

Plymouth Congregational Church

CHILDREN'S BULLETIN



March 21, 2021

Dear God,

Thanks for today, for this beautiful world, for the health and safety of my friends and family, and for all the things you have given us! Life is better with you and your LOVE! Amen.

Plymouth Children's Prayer



DEEP DOWN INSIDE

(based on Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Use different "voices" when
speaking the words from
God and the words
from Jeremiah.

God was worried. "What is happening to my people?"

The people sometimes remembered to sing praises to God:

One: No matter what, no matter where,

All: We know that God is there.

One: God always listens, always cares.

All: We know that God is there.

The people sometimes remembered about God's loving ways:

One: God's way is sweet, God's way is true.

All: It helps us know what we should do.

One: From sunrise to sunset God's voice is heard.

All: It helps us know what we should do.

But the people had forgotten God's promises. They had forgotten to follow God's path and to listen to God's word. They were not living according to God's Law. They were really making a mess of their lives.

"I will have to figure out a way to bring them back to my path," said God. "I will have to make the path and my Law such an important part of them that they cannot forget it."

After some serious thinking, God called the prophet Jeremiah to speak to the people. Jeremiah

listened closely while God told him what to say. Jeremiah listened and listened, until he knew God's message by heart.

"God has a dream for you," Jeremiah said to the people who gathered at the marketplace. "God has a dream that someday you will live in God's way all the time."

"How can that be?" the people asked Jeremiah. "We're busy. We have to grow grain for food and we have to get water to drink and we have to keep our houses clean. We have to come to the market to buy the things we need. There is so much work to do we can't think about God all the time. We're too busy!"

"God understands that," said Jeremiah. "But think of it this way. Pretend that God has written some words on your heart. You will know about God's love all the time. It will always be there."

"Do you mean God opens up our bodies and writes on our hearts?" the people asked. "Yuck!"

"No, no," said Jeremiah. "God's love lives deep inside you all the time. It's as if God has written, 'I love you' on your heart. You don't have to ask, 'How can I live in God's way?' You have God's kindness and care, God's love, living inside you all the time..."

From *The Lectionary Story Bible, Year B*, by Ralph Milton.
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The people listened and listened, until they knew God's message by heart. They began to remember God's words and God's path. When they wondered what to do, they stopped and listened to what was deep inside them. God's promise and God's words were written on their hearts.



Three Prophets

Prophets are people called by God to present God's word to God's people.



*My name is Micah.
My prophecy is not long, but
I have one of the most
quoted verses in the
Hebrew Scriptures.*

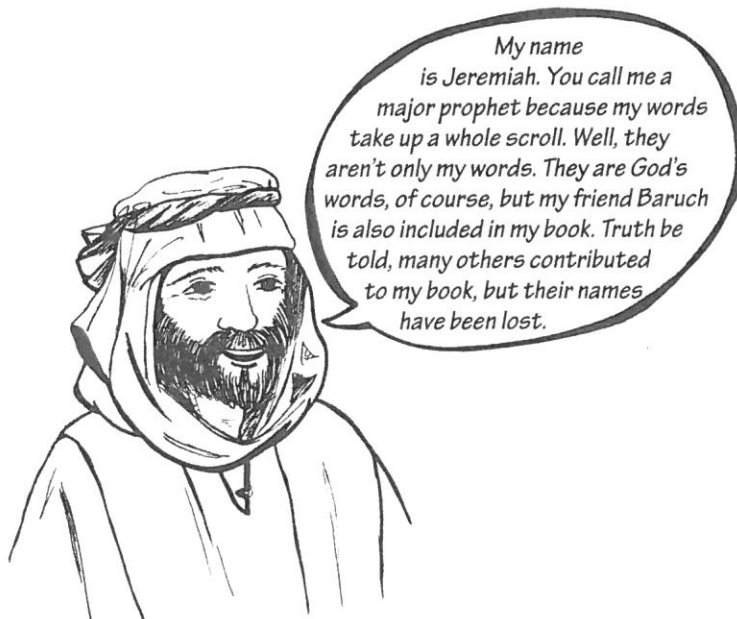
Find Micah 6:8. What three things does God want us to do?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The last verses of Malachi tell the people that another prophet will come. Who is he?



