



**Plymouth United Church of Christ** Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

## Greeting

Greetings to you in the love and peace of Jesus Christ!

## Call to Worship †§

L: Christ is risen!

P: **Christ is risen indeed!**

L: Though we find ourselves isolated in homes, apartments, and residential places,

P: **yet we listen to the birds singing, reminding us that the whole creation rejoices in the love of our God.**

L: Though we cannot reach out and touch our friends and neighbors,

P: **we rejoice that Jesus is in our midst, holding out hands of grace and hope to us!**

L: Though we have to stand at a safe distance from others, whispering hello through masks,

P: **we know that the Spirit is all around us, breathing peace on us in these moments, surrounding us with grace and hope.**

## Hymn 386

“The Church’s One Foundation”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQv4EAwMFo>

**The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;  
we are Christ’s new creation by water and the word;  
From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;  
with precious blood Christ bought us for all eternity.**

**Elect from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth,  
one charter of salvation, one God, one faith, one birth,  
One name together blessing, one holy food we share,  
to one hope we are pressing, at one in work and prayer.**

**’Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,  
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore;  
Till with the vision glorious, our longing eyes are blessed,  
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.**

**Yet we on earth have union with God, the Three-in-One,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy! God, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.**

## Prayer of Confession †

**Almighty God, our world is filled with corruption: power disguises itself as truth; convenience masquerades as goodness; selfish pleasure imitates love. We confess to you, O God, that we have been caught in the web of the world’s sin. By the power of the Holy Spirit, save us from these deceptions and free us for glad obedience, that we may see the joy of Jesus’ resurrection and receive the promise of everlasting life. Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon §

L: Hear this and trust it: The Good News of Easter is that guilt and shame are defeated, and you are raised to the possibilities of new life. In Jesus’ name, you are forgiven!

## The Service of the Word

### Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19

L: I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

**P: Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

L: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

**P: Then I called on the name of the Lord: “O Lord, I pray, save my life!”**

L: What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?

**P: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.**

L: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.

**P: O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.**

L: You have loosed my bonds.

**P: I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.**

L: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

**P: Praise the Lord!**

### Gospel

Luke 24:13–35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

## Sermon

### Sermon Hymn 245

“The Day of Resurrection”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jk8oCBexo7k>

**The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;  
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,  
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.**

**Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright  
the Christ who reigns eternal in resurrection light;  
We listen for the teachings once heard so calm and plain,  
for we, too, want to follow and raise the victory strain.**

**Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,  
the whole world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;  
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,  
for Christ again has risen, our joy that has no end.**

### The Response to the Word

**Offering** (*You may send your offerings to the church, or drop them off in person.*)

Offering Music: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ECY2IleRg8> Dan Forrest’s arrangement of “The Church’s One Foundation” for choir, brass, organ, and percussion

### Prayers of the People

#### Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father, 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.**

#### Benediction †§

L: Go forth in the love of God.

**P: We will send this love into unlovely parts of the world even while we stay isolated at home.**

L: Go forth in the grace of Jesus Christ.

**P: We will look for him in the faces of every person we meet, even at a distance, even through social media.**

L: Go forth in the peace of the Spirit.

**P: We will share this hope with the brokenness all around us, that we might offer healing to everyone. Amen!**

† <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>

† *Feasting on the Word* Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 1 ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press. Used with permission.

§ Written/modified by Rev. David Huber

### ***Who we are...***

*Plymouth UCC is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, since we are all created in God's image. We welcome into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ persons of every race, ethnic background, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socio-economic background, marital status and background. We welcome all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, humor, and blessings of participation in our congregation.*

## ***Spiritual Care Package***

### ***Question for Reflection***

The disciples on the road to Emmaus were with Jesus for hours as he taught them the meaning of the Scriptures. However, they finally recognized him as the risen Lord only in "the breaking of the bread." How does the Lord's Supper enable you to recognize Jesus?

### ***Household Prayer: Morning***

Lord Jesus, your rising from tomb heralds the dawning of life eternal as the dawning of this day holds the possibilities of life anew. Open my eyes to the signs of your resurrection and confirm in my heart the power of your amazing love, that I may with confidence sing "Alleluia." Amen.

### ***Household Prayer: Evening***

Loving God, you have upheld me with your love even when I have not been aware of your presence. As I rest from my labors let me sleep without fear of darkness or death and rise refreshed to begin a new day in humble service, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

# **God is still speaking,**