



Worship Service for February 5, 2023

Prelude

Marshall Davies

Chiming of the Hour

Mary Davis

Special Music

Plymouth Choir

"Dem Bones"

Dem bones, dem bones, dem --dry bones,
 Dem bones, dem bones, dem --dry bones,
 Dem bones, dem bones, dem --dry bones,
 Now hear the word of the Lord!

Dem bones, dem bones, dem --dry bones,
 Dem bones, dem bones, dem --dry bones,
 Dem bones, dem bones, dem --dry bones,
 Now hear the word of the Lord!

The toe bone's connected to the --foot bone,
 The foot bone's connected to the --heel bone,
 The heel bone's connected to the --an-kle bone,
 The an-kle bone's connected to the --leg bone,

The leg bone's connected to the --knee bone,
 Kneebone, Kneebone, Kneebone,
 Kneebone, Kneebone, Kneebone!

Welcome

Pastor Mak

Centering Moment

Pastor Mak

Call to Worship

Mary Davis

LEADER: Those who are thirsty, come to the fount that will not dry up.

ALL: We bring our thirst here to be quenched.

LEADER: Those who are weary, Spirit is a ready refuge.

ALL: We bring our weariness that we might find rest.

LEADER: Those who feel lost, come to the One who knows the way.

ALL: Lead us by the hand, by our hearts, and by hope.

*Hymn

Congregation

Sing ! # 7 "Welcome To This House"

Welcome to this house,
Open and affirming.
In God's Son we are all one.
Hand in hand we stand.
Welcome to this house,
Caring and accepting.
In God's Son we are all one.
Welcome to this house of God.

Welcome to this house,

There is room for everyone.
All will sing, praises we bring
Let us all be one.
Welcome to this house,
Where God gives the call to serve.
All will sing, praises we bring.
Welcome to this house of God.

Welcome to this house,
Blessed by Word and Harmony.
Child of God, born from above.
Know that Christ is love.
Welcome to this house,
Filled with peace and charity.
Child of God, born from above.
Welcome to this house of God.

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Mak

Sung Lord's Prayer

Congregation

Our Father, our Mother, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth, as in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours. Now and forever.

Invitation to Offering

Mary Davis

Plymouth's General Fund &

"Souper Bowl of Caring - NAM Food Pantry" - 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

Mary Davis

LEADER: Hear us, O God.

ALL: We seek to do justice,

LEADER: to love kindness,

ALL: and to walk humbly with each other.

LEADER: Multiply what is before you like the loaves and the fishes.

ALL: So needs can be met and joy fulfilled. Amen.

Biblical Witness

Mary Davis

The Gospel Of Mark 12:28 - 34

One of the scribes came near and heard the Sadducees and Jesus disputing with one another. Seeing that Jesus

answered them well, he asked Jesus, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that God is one, and besides God there is no other"; and 'to love God with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' — this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Contemporary Witness

Pastor Mak

The Dance by Oriah Mountain Dreamer

I have sent you my invitation, the note inscribed on the palm of my hand by the fire of living. Don't jump up and shout, "Yes, this is what I want! Let's do it!" Just stand up quietly and dance with me.

Show me how you follow your deepest desires, spiraling down into the ache within the ache, and I will show you how I reach inward and open outward to feel the kiss of the Mystery, sweet lips on my own, every day.

Don't tell me you want to hold the whole world in your heart. Show me how you turn away from making another wrong without abandoning yourself when you are hurt and afraid of being unloved.

Tell me a story of who you are, and see who I am in the stories I am living. And together we will remember that each of us always has a choice.

Don't tell me how wonderful things will be . . . some day. Show me you can risk being completely at peace, truly okay with the way things are right now in this moment, and again in the next and the next and the next. . .

I have heard enough warrior stories of heroic daring. Tell me how you crumble when you hit the wall, the place you cannot go beyond by the strength of your own will. What carries you to the other side of that wall, to the fragile beauty of your own humanness?

And after we have shown each other how we have set and kept the clear, healthy boundaries that help us live side by side with each other, let us risk remembering that we never stop silently loving those we once loved out loud.