*My name
is Malachi. I guess
you call me a minor prophet
because my words from God
only take up four chapters. But my
book is the last one in the Hebrew
Scriptures, so you might say I
also have the last word.*



*My name
is Jeremiah. You call me a
major prophet because my words
take up a whole scroll. Well, they
aren't only my words. They are God's
words, of course, but my friend Baruch
is also included in my book. Truth be
told, many others contributed
to my book, but their names
have been lost.*

Jeremiah didn't want to be a prophet. What was his excuse? (Jeremiah 1:6)

As a prophet, Jeremiah's first messages were warnings. How long did he try to convince people to turn back to God? (Jeremiah 25:3)

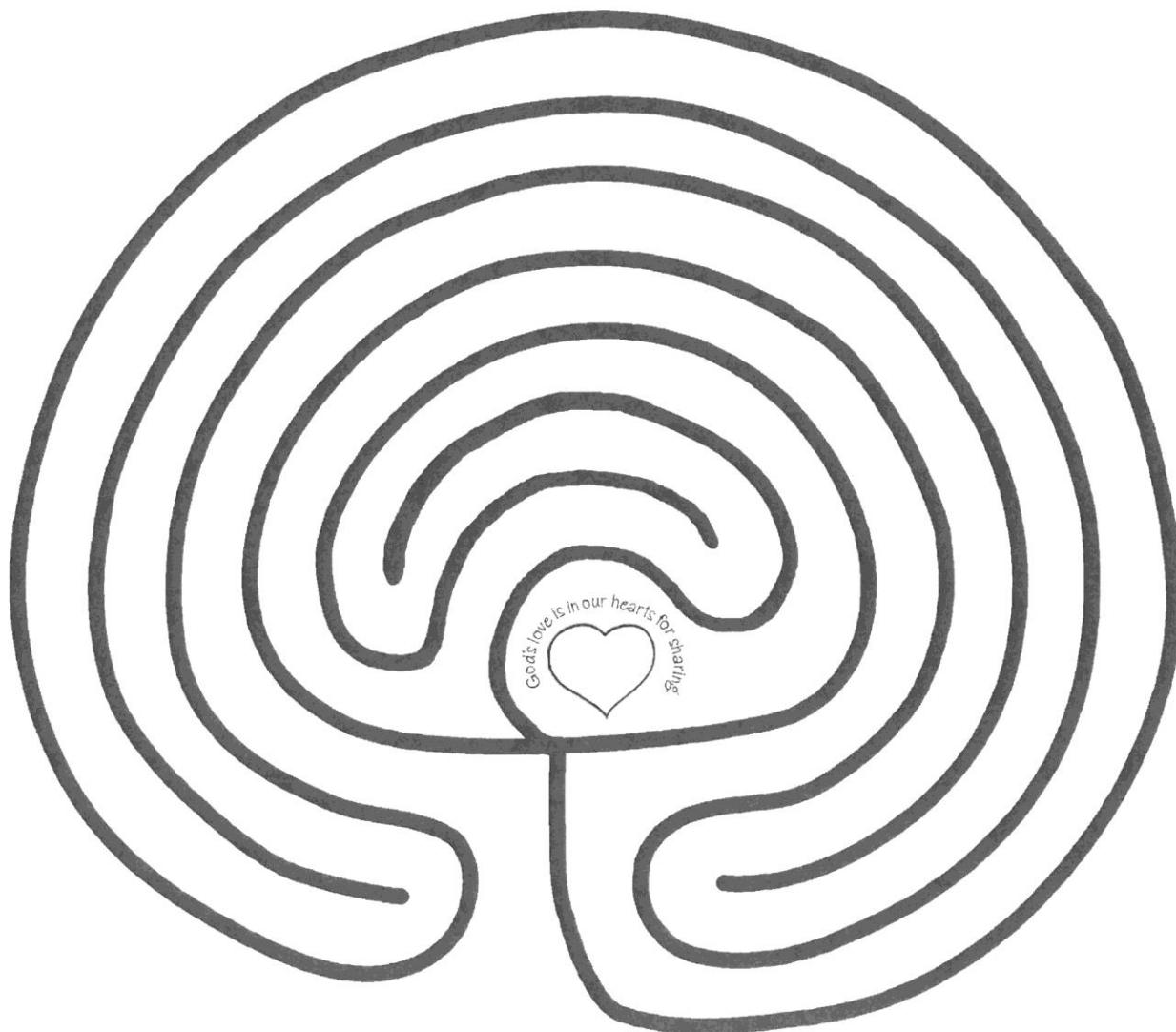
After they had been taken as captives to Babylon, Jeremiah brought messages of hope to the people of Judah. What does God promise? (Jeremiah 30:2-3)



