

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 12, 2023

I will search for my lost sheep and bring back the strays.
I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered.
I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak.
I will shepherd the flock with justice.

Ezekiel 34:11-16



Sunday, November 12, 2023

Tolling of the Bells

Prelude

The Lord Is My Shepherd (verses 1,2,5)

Haan

Call to Worship

One: On the left they said:

Left: Hallelujah!

One: And on the right:

Right: Amen!

*Opening Hymn

How Firm a Foundation

Welcome and Announcements

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**God our Creator, our center, our friend,
we thank you for our good life,
for those who are dear to us,
for our dead, and for all who have helped and influenced us.
We thank you for the measure of freedom we have,
and the extent to which we control our lives;
and most of all we thank you for the faith that is in us,
for our awareness of you and our hope in you.
Keep us, we pray you, thankful and hopeful
and useful until our lives shall end.
Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

Message for All Ages

Special Guest (Sharon Gilbert)

Sharon Gilbert is the founder of Timothy's Toy Box, a Framingham non-profit supported by our church, that helps make Christmas a special time for everyone!

Ezekiel 34:11-16

Blessing

Senior Choir Anthem *Omnia Sol* Stroope
Sermon “Gathered Together”
Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer (A New Zealand Prayer Book)

*Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples
of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.*

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Cantabile* Knecht
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.*

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

*Closing Hymn

God of the Sparrow

Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude

Jubilance

Haan

Omnia Sol

Z. Randall Stroppe

This morning, the Senior Choir offers a newer anthem, *Omnia Sol*, by Z. Randall Stroppe. It was purchased in celebration of the life of Jack Kraft and is being sung in recognition of the many saints of the choir who have passed on.

We give thanks to God for their music and for their ministry.

Find refuge from the shore!

Let courage be your oar; let passion be your sail.

Wisdom and truth will guide your deep heart's yearning,

Through all travail!

O stay your soul and leave my heart its song!

. . . ——— ♡ ——— . . .

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.

How Firm a Foundation

237

1. How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
 2. "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
 3. When through the deep waters I call you to go,
 4. "When through fier-y tri-als your path-way shall lie,
 5. "The souls that on Je-sus have leaned for re- pose

is laid for your faith in God's ex-cel-lent word!
 for I am your God, and will still give you aid;
 the riv-ers of woe ov-er you shall not flow;
 my grace, all suf-fi-cient, shall be your sup-ply:
 I will not, I will not de-sert to their foes;

What more can God say than to you has been said,
 I'll strength-en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 for I will be near you, your trou-bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt you; I on-ly de-sign
 those souls, though all hell should en-deav-or to shake,

to you who for ref-uge to Je-sus have fled?
 up-held by my right-eous, om-nip-o-tent hand.
 and sanc-ti-fy to you your deep-est dis-tress.
 your dross to con-sume and your gold to re-fine.
 I'll nev-er, no, nev-er, no, nev-er for-sake!"

WORDS: "K" in Rippon's *Selection of Hymns from the Best Authors*, 1787, alt.
 MUSIC: Early American melody from Funk's *Genuine Church Music*, 1832

FOUNDATION
 11 11.11 11

This hymn, of anonymous English authorship, found its greatest success in America where it was sung to the tune FOUNDATION, particularly in southern Methodist and Baptist churches.

FOUNDATION

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

1 Thess. 5: 18; Ps. 136

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

(Introduction) G G7 Unison C Em Am Dm

(Congregation & Choir) 1 God of the spar - row God of the whale
 (Sopranos & Altos) 2 God of the earth-quake God of the storm
 (Choir only) 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross
 (Tenors & Basses) 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick
 (Congregation only) 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe
 (Congregation & Choir) 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand

G7 C FM7 E7 Am Em

God of the swirl - ing stars How does the crea-ture say
 God of the trum - pet blast How does the crea-ture cry
 God of the emp - ty grave How does the crea-ture say
 God of the prod - i - gal How does the crea-ture say
 God of the prun - ing hook How does the crea-ture say
 God of the lov - ing heart How do your chil-dren say

FM7 Em7 Am Dm 1-5 Gsus4 G C

Awe How does the crea-ture say Praise
 Woe How does the crea-ture cry Save
 Grace How does the crea-ture say Thanks
 Care How does the crea-ture say Life
 Love How does the crea-ture say Peace
 Joy How do your chil-dren say Home.

