



Worship Service for January 18, 2026

Prelude	Marshall Davies
Chiming of the Hour	Pam Laham
Welcome	Pastor Felix Carrión
Centering Moment	Pastor Felix Carrión
Praise and Worship Song	Congregation
<i>"You Are the Light of My Path"</i>	

**ALL: You are a light on my path
shining for the world,
showing the way leading on.
You are a light on my path
shining for the world,
showing the way leading on.
You are a light on my path.**

**CHOIR: Teach us Your Way, Give us Your Life,
Smile at the praise we bring.**

ALL: Teach us Your Way, Give us Your Life.

Smile at the praise we bring.

**ALL: You are a light on my path
shining for the world,
showing the way leading on.
You are a light on my path
shining for the world,
showing the way leading on.
You are a light on my path.**

**CHOIR: Even in fear, we will not stray.
You are our history.**

**ALL: Even in fear, we will not stray.
You are our history.**

**ALL: You are a light on my path
shining for the world,
showing the way leading on.
You are a light on my path
shining for the world,
showing the way leading on.**

You are a light on my path.

CHOIR: I am resolved to follow You.

You are my heart's delight.

ALL: I am resolved to follow You.

You are my heart's delight.

**ALL: You are a light on my path
shining for the world,
showing the way leading on.
You are a light on my path
shining for the world,
showing the way leading on.
You are a light on my path.
You are a light on my path.**

Announcements

Pam Laham

Call to Worship

Pam Laham

LEADER: "I lift up my eyes to the hill – from where will my strength come?"

**ALL: My strength comes from God, who made
heaven and earth.”**

LEADER: God is Spirit.

**ALL: Those who worship God must worship in spirit
and truth.**

LEADER: Holy One, move in and through us

**ALL: Holy One, fashion our lives in faith and for
faith.**

***Hymn**

Congregation

*TNCH #442 “I’m Pressing on the Upward Way
(Higher Ground)”
vs. 1, 2, & 4*

I’m pressing on the upward way,
new heights I’m gaining every day;
Still praying as I’m onward bound,
“O Plant me, God, on higher ground.”

O lift me up, and I shall be by faith in heaven eternally,
A higher plane than I have found,

O, plant me, God on higher ground.

My heart has no desire to stay where
doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where these abound,
my prayer, my aim is higher ground.

O lift me up, and I shall be by faith in heaven eternally,
A higher plane than I have found,
O, plant me, God on higher ground.

I want to scale the utmost height,
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray till heaven I've found,
"God, lead me on the higher ground."

O lift me up, and I shall be by faith in heaven eternally,
A higher plane than I have found,
O, plant me, God on higher ground

Gathering Prayer

Congregation

ALL: O Creator, O Immensity of love, we call on you in faith. Come, and be with us and in us and beside us and over us. Be as hands upon us, fashion us for shining. Be as warmth within us, and empower us for caring. Be as strength beside us, and shape our lives for healing. Abide in our prayers, the spoken and the unspoken; and make your Word come true in our flesh. We pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Reception of New Member

Pastor Felix Carrión, Paula McKnight, & new members

Invitation

PASTOR: We invite Sherri Gonzales, Robert Weber, and Gaye Fairbanks to come forward to be received as new members of Plymouth United Church.

They have found love, nurture, and support in our spiritual family of faith. They have expressed their willingness to

enter a covenantal relationship with our congregation and to journey together with us.

Today, we rejoice in your spiritual pilgrimage, which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

Words of Scripture

PASTOR: “You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are equally members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple and is built into it for a dwelling place of God.” (*Ephesians 2:19-22*)

Friends, do you wish to become a member of Plymouth United Church? Please say, “I do.”

NEW MEMBERS: “I do.”

Paula McKnight: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Jesus' disciples, to follow in His way, truth, and life, to show love and justice, to resist oppression and evil, and to witness to the mission of Jesus as best as you are able? If so, please say, "I promise, with the help of God."

NEW MEMBERS: "I promise, with the help of God"

Paula McKnight: Do you promise to share your pain and joys as best as you are able with the Plymouth United Church community, trusting that we will walk alongside of you during the difficult and joyful moments of your life? If so, please say, "I promise, with the help of God."

NEW MEMBERS: "I promise, with the help of God."

Questions for Plymouth United Church

PASTOR: Do you promise to celebrate and walk alongside Sherri, Robert, and Gaye in their spiritual journey as members of Plymouth United Church?

If so, please say "We do, with the help of God."

ALL: We do, with the help of God.

PASTOR: Do you promise to love, encourage, and nurture them, as members of Plymouth United Church?

If so, please say, “We do, with the help of God.”

