



September 13, 2026 • 11 a.m.
Rally Sunday, beginning our 170th year

PRELUDE

TOCCATA AND FUGUE
IN D MINOR

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

✠ Please rise in body, mind, or spirit, as you are able, for every hymn. ✠

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

REJOICE, YE PURE IN HEART
(see page 5)

"Marion"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bonnie Janda

One: The Holy One calls us to evolve ever deeper into love, light, and liberation.

All: Let us answer the call to evolve as a beloved community that seeks and serves God and our neighbors.

One: The Holy One calls us together as neighbors, sojourners, and servants as old friends, new friends, and future friends.

All: Let us come together for growing in the Spirit, shedding what no longer serves and embracing the greater lessons of love.

One: We are called to draw the circle ever wider into the Way of Love that brings life to all people and all the earth

All: We commit today to come together to grow in compassion of heart, courage in thought, and generosity in love.

✠ Please be seated. ✠

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Tender, loving God, 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, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

PEACE CANDLE RESPONSE

DEO DICAMUS GRATIAS

*Gottfried A. Homilius
(1714-1785)*

Let us thank God.

WELCOME

Birdie Cunningham

FELLOWSHIP JOY

Don Doberstein

ANTHEM

CHORALE ON "ST. ANNE'S HYMN" *William Croft, 1714*
Kathryn Rupp, soprano, and Choir *arr. William Bolcom, 2005*

Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come.
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone
And our defense is sure.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,
Bears all our years away,
They fly, forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home!

—Isaac Watts

BLESSING OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

SHARING GRACE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

EXODUS 3:13-15

Rev. JT Smiedendorf

One: These are the words of our ancient tradition.

All: May these words become Living Wisdom within us, among us, and beyond us.

SERMON

EVOLVING FAITH

INVITATION TO OFFERING

One: In deep humility and gratitude to God, who shepherds and comforts us, let us bring our offerings to God.

***All:* In thanks and gratitude, we offer these gifts to you.**

You may use the QR code on page 8 to give.

OFFERTORY

WHEN MUSIC WAKES
MY SLEEPING HEART

David Evan Thomas
(2008)

Maria Jette, soprano, and Choir

When music wakes my sleeping heart and plays my spirit strong,
Then all of life is gracious gift and every breath, a song.

When music gathers us in prayer and summons us to praise,
Then beauty spills her shining light across our darkened days.

When music calms the fearful heart and lifts the downcast soul,
When all our song is healing balm to make the wounded whole.

When music fills the universe and all is melody,
Then Christ the Lord will lead a hymn of soaring majesty:

"All honor to the Holy One, all praise and glory be!"
Our alleluias without end will ring in harmony.

—Delores Dufner, OSB

✠ Please rise in body, mind, or spirit, as you are able. ✠

DOXOLOGY

"Dix"

Praise to God, immortal praise, for the love that crowns our days!
Bounteous source of every joy, let thy praise our tongues employ;
Singing thus through all our days: Praise to God, immortal praise! Amen.

✠ Please be seated. ✠

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. JT Smiedendorf

RECESSIONAL HYMN

FORWARD THROUGH THE AGES
(see pages 6-7)

"St. Gertrude"

BENEDICTION

As the postlude is played, you are welcome to leave the sanctuary or stay and enjoy the music.

POSTLUDE

GRAND RESPONSIVE CHORUS

Eugène Gigout
(1881)

**Today's Music:**

Bach's "Toccatina and Fugue in D minor" is one of the most famous of organ works, popularized in the 20th century in Disney's Fantasia. The postlude is by Eugène Gigout, French composer and organist at St. Augustin church in Paris for 62 years. He was famed as an improviser and founded his own music school.

William Bolcom is an American composer of vocal, symphonic and operas and a Pulitzer Prize and Grammy Award winner. He composed this anthem for the First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan. William Croft composed the tune (1715) while he was organist at St. Anne's Church in Soho, London—hence the tune name, "St. Anne."

David Evan Thomas, or DET (as we know him), lives in Minneapolis and has composed several anthems for Plymouth Church; he has also been commissioned by the Minnesota Orchestra, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Schubert Club and the American Composers Forum. He studied composition at the University of Minnesota with Dominick Argento and has been performed widely in the United States.

