



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 22, 2023

I am the LORD.
There is no other.
I form light and create darkness,
I make wealth and create woe;
I, the LORD, do all these things.

Isaiah 45:6-7

"Pillars of Creation," photo by Hubble Telescope (2015)

Sunday, October 22, 2023

Tolling of the Bells

Prelude

Tranquillo

Beethoven

Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Prayer of Invocation

One: Praise God! Give thanks to the Holy One.
God's steadfast love endures forever.

**All: Who among us can describe the mighty works of God,
or declare all God's praise?**

One: Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.

**All: Both we and our ancestors have sinned;
we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.
We made a calf at Horeb and worshiped a cast image.
We exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox.**

One: Have you also forgotten the love of God
who did great things in Egypt,
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea?

**All: Remember me, O Savior, and have compassion on your people;
help me when you deliver them;
that I may share in the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
that I may glory in your heritage.**

One: Praise God! Give thanks to the Holy One.
God's steadfast love endures forever.

(Psalm 106)

*Passing of the Peace

One: "The Peace of Christ be with you."

All: And also with you!

Senior Choir Anthem

Come and Be Joyful

Vivaldi, arr. Hopson

Witnessing Steward

Joyce Miller

John 6:25-40

Blessing

Message for All Ages

Children leave for Faith Workshop.

Sermon

"Signs and Wonders"

*Hymn

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come;
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.*

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Weaver Spirit

Barnby

Doxology

Each week, we sing and sign an inclusive Doxology (ASL).

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God for all that Love has done.

Creator, Christ, & Spirit one. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

Benediction

Postlude

Sing to The Lord a Song of Rejoicing

Smith

Following the Closing Hymn, we encourage the congregation to remain risen, in body or spirit, to receive the Benediction, which is both blessing and commission. You may sit for the Choral Response and Postlude in quiet contemplation.

All are invited to the Parish Hall for coffee, tea, and snacks. We understand it can be difficult to step into a room of strangers. We hope, with every cup and cookie, we can deepen our connections and learn a little more about each other each week.

* As the Spirit guides you, we encourage you to rise in body or spirit.

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

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Matthias Claudias, 1740-1815
Tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt.

WIR PFLÜGEN 7.6.7.6.D. with Refrain
Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747-1800

1 We plow the fields and scat-ter The good seed on the land, But it is
2 He on-ly is the mak-er Of all things near and far; He paints the
3 We thank thee, then, O Fa-ther, For all things bright and good: The seed-time

fed and wa-tered By God's al-might-y hand. He sends the snow in
way-side flow-er, He lights the eve-ning star. The winds and waves o-
and the har-vest, Our life, our health, our food. Ac-cept the gifts we

win-ter, The warmth to swell the grain, The breez-es and the sun-shine, And
bey him, By him the birds are fed; Much more, to us his chil-dren, He
of-fer, For all thy love im-parts, And, what thou most de-sir-est, Our

REFRAIN
soft, re-fresh-ing rain.
gives our dai-ly bread. All good gifts a-round us Are sent from hea-ven a-
hum-ble, thank-ful hearts.

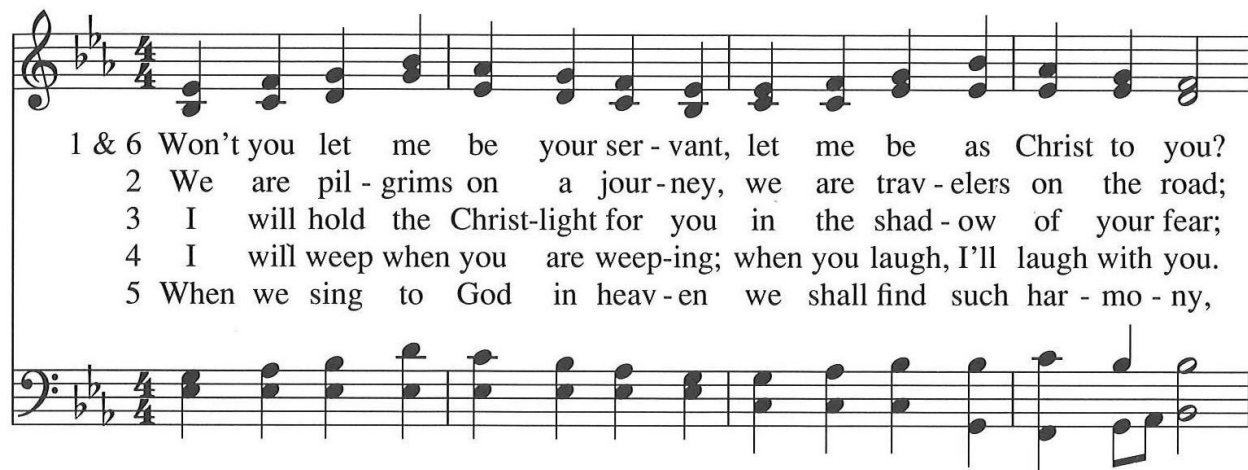
bove; Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord For all his love. A-men.