ALL: We do, with the help of God.

Prayer

ALL: O God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the Church, the body of Jesus. We thank you for the people gathered in this congregation and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together, may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the Church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Welcome and Reception

PASTOR: Let us, the members and friends of Plymouth United Church, stand in body or in spirit, and welcome them into the Plymouth community.

ALL: We welcome you with joy into the life and faith of this congregation. We promise you our friendship and prayers. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's love and mission.

Greetings of Christian Love

Biblical Witness

Pam Laham

James 2:14-17

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Contemporary Witness

Pastor Felix Carrión

Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation
by Parker J. Palmer

If I were ever to discover a new direction, I thought, it would be at Pendle Hill, a community rooted in prayer, study, and a vision of human possibility. But when I arrived and started sharing my vocational quandary, people responded with the traditional Quaker counsel that, despite their good intentions, left me even more discouraged. “Have faith,” they said, “and way will open.”

“I have faith,” I thought to myself. “What I don’t have is time to wait for ‘way’ to open. After a few months of deepening frustration, I took my troubles to an older Quaker woman well known for her thoughtfulness and candor. “Ruth,” I said, “people keep telling me that “way will open.” Well, I sit in the silence, I pray, I listen for my calling, but way is not opening.

Ruth’s reply was a model of Quaker plain-speaking. “I’m a birthright Friend,” she said somberly, “and in the sixty-plus years of living, way have never opened in front of me.” She

paused, and I started sinking into despair. Then she spoke again, this time with a grin. “But a lot of way has closed behind me, and that’s had the same guiding effect.” I laughed with her. The lesson she taught me that day was that there is as much guidance in what does not and cannot happen in my life as there is in what can and does—maybe more.

Reflection

Pastor Felix Carrión

“The Great Combination”

Special Music

Video

“The Way of Love” written & performed by Mark Vines

Will you come and walk with me
 when fear fills every street,
 When love is met with violence
 and justice tastes defeat?
 Will you grieve the lives now taken,
 the ones we should protect,
 And hear the cries of broken hearts

we cannot now neglect?

When mothers don't return at night,
when children ask us why,
When neighbors fall to systems
that choose who lives or dies,
Will you name the truth before us,
though comfort slips away,
And rise in love through peaceful acts
to seek a better way?

Will you stand with those deemed different
when laws erase their worth,
When bodies bear the battleground
of hatred dressed as church?
Will you love without condition,
as Jesus clearly showed,
And walk the path of radical grace
the way he humbly strode.

Will you hear the Black and Brown voices

cry out for breath and peace,
Where bias wears authority
and mercy finds no release?
Will you confront the powers
that sanctify their fear,
And choose the Christ who stands beside
the ones they disappear?

Then lead us, Christ, beyond our fear,
beyond what feels the same,
Where faith is lived in courage
and love is more than name.
Teach us to love our neighbor,
in word and action true,
For following your way means to choose
love as you love — too.

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Felix Carrión

Invitation to Offering

Pam Laham

Double Down For Plymouth

Offertory Music

Marshall Davies

***Doxology**

Congregation

ALL: 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

Pam Laham

ALL: Holy One, of whose bounty we have all

received: accept these offerings of our beloved

congregation. Remember in your love those

who have brought them and those for whom

they are given. Bless these gifts, and may they

promote peace and goodwill among all people.

Amen.

***Hymn**

Congregation

Sing! #196 "Let It Shine"
vs. 1 & 3

Let it shine, let it shine,
The light of the world that shows the way;
Let it shine, let it shine,
And show us peace today.

The church bears witness to God's grace,
Its mission crystal clear:
to show the world God's human face,
a world that God holds dear.

Let it shine, let it shine,
The light of the world that shows the way;
Let it shine, let it shine,
And show us peace today.

Now let us give ourselves to God
Within this war-torn world,
And work till justice walks abroad
With flags of peace unfurled.

Let it shine, let it shine,
The light of the world that shows the way;
Let it shine, let it shine,
And show us peace today.

Benediction

Pastor Felix Carrión

Song of Parting

Congregation

TNCH #236 “Halleluja”

Halle, halle, halle - luja
Halle, halle, halle - luja.
Halle, halle, halle - luja.
Halleluja, halleluja.

Halle, halle, halle - luja
Halle, halle, halle - luja.
Halle, halle, halle - luja.
Halleluja, halleluja.

Postlude

Marshall Davies

Today's Worship Participants

Worship Leader: *Pam Laham*

Sound: *Cathy Normand*

Video: *Mark Vines*

Projector: *Mary Lowell*

YouTube Host: *Amie & Shelby-Mak Friday*

Pastor Felix Carrión Carrión

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