

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

May 12, 2024 10 AM

Ascension Sunday

We extend a warm and loving welcome to you in the name of Christ our ascended Savior. Our hope and prayer is that you have a thoughtful and joyful encounter with God's love and grace.

**ENTER INTO HIS PRESENCE: GOD AWAITS US!**

Prelude: "At the Name of Jesus" arr. David Johnson

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

\*Call to Worship: Psalm 47: 5 – 8

Leader: God has ascended amid shouts of joy,

**People: the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.**

Leader: Sing praises to God, sing praises;

**People: sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

Leader: For God is the King of all the earth;

**People: sing to him a psalm of praise.**

Leader: God reigns over the nations;

**People: God is seated on his holy throne.**

Prayer

\*All Sing: "Rejoice, the Lord is King"

*Lift Up Your Hearts 224: 1 – 4*

\*Welcome

\*God's Greeting

\*Greet One Another

\*All Sing: "Ancient of Days" CityAlight

**HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE HIM: GOD ACCEPTS US!**

Call to Confession: Hebrews 4: 15 – 16

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of God's Grace and Pardon: Ephesians 2: 4 – 7

\*All Sing: "Before the Throne of God Above"

*Lift Up Your Hearts 682: 1 – 3*

[Children and parents come forward during last stanza of this song for Children's blessing]

## Children's Worship Blessing

Leader: People of God, what is our prayer for these children?

**People: As you learn of Jesus and his love, may the Lord be with you.**

Children: And also with you.

**People: May the word of the Lord grow in your hearts.**

Children: Thanks be to God.

**People: Go in peace.**

[Children ages four through first grade are dismissed for  
Choristers and Sunday Stations - all are welcome]

## Concerns of our Church Family

Congregational Prayer

Pastor Sarah

## OFFER OUR THANKSGIVING: GOD BLESSES US!

Offering: Ministry and Christian Education Funds

Offertory: "Jesus Shall Reign" arr. Wilber Held

Offering Prayer: Deacon, Ben Post

[Children second grade through seventh grade are dismissed for Youth Choir rehearsal]

## OPENING HIS WORD: GOD SPEAKS TO US!

All Sing: "May the Mind of Christ, My Savior"

*Lift Up Your Hearts 334: 1, 2, 5*

Scripture: Acts 1: 1 – 11 (p. 1689)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: **Unless I Go Away**

Prayer

\*All Sing: "Jesus Is Lord"

*Lift Up Your Hearts 226: 1 – 4*

## GO BOLDLY AND SERVE: GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US!

\*Invitation

\*God's Parting Blessing

**People: Amen.**

\*All Sing: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

*Lift Up Your Hearts 223: 1, 2, 4*

\*Postlude: "Crown Him with Many Crowns" arr. Michael Burkhardt

|                   |                                 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Minister:         | Rev. Ben Van Arragon            |
| Liturgist:        | Rev. Sarah Albers               |
| Organist/Pianist: | Rachel Plasman                  |
| Singers:          | Nichole De Vries, Doug De Vries |
| Plymouth Brass:   | Shawn Nichols, Max Gradisher    |
| Timpani:          | Eric Stone                      |
| Drums:            | Victory Tamungang               |
| Scripture Reader: | Judah Howk                      |
| Audio/Video:      | John Lundell                    |
| PowerPoint/Video: | David Van Zytveld               |

## SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

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1. Do I trust that Jesus is fully in charge of heaven and earth?
  2. Do I believe that, by His Spirit, Jesus is present with me at all times?
  3. Am I convinced that Jesus has called *and* equipped me to participate in His saving purposes?
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## PLYMOUTH PRAYER GUIDE

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Pray for....

- Secrest Hallman as she receives treatment for cancer
- Lori Tilma as she recovers from knee replacement surgery
- People facing unemployment or other workplace stressors
- Those impacted by the tornadoes in southwest Michigan
- Pete and Jo Duyst as Jo remains in nursing care
- The family of Donna Peterson as they grieve her recent passing
- Melvina Vander Linde and family as Melvina continues to work on rehabilitation
- People living with chronic pain and illness
- Doreen Ensing and family as Doreen remains at home in hospice care
- Those impacted by tornadoes and other natural disasters
- Peace in the Middle East and Ukraine

Give thanks for...

- Nominees for elder and deacon
- Friendship Ministry and our Friends leadership in worship last week
- The many volunteers who served as leaders in children and youth programs this year
- Warmer weather and sunshine
- The Thursday morning Bible study group and their end of year brunch

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, May 12, 2024

## Worship

Welcome to Plymouth Heights CRC. We extend a warm and loving welcome to you in the name of Christ our ascended Savior. Our hope and prayer is that you have a thoughtful and joyful encounter with God's love and grace.

