.**

***Hymn**

Congregation

TNCH #30 "Colorful Creator" VS 1-4

Colorful Creator, God of mystery,

Thank you for the artist teaching us to see

Glimpses of the meaning of the common place,

Visions of the holy in each human face.

Harmony of ages, God of listening ear,

Thank you for composers tuning us to hear

Echoes of the Gospel in the songs we sing,

Sounds of love and longing from the deepest spring.

Author of our journey, God of near and far,
Praise for tale and drama telling who we are,
Stripping to the essence struggles of our day,
Times of change and conflict when we choose our way.

God of truth and beauty, Poet of the Word,
May we be creators by the Spirit stirred,
Open to your presence in our joy and strife,
Vessels of the holy coursing through our life.

Benediction

Kyle Riley

Song Of Parting

Marshall Davies

Sing! #201 “Deep Peace” VS 1

Peace, peace, deep peace,

My peace I give to you.

Peace, peace, deep peace,

My peace I give to you.

Not as the world gives,

I give to you,

Not as the world gives,

I give to you.

Peace, peace, deep peace,

My peace I give to you.

Postlude

Marshall Davies

Today's Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Paula McKnight

Sound: Tony Trosclair

Video: Sarah Bowman

Projector: Cathay Normand

Plymouth United Church (UCC)

5927 Louetta Road, Spring, Texas 77379

Moderator: Aimee Broadhurst

281-414-5487

moderator@plymouthunited.org

Office Manager: Kyle Riley

281-251-8147

officemanager@plymouthunited.org

Music Director: Dr. Marshall Davies

musicdirector@plymouthunited.org