



## **Worship Service for June 23, 2024**

**Prelude** Marshall Davies

**Chiming of the Hour** Jan Lundy

**Welcome** Pastor Felix Carrión

**Centering Moment** Pastor Felix Carrión

**Praise & Worship Songs** Congregation

Sing! #7 "Welcome to This House"

Welcome to this house,  
Open and affirming.  
In God's Son we are all one.  
Hand in hand we stand.

Welcome to this house,  
Caring and accepting.  
In God's Son we are all one.  
Welcome to this house of God.

Welcome to this house,  
There is room for everyone.  
All will sing, praises we bring  
Let us all be one.

Welcome to this house,  
Where God gives the call to serve.  
All will sing, praises we bring.  
Welcome to this house of God.

Welcome to this house,  
Blessed by Word and Harmony.  
Child of God, born from above.  
Know that Christ is love.

Welcome to this house,  
Filled with peace and charity.  
Child of God, born from above.  
Welcome to this house of God.

**Announcements**

Jan Lundy

**Call to Worship**

Jan Lundy

LEADER: Where Pride goes, O God, may beauty bloom forever. Where Pride goes, may unfair standards be eased.

**ALL: Where Pride goes, may acceptance be the norm. Where Pride goes, may homophobia fall. Where Pride goes, may the welcome be warm. Where Pride goes, may name calling and taunting cease.**

LEADER: Where Pride goes, may love burst forth.  
Where Pride goes, may fear fade away.

**ALL: Where Pride goes, may justice roll down and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Where Pride goes, may unjust policies be defeated. Where Pride goes, may injustice of every sort fall forever.**

LEADER: Where Pride goes, may your kin-dom come and your will be done.

**ALL: Where Pride goes, O God, may your Church  
follow.**

**\*Congregational Song**

Congregation

“We Are a Rainbow”

We are hope to still believe in tomorrow's better day,  
We are peace in a world that's torn apart,  
We are joy that will last in all the struggles that we face,  
We are love that blooms and grows in every heart.

We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace,  
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be,  
Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,  
Paint the world in colors proud and bold and free.

When we face the storms of life, we will never be alone,  
For our God will be with us on the way,  
Hand in hand, side by side, we won't be frightened any  
more,  
As the mourning night of tears breaks into day.

We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace,  
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be,  
Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,  
Paint the world in colors proud and bold and free.  
Paint the world in colors proud and bold and free.

## Gathering Prayer

Jan Lundy

**ALL: God of wild love and extravagant acceptance,  
You are faithfully present in both the grit and  
glitter of life, and you are present here now.  
Awaken us to your dream for creation: A world  
in which every member of the human family is  
free to flourish however you have made them.  
Forgive us for the moments we have held back  
your ever-flowing current of love, dignity, and  
justice. Remake us into a people eager to see  
you in the faces and bodies of all people.  
Remind each of us to step out of the shadows  
of our lives and shine fearlessly and**

**courageously. Holy One, You call each of us beloved. Each of us cherished. Each of us desired. Each of us sacred. And so, we give you thanks now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**Biblical Witness**

Jan Lundy

Mark 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have

you still no faith?’ And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, ‘Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?’

## **Contemporary Witness**

Rev. Bri-anne Swan

### A Brief History of Affirm United/S’affirmer Ensemble

In 1982, Affirm was formed to support individual lesbian and gay members of The United Church of Canada and to advocate with the church for their full inclusion. Affirm worked with the support of allies within Friends of Affirm, a separate organization.

Later these two groups joined to become Affirm United/S’affirmer Ensemble; to this day, we welcome all people of all identities as members. And our own understanding of “LGBTQQIATT” and Two-Spirit folk has widened and deepened.

Then as now, we spoke at church and community meetings, advocated, cared for one another, and offered

educational events and resources. We also continue to welcome people of goodwill of all identities, whether as formal members or as supporters.