This Sunday we observe Ascension Day. Pastor Ben preaches from Acts 1:1-11 (Sermon title: "Unless I Go Away").

Next Sunday we observe Pentecost. Pastor Ben will preach from Acts 2:1-12 (Sermon title: "What Does This Mean?").

**Youth Choir (2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade):** will meet this Sunday, May 12. This is our last rehearsal for the season.

**Banners:** During this season of Easter we celebrate the victory of Jesus and his Kingship over the whole universe. The white and gold colors in these banners represent the joy of Christ's victory over sin and death. The gold cords symbolize the royal character of Christ's shed blood. Isaiah 53: 5 reminds us that "by his stripes we are healed." The wedge-shaped panels in two of the banners represent the torn veil, the sign that we have full access to God's presence through Christ. The season of Easter is celebrated for seven Sundays, the number portrayed by the three white and two gold panels, plus the two groups of gold cords in each banner.

**New Council Members Update:** The following Plymouth Heights members have submitted their names for consideration to serve new 3-year terms on Council:

Deacons:  
Nichole DeVries  
Don Dykstra  
Brad Jansen  
Jin Li

Elders:  
Karen Vander Laan  
Tom and Mary Van Wingerden (team)

A congregation vote is required to approve these incoming Council members. **A vote will be held immediately following the worship service today.** This will be a simple yes/no vote. In addition, the following officebearers have agreed to extend their terms of service for another year: Dan and Judy Johnson (deacons); Randy and Vicki Van Wingerden (elders). We are so grateful for our current and prospective Council members, their willingness to serve, and the gifts they bring to leadership at Plymouth Heights.

## Tithing Opportunities

May 12, 2024: Ministry/Christian Education Funds

May 19, 2024: Ministry/Christian Education and  
Benevolence Funds

**On the Sundays that there is an announced Special Cause Offering,** the loose cash will be designated for that Cause. If there is no special cause the loose cash is designated for the Ministry Fund.

If you wish to direct your donation differently, you may use the yellow envelopes in the pews, your personal budget envelopes or with your online giving.

## Children and Youth Programs

**Nursery** (0 - 3 years old) and Sunday Stations (4 year's old - 1st grade). Follow this link to see where volunteers are needed in the coming months for Nursery and Sunday Stations. The schedule is set through August, so take a look and sign up for some dates that work for you.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E044CAAAB2CAAF58-sunday>.

## Community Life

**Baking and Fellowship -Pigs in the Blanket:** Do you like them? Would you want to try making them? The Congregational Life Committee invites you to participate in preparing these tasty traditional Dutch treats on Saturday morning, May 18 at 9am in the church kitchen. Estimated time commitment is 2-2.5 hrs. The pigs can be frozen and baked later. As this is a new event, participation will be limited to 10 bakers, but if enough interest exists more dates will be arranged! If you would like to bake or have questions, please contact Becky Jansen.

**Calvin Theological Seminary** thanks you for your recent offering of \$100. We have been providing students with theological knowledge, ministry skills, and the continued development of Godly character they will need for leadership in today's church.

## Global Engagement Team (GET)

**Mission Partners Update: Mark Wiersma and Anne Lucasse** have announced their retirement in July after 10 years serving as our missionaries in Nigeria. You can read their full announcement and prayer points in their newsletter on our church website (look under Ministries, Outreach). Please be in prayer for them through this time of closure and transition.

## Neighborhood Engagement

**Mobile Food Pantry Volunteers:** We will again be hosting a drive-thru food distribution service this Saturday, May 18 (a week early due to Memorial Day). We are asking volunteers to arrive at church at 7:15am this Saturday morning, May 18 to set up for distribution from 7:30 to 8:30am. Volunteers will receive more detailed info in an email tomorrow. If you have any questions or would like to join us, please call Tom or Mary Van Wingerden

## Sunday May 12, 2024

10:00am

### **Worship**

#### **Nursery:**

Lori Tilma

Betsy Van Zytveld

#### **Nursery Helper:**

Eliza Albers

#### **Choristers**

#### **Sunday Stations**

**(4 year's old - 1st grade):**

Judy Johnson

#### **Sunday Stations Helper:**

Charlotte Albers

#### **Youth Choir**

#### **Coffee Fellowship:**

Joe & Alice Geelhoed

#### **Security:**

Ben Post

**Tuesday**

1:30-4:30pm Strings 'n Things  
(Room 300 above the church office)

**Sunday May 19, 2024**

10:00am **Worship**

**Nursery:**

Becky Jansen  
Jenny Van Wiene

**Nursery Helper:**

Anna Jansen

**Choristers****Sunday Stations****(4 year's old - 1st grade):**

Mary Ma  
Wendy Brummel

**Sunday Stations Helper****Coffee Fellowship:**

Arie & Olga Leder

**Security:**

Brad Jansen