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

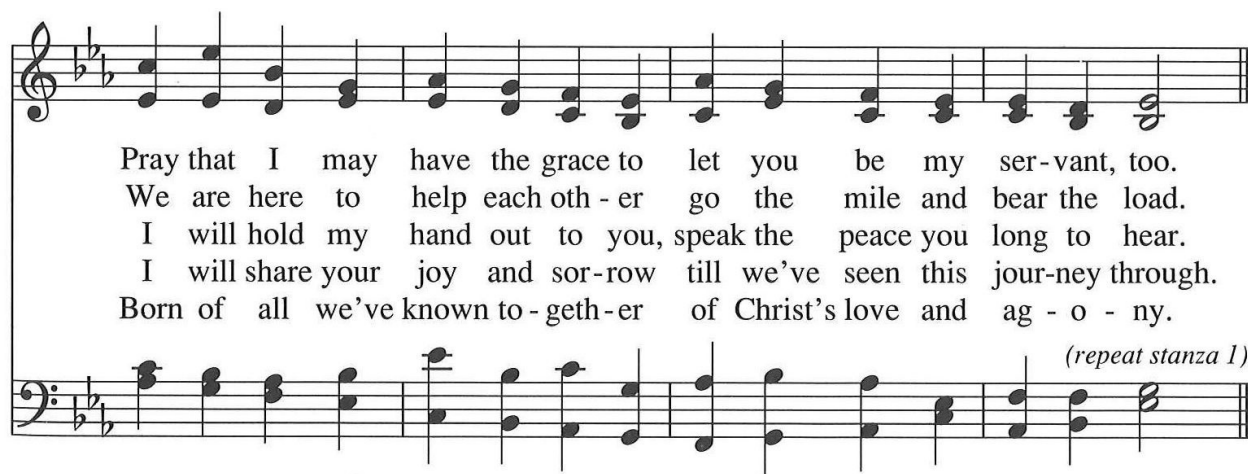
539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29



1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
Richard Gillard, 1977
Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

448

Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

Rom. 12:1



1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.
2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.
3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.



Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell - ing place.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.
Justin H. Knecht, 1797
Alternate tune: HENDON

Bulletin Reminders

Come and Be Joyful

Antonio Vivaldi, from "Gloria"

Arranged by Hal H. Hopson

I am the Lord, and there is no other.
I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
(Isaiah 45:3)

NEW MEMBER EXPLORATION

TODAY, after worship

We will be gathering after worship, on Sunday, **October 22**, in the Library, to meet with all who are new to Plymouth Church and who wish to deepen their connection with our community through exploration of Plymouth Church ministries.

6-WEEK DISCUSSION GROUP ON PRAYER

Jesus prayed regularly and taught the disciples to pray. We recite the *Lord's Prayer* every Sunday. We also share our joys and concerns and ask others to pray about them with us. But what really happens when we pray? Does it really matter? Are there right and wrong ways to pray? If you have questions about prayer, or if you have things you've learned that you can share with others, come join a 6-week discussion group on prayer. We'll use the *Lord's Prayer* as a guide to understand Jesus' vision on prayer and learn from and encourage each other in the process. The plan is to meet Wednesday evenings, at church, but the schedule can be adjusted according to people's availability. If you're interested, contact **Shari Van Hook**, at 508.308.4961, or shari.vanhook@gmail.com.

NEW SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION GROUP

First meeting today, after worship

Twenty minutes after the conclusion of worship, we will gather for an hour, in the Parlor, to read and to discuss the scripture passage from that morning's service. Our first gathering will take place **October 22**. Subsequent meetings will take place on November 12, 26, and on December 10. For questions, contact **Meg Doucette**, at megemd@yahoo.com.

PLYMOUTH HOUSE PASTRY FUNDRAISER

We are excited to announce our favorite annual fundraiser! You can purchase delicious braided pastries and cookie dough to enjoy, all while supporting Plymouth House Nursery School! The deadline for orders is by the end of the day on Monday, **October 23**. This year, all ordering is online. *For complete details, see your Wednesday Email.*

CLEAR EGG CARTON DRIVE

Our neighbor on the Common, the Framingham Historical Society, has a great need for clear egg cartons that can be used for their upcoming Tag Sale. Please leave your donations in the bin marked "Egg Carton Donations" in the Parish Hall foyer.

The Plymouth Church in Framingham

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THE PLYMOUTH CHURCH IN FRAMINGHAM
TRUNK OR TREAT
Sunday, October 29
11:30am to 12-noon

Join us, at 87 Edgell Road in Framingham, for a safe & fun way to trick or treat!
OPEN TO ALL!

Join us for worship, at 10am. Costumes encouraged!



Fall Soup Sale

November 5

The leaves are falling, mornings have become frosty, and the Fall Soup Sale will take place on **NOVEMBER 5**, after worship. Please plan to pick up quart containers at Coffee Hour and bring your homemade soup, chili, or crockpot favorite to sell.

For more information, see **Leona Dalton** at the "Container Depot" at the next Coffee Hour.