REJOICE, YE PURE IN HEART

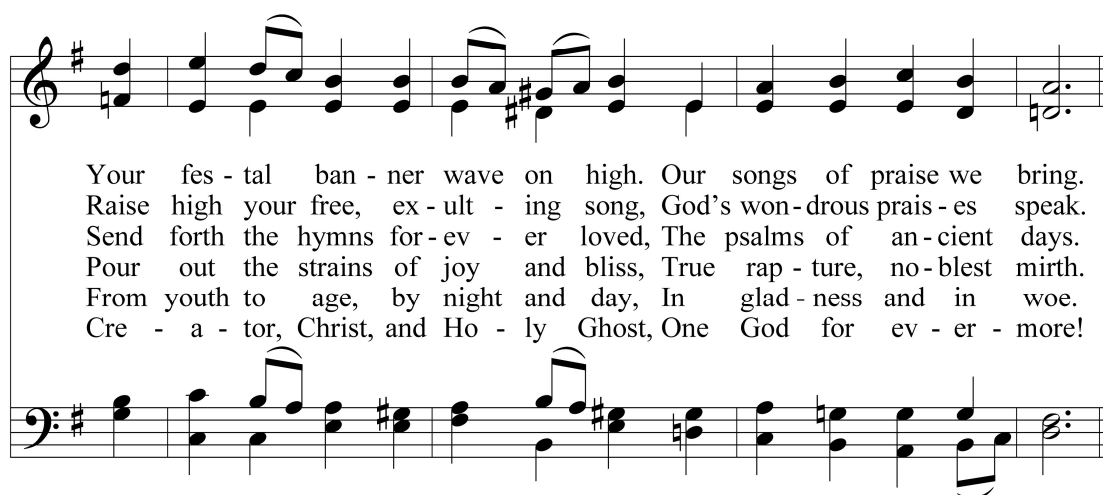
Edward H. Plumptre, 1821-1891, alt.

MARION S.M. with Refrain

Arthur H. Messiter, 1834-1916



1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart; Re - joice, give thanks and sing;
2 Bright youth and snow-crowned age, Strong souls and spir - its meek,
3 With voice as full and strong As o - cean's surg - ing praise,
4 With all the an - gel choirs, With all the saints on earth,
5 Yes, on thro' life's long path, Still chant - ing as we go,
6 Praise God who reigns on high, The One whom we a - dore,



Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high. Our songs of praise we bring.
Raise high your free, ex - ult - ing song, God's won - drous prais - es speak.
Send forth the hymns for - ev - er loved, The psalms of an - cient days.
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss, True rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
From youth to age, by night and day, In glad - ness and in woe.
Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost, One God for ev - er - more!

Refrain



Re - joice, re - joice, Re - joice, give thanks and sing.
Re - joice, re - joice,

FORWARD THROUGH THE AGES

Frederick L. Hosmer, 1840-1929, alt.

ST. GERTRUDE 6.5.6.5.D. with Refrain

Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842-1900

1 For - ward through the a - ges, In un - bro - ken line,
 2 Wid - er grows the vi - sion, Reign of love and light;
 3 Not a - lone we con - quer, Not a - lone we fall;

Move the faith - ful spir - its At the call di - vine.
 For it we must la - bor, Till our faith is sight.
 In each loss or tri - umph Lose or tri - umph all.

Gifts in dif - f'ring mea - sure, Hearts of one ac - cord,
 Proph - ets have pro - claimed it, Mar - tyrs tes - ti - fied,
 Bound by God's far pur - pose In one liv - ing whole,

Man - i - fold the ser - vice, One the sure re - ward;
 Po - ets sung its glo - ry, He - roes for it died.
 Move we on to - geth - er To the shin - ing goal!

Refrain

For - ward through the a - ges, In un - bro - ken line,

Move the faith - ful spir - its At the call di - vine.

WORSHIP & PROGRAM STAFF: Rev. JT Smiedendorf, *Acting Lead & Intentional Interim Minister*; Rev. Kate Taber, *Director of Spiritual Formation*, Birdie Cunningham, *Director of Congregational Care*; Nina Jonson, *Director of Children, Youth & Families*; Philip Brunelle, *Organist-Choirmaster*; Marie Scholtz, *Associate Music Director*; Laura Caviani, *Chapel Trio Director*; Cody Bourdot, *Director of Theater Arts & A/V Production*

THE PLYMOUTH CHOIR: Philip Brunelle, *director*; **SOLO QUINTET:** Maria Jette & Kathryn Rupp, *soprano*; Lisa Drew, *alto*; Dan Dressen, *tenor*; and James Bohn, *bass*

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES that we are on the sacred traditional territory of the Dakota people. It is an honor to live, pray, seek justice, and create community alongside Dakota, Ojibwe, and other Indigenous people in the Twin Cities.

MANY AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUALS AND HYMNS were never credited to their creators or were claimed by other individuals. When Plymouth Congregational Church uses music or music texts created by people who were kept in chattel slavery, we will donate to a historically Black institution as a reparative action in honor of the creators and their descendants.

CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in grateful thanks to the Plymouth Choir by Carolyn and Philip Brunelle as they begin their 58th year at Plymouth Church.

CHURCH REGISTER

IN MEMORIAM

Carl Erickson (August 29, 2026)

UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICE

The memorial service for Nick Nash will be held at Plymouth Church on Monday, September 21, 2026 at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

HOME AND HOSPITAL VISITS: Plymouth's ministers and Director of Congregational Care call upon members of the church in their homes, hospitals, or care and rehabilitation centers. If you know of someone who would like a visit, please contact Birdie Cunningham at 612-977-1261.

GIVE, USING REALM CONNECT



If you would like to donate, please do so by scanning the QR code with your cell phone's camera.

If you have not yet set up your new account, please contact Emily Venell at emilyv@plymouth.org or (612) 791.0753.

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