Finger Labyrinth

Many people all over the world have used labyrinths for hundreds of years to help focus their hearts and minds in prayer. Say the following prayer as your finger moves slowly into the labyrinth, deep into the heart of God's love, and then back out again.

God of love,
I am listening for your voice deep inside my heart.
God of love,
show me how to share your love with others.



WONDER WORKER

in this
YEAR

WHEN everything CHANGED,
when we felt
WORRIED AND WEARY

when we wailed and wondered,

YOU GAVE US A PROMISE.

— **NOTHING** —
can separate us from
YOUR LOVE.

And nothing will be wasted.

WITH YOU AT WORK,

LIGHT, LIFE, LOVE, & LIBERATION

ALWAYS WIN.

amen.

LENT – EASTER 2021

Dear Families,

During the Season of Lent the children will be hearing stories from the Hebrew scriptures (also known as the Old Testament). These stories are about promises from God to Noah and his family and to Abraham and Sarah as well as the promises spoken through the Psalms and by the prophet Jeremiah. The Season of Lent is 40 days long (not counting the Sundays, which are all considered “little Easters”).

Here are the Gathering and Blessing songs that we will be using during this season. You might like to use them at home for family prayer times as well.

Gathering song

(tune: “Frère Jacques/Are You Sleeping”)

(Children repeat the bolded lines.)

God is with us. **God is with us.**
Every day. **Every day.**
God will always love us.
God will always love us.
Thank you, God. **Thank you, God.**

Blessing song

(tune: “Frère Jacques/Are You Sleeping”)

(Children repeat the bolded lines.)

May God bless you.
May God bless you.
Keep you safe. **Keep you safe.**
May God’s love surround you.
May God’s love surround you.
Go in peace. **Go in peace.**

On Palm/Passion Sunday (March 28)

children may bring home a “Holy Week Calendar” of readings and reflections which your family might do together.

Following Easter Sunday (April 4) we move into the Season of Easter. This season is 50 days long and the focus will be on Bible stories from the New Testament. Our group will explore stories in the gospels about Jesus’ appearances to the disciples after the Resurrection, and the ways in which Jesus’ friends and followers shared the good news of the risen Christ. During the Easter seasons we will learn from Jesus’ teachings and the witness of the disciples how we too can live as a faithful community of people who share God’s way of love.

You might like to read these stories together at home: John 20:19–31, Luke 24:36b–48, John 10:11–18, John 15:1–8, John 15:9–17, and Acts 1:15–17, 21–26. Reading the Bible together suggests that these stories are important to you.

We celebrate Pentecost Sunday

on May 23, marking the end of the Season of Easter. This is a day to celebrate the Spirit of God and the growth of the Christian community.

We will be praying for each child in our group during these seasons. We ask that your family also include us in your prayers as we prepare for and lead the sessions each week. May these Lenten and Easter seasons be times of spiritual nurture and growth for our group and for your family.

Sincerely,



Holy Week Stories

Come explore the Plymouth Campus and follow along Jesus' journey through Holy Week!



Our Plymouth staff has filmed short videos retelling the events of Holy Week.

These videos will be available beginning Monday, March 29 through Easter Sunday via QR codes posted at different locations around our beautiful, 12-acre campus. Pickup a specially-marked map outside the church office, then set off on a hunt for the codes! When you get to each location, scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to view the relevant video.

All are welcome to explore during daylight hours.



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