After forty years in the ministry, Jaroslav Vajda wrote this text to provoke answers to how and why we serve God. By creating new poetic forms and adapting ageless ideas and expressions, Vajda speaks in the language of his time.

Tune: ROEDER 5.4.6.7.7.
 Carl F. Schalk, 1983

Bulletin Reminders

After worship, Rev. Morisse will be available for conversation in the Parish Hall.

Thank You!

We had a good first-week response to our 2023 Pledge Drive, recording 53 pledges, totaling \$197,747. 13 were new or renewed pledges. 29 people increased their pledge from last year. If you haven't submitted your pledge, you can drop it in the Offering plate this week and next, or mail it to the church.



PLYMOUTH CHURCH WELCOMES TIMOTHY'S TOY BOX FOUNDER

Sharon Gilbert, founder of *Timothy's Toy Box*, a local non-profit supported by our church, will be here *TODAY* to share her story with us.

FALL LEAF RAKING

November 18 & November 19

Help older residents in need of your services. Meet at the Plymouth Church on Saturday (8:45 a.m./12:45 p.m.) and on Sunday (12:45 p.m.) Sam Swisher will be taking signups in the Parish Hall during Coffee Hour Sundays, or via email, at ccvolrec@gmail.com.

SUNDAY COFFEE KLATCH

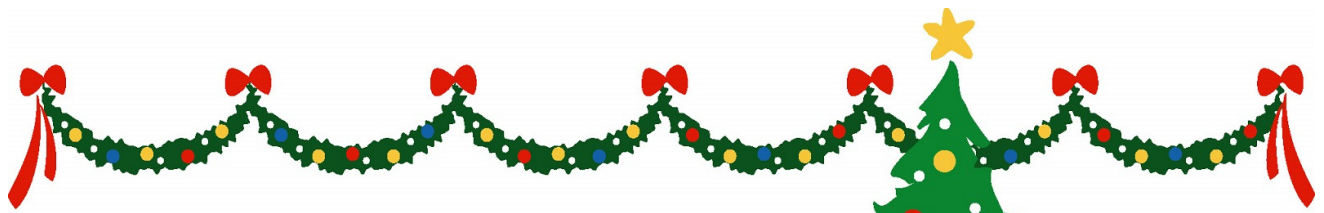
The November Klatch leaders are **Meg Doucette** and **Elizabeth Tustian**, who will be sending out emails to the November Klatch team in the next couple of weeks. See *Wednesday Email for November roster*.

PRAYER DISCUSSION GROUP

During the first meeting of the discussion group on prayer, we talked about prayer in general – including how our families prayed when we were growing up, why we pray, and prayer habits we have had in the past and have now. We'll start exploring the ins and outs of *The Lord's Prayer* at our next meeting, on **December 3**. We'll meet in the Parlor, about 20 minutes after the service. All are welcome!

PEWS AVAILABLE FOR FREE!

This summer, we removed two pews (on the piano side) to create more space in the front of the Sanctuary. This is helpful as our traffic patterns have shifted, and most of the congregation enters the Sanctuary via the Parish Hall stairs and elevator. Next, we plan to remove two pews on the other side, to restore symmetry and balance. This means, we have four pews, which we are offering to any church member, for free. If there is no interest, we will post these pews to public marketplaces. If you know of anyone or any places that might be interested, please let us know. Finding new homes for these pews is the next hurdle in finishing this project. Thank you!



DECORATE the Church

Let's Deck the Halls for Christmas!

December 2, at 9:00 a.m.

The time has come once again to do our magic and make our Sanctuary and Hall look beautiful for the Christmas Holiday. Volunteer elves are needed on Saturday, **December 2**, at 9:00 a.m., to help raise the big tree, place wreaths and candles, and set up the tree in the Parish Hall. If you can join in the holiday fun, please let Carole Blackman know, either by email (blackmancarole@gmail.com) or see her at church any Sunday.

Tear along dotted line.

My 2024 Pledge

This promise is made with gratitude:

\$

/Year



Name: _____

Address: _____

- Provide Weekly Envelopes. Contact me about electronic payment options.
 Will set up auto payment with my bank. Will contact the Treasurer about other options.