Take me to the places on the earth that teach you how to dance, the places where you can risk letting the world break

your heart. And I will take you to the places where the earth beneath my feet and the stars overhead make my heart whole again and again.

Show me how you take care of business without letting business determine who you are. When the children are fed but still the voices within and around us shout that soul's desires have too high a price, let us remind each other that it is never about the money.

Show me how you offer to your people and the world the stories and the songs you want our children's children to remember. And I will show you how I struggle not to change the world, but to love it.

Sit beside me in long moments of shared solitude, knowing both our absolute aloneness and our undeniable belonging. Dance with me in the silence and in the sound of small daily words, holding neither against me at the end of the day.

And when the sound of all the declarations of our sincerest intentions has died away on the wind, dance with me in the infinite pause before the next great inhale of the breath that is breathing us all into being, not filling the emptiness from the outside or from within.

Don't say, "Yes!" Just take my hand and dance with me.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor Mak

***Hymn**

Congregation

Sing! #187 "Lord Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary"

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You.

God, empower me to be a witness for you,
Acting boldly, in your name;
Seeking justice, where there is hurting
Offering hope where there is pain.

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You.

Liturgy of Release and Farewell

Aimee

Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and

new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings.

In October of 2016, Rev. Mak Kneebone began his ministry here at Plymouth United Church to serve us as our pastor.

Pastor Mak

It has been an honor and a joy to serve you these past 6 years. Thank you for the love, kindness, and support you've shown me. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I've made. I'm grateful for the ways you've opened yourselves up to me, allowing me to flourish in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

All

We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us as we move forward.

Pastor Mak

I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God. I know that God's Spirit is strong here as is the spirit of Holy Fellowship.

Your influence on my faith and faithfulness will not leave me as we move forward.

Words Of Release

Aimee

Do you, members and friends of Plymouth United Church, release Rev. Mak Kneebone from the duties of being our pastor, after the Celebration of Life service for Jim Bolin tomorrow morning? If so please say, "We do, with the help of God."

All

We do, with the help of God.

Aimee

Do you offer your encouragement for Pastor Mak's pastoral ministry in Michigan? If so please say, "We do, with the help of God."

All

We do, with the help of God.

Aimee

Do you, Rev. Mak Kneebone, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you, after the Celebration of Life service for Jim Bolin tomorrow morning?

Pastor Mak

I do, with the help of God.

Aimee

Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and on the relationship with another who will come to serve?

Pastor Mak

I do, with the help of God.

Aimee

On behalf of Plymouth United Church, I witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and release. Today we celebrate the moving of God's Spirit in our midst. First in the joining of our lives through this community of faith. Now through the move of the Holy Spirit as we each go into a new lands filled with hope and promise.

Let us pray. Please rise as you are able in body or in heart.

All

Holy Love, we give thanks for remembered times when we, together, have shared our life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared in worship, in learning, and in service. Help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together saw our

**laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments.
Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but
move in new directions.**

Aimee

You are released now, surrounded by our love and led by God's Presence, the teachings of Jesus, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Mak

I accept your release and am grateful for the love we share.

Benediction

Pastor Mak

Special Music

Plymouth Choir

"I Carry You In My Heart"

I carry you in my heart; I carry you in my heart.

For your light and love made my soul to sing
like the quiet winter warms to spring.

And I carry your heart with mine; I carry your
heart with mine.

I thank my God for every thought of you.

I carry you in my heart; I carry you in my heart.

You are part of God's perfect mystery, for the
way you live helps me to see.

And I carry your heart with mine; I carry your heart with mine.

I thank my God for every thought of you.

And this is the root of the root, and this is the bud of the bud, and the sky of the sky; of a tree called life, which grows and grows. Because of you my heart can love still more.

I carry you in my heart; I carry you in my heart. For your light and love made my soul to sing like the quiet winter warms to spring.

And I carry your heart with mine; I carry your heart with mine.

I thank my God for every thought of you.

And because of you my heart can love still more.

Today's Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Mary Davis

Sound: Sarah Bowman

Video: Lynette Lange

Projector: Mary Lowell

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