



## **Worship Service for November 20, 2022**

### **Blessing Of The Animals**

**Prelude** Marshall Davies

**Chiming of the Hour** Judy Walden

**Praise & Worship Celebration** Congregation

Sing! # 20 "Waiting for You" (sing same verse 3X)

We are waiting for you,  
Knowing that you always abide,  
We are waking to your presence  
And our hearts are open wide,  
Open wide, open wide.

**Welcome** Pastor Mak

**Centering Moment** Pastor Mak

**Call to Worship** Judy Walden

LEADER: Living and Loving God, help us find your essence today.

**ALL: We seek you with what we see, with what we hear, and with what we feel.**

LEADER: Find us where we are, O God.

**ALL: Open our hearts to what is beautiful and hopeful.**

LEADER: Today we choose to embrace all the good that is around us.

**ALL: With gratitude our souls are nourished and flourish.**

**\*Hymn**

Congregation

TNCH # 32 "God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale"

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

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

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

**1st Biblical Witness**

Pastor Mak

Exodus 23:1 - 12

You shall not spread a false report. You shall not join hands with the wicked to act as a malicious witness. You shall not follow a majority in wrongdoing; when you bear witness in a lawsuit, you shall not side with the majority so as to pervert justice; nor shall you be partial to the poor in a lawsuit.

When you come upon your enemy's ox or donkey going astray, you shall bring it back. When you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden and you would hold back from setting it free, you must help to set it free. You shall not pervert the justice due to your poor in their lawsuits. Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent and those in the right, for I will not acquit the guilty. You shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the officials, and subverts the cause of those who are in the right.

You shall not oppress a resident alien; you know the heart of an alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. For six years you shall sow your land and gather in its yield; but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, so that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave the wild animals may eat. You shall do the same with your vineyard, and with your olive orchard. Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest, so that your ox and your donkey may have relief, and your homeborn slave and the resident alien may be refreshed.

**2nd Biblical Witness**

Judy Walden

Numbers 22:22 - 34a

God's anger was kindled because Balaam was going where he was told not to go, and the angel of the Lord took their stand in the road as his adversary. Now he was riding on the donkey, and his two servants were with him. The donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road, with a drawn sword in their hand; so the donkey turned off the road, and went into the field; and Balaam struck the donkey, to turn it back onto the road. Then the angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on either side. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it scraped against the wall, and scraped Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck it again. Then the angel of the Lord went ahead, and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it lay down under Balaam; and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff. Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and it said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a fool of me! I wish I had a sword in my hand! I would kill you right now!" But the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey, which you have ridden all your life to this day? Have I been in the habit of treating you this way?" And he said, "No."

Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road, with their drawn sword in their hand; and he bowed down, falling on his face.

The angel of the Lord said to him, “Why have you struck your donkey these three times? I have come out as an adversary, because your way is perverse before me. The donkey saw me, and turned away from me these three times. If it had not turned away from me, surely just now I would have killed you and let it live.” Then Balaam said to the angel of the Lord , “I have sinned.”

**Reflection**      “Contemplating Creatures”      Pastor Mak

**Special Music**      Plymouth Choir

“Be Thou My Vision”

Be thou my vision O God of my heart;  
 Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
 Thou my best thought, (4x)  
 Thou my best thought, by day or by night  
 Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Thy presence my light. You shine in the night.

Riches I heed not, nor one’s empty praise  
 Thou mine inheritance, now and always  
 Thou and Thou only the first in my heart  
 Thou and Thou only, my treasure Thou art  
 Thou and Thou only the first in my heart  
 Blessed Redeemer, my treasure Thou art

High Love of heaven, my victory won,

May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, still be my light  
And you will still be my vision, shine in the night  
Be Thou my vision, O Comfort of all  
Be though my Light when I walk through the night.

**Blessing Of The Animals**

Pastor Mak

**Pastoral Prayer**

Pastor Mak

**Unison Prayer**

Pastor Mak & Congregation

**Divine Beloved, You are everywhere and in each of us. Your many names are sacred and we honor them. We call forth your beloved community to share here on earth the way we imagine it is in heaven. Provide for all of creation our basic needs. Reconcile us to yourself.**

**Give us the courage and humility to be reconciled with each other. Strengthen us to withstand the pressures of selfish living. Guard us from evils that might overtake us, so that we can build your community in your Love and in your radiance which is everlasting. Amen.**

**Invitation to Offering**

Judy Walden

Plymouth's General Fund &  
"Ani-Meals on Wheels" - 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**

Judy Walden

LEADER: These gifts are a small measure of our abundance of care.

**ALL: With thankful hearts we give what we have.**

LEADER: Loving God, take these gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

**ALL: Help us use them to create community and deepen our faith.**

LEADER: To widen our table and increase our generosity.

**ALL: Acting in Holy Love in all we do and say. Amen**

## **\*Hymn**

Congregation

Sing! # 193 "Peace"

Peace be to you in all you do.  
Peace be the way in all you say.  
Peace be the light that shines so bright  
From your heart on the world this day.

Peace, peace, peace, peace.  
Peace be to you in all you do.  
Peace, peace, peace, peace.  
Peace be to you in all you do.

Peace be the song that we will sing.  
Peace be the joy, our spirits ring.  
Peace be the love that sets us free  
Peace for all, peace for you and me.

Peace, peace, peace, peace,  
Peace live in you in all you do.  
Peace, peace, peace, peace,  
Peace live in you in all you do.

**Benediction**

Pastor Mak

**Song Of Parting**

Marshall Davies

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.

**Postlude**

Marshall Davies

### **Today's Worship Participants**

Greeters: Barbara Williams

Worship Leader: Judy Walden

Sound: Tony Trosclair

Video: Sarah Bowman

Projector: Amie and Shelby-Mak Friday

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