Since 1982, we have both struggled and collaborated with the United Church of Canada. Now we celebrate the changes in the denomination, and we continue to challenge the church to be true to its calling — to seek justice and resist evil. We do this in many ways, but the principal one remains our Affirming ministries program, which accompanies diverse ministries through the process of becoming publicly, intentionally, and explicitly welcoming of all gender identities and sexual orientations.

**Reflection**

Rev. Bri-anne Swan

Guest speaker Rev. Bri-anne Swan

**Special Music**

Video

“Come As You Are”



Come you who've been wounded  
All you who've lost hope  
Come you are longing  
for what you do not know.  
Come you hungry for justice  
Aching for heaven on earth  
Come you who've been tossed aside  
Don't remember what you're worth

Come as you are  
Come you weary  
Come and lay your burdens down  
Come as you are  
Bring your hopes  
Bring your doubts and your scars  
Come as you are

Come you who've been cast out  
All you who've been shamed  
come you who are looking  
for that mystery you can't name  
Come you crying for mercy

Hoping for peace on earth  
Come you carrying questions  
All you who've been so hurt

Come as you are  
Come you weary  
Come and lay your burdens down  
Come as you are  
Bring your hopes  
Bring your doubts and your scars  
Come as you are

Oh you misfits and prophets  
and you sinners and saints  
Oh you broken and needy,  
weird and weary and faint  
All who seek to simply  
open their eyes  
All who need to find  
a safe place to cry

Come as you are

Come you weary  
Come and lay your burdens down  
Come as you are  
Bring your hopes  
Bring your doubts and your scars  
Come as you are  
(x2)

## **Pastoral Prayer with Joys & Concerns**

Pastor Felix Carrión

## **Invitation to Offering**

Jan Lundy

SAGE

## **Offertory Music**

Marshall Davies

## **\*Doxology**

Congregation

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God for all that Love has done  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit one Amen.

**Offertory Prayer**

Jan Lundy

**ALL: Generous God, you give so freely of your love, mercy, and grace. Prompt us to share our blessings and gifts and respond to the cries of the world. Encourage us to give in hope – that the pain of those who face discrimination may be healed. May our offerings serve this holy purpose.**

**Amen.**

**\*Congregational Song**

Congregation

Sing! #35 “No Matter”

No matter who, no matter what,  
no matter where you are on the journey of life;

You're welcome, welcome in this place.

No matter who, no matter what,  
no matter where you are on the journey of life:

Accepted, welcomed by God's grace.

For we are family, Meant to be purposed for eternity.

Born in love, from above,

God's community.

No matter who, no matter what,

no matter where you are on the journey of life;

You're welcome, welcome in this place.

No matter who, no matter what,

no matter where you are on the journey of life:

Accepted, welcomed by God's grace.

And in diversity

unity, harmony for all to see:

Justice and equity,

God's community.

No matter who, no matter what,

no matter where you are on the journey of life;

You're welcome, welcome in this place.

No matter who, no matter what,  
no matter where you are on the journey of life:  
Accepted, welcomed by God's grace.

**Benediction**

Pastor Felix Carrión

**Song of Parting**

Congregation

Sing! #76 "There Is Room For All"

There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;  
there is room for all,  
sheltered in God's love.

And I rejoice and sing,

"My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."

There is room for all,

here is room for all.

(x2)

**Postlude**

**Marshall Davies**

**Today's Worship Participants**

Worship Leader: Jan Lundy

Sound: Scott Edmonds

Video: Mark Vines

Projector: Cathy Normand

YouTube Host: Rev. Lori Keaton

**Pastor Felix Carrión**

**Designated Pastor**

**Plymouth United Church (UCC)**

5927 Louetta Road, Spring, Texas 77379

[pastor@plymouthunited.org](mailto:pastor@plymouthunited.org)

Moderator: Aimee Broadhurst

281-414-5487

[moderator@plymouthunited.org](mailto:moderator@plymouthunited.org)

Office Manager: Amie Friday

281-251-8147

[officemanager@plymouthunited.org](mailto:officemanager@plymouthunited.org)

Music Director: Dr. Marshall Davies

[musicdirector@plymouthunited.org](mailto:musicdirector@plymouthunited.org)