



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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[PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist](https://www.facebook.com/PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist)

Greeting

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

Call to Worship †§

L: At the presence of God, we rejoice:

P: glorifying the One who is Parent of all orphans.

L: In the presence of Jesus Christ, we listen:

P: to the Voice who calls us to humbly serve others.

L: Through the presence of the Holy Spirit, we speak:

P: making God's love known to those whom the world has forsaken.

Hymn 257

“Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wh61poqcnpA>

Alleluia! Gracious Jesus! Yours the scepter, yours the throne!

Alleluia! Yours the triumph, yours the victory alone!

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood;

Jesus, out of every nation you've redeemed us by your blood.

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now.

Alleluia! You are near us; faith believes, nor questions how.

**Though the cloud from sight received you when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget your promise, “I am with you evermore.”**

Alleluia! Bread of angels, you on earth our food, our stay.

Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to you from day to day.

**Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
and the songs that sound in heaven will repeat your gracious plea.**

Alleluia! Christ eternal, nothing can disrupt your reign;

Alleluia! Born of Mary, heaven and earth are your domain.

**Human life you fully entered tending those we count the least,
serving both as Priest and Victim in the eucharistic feast.**

Prayer of Confession †§

God of glory: we are so busy watching the skies for signs of your presence that we forget to look around to see those we can serve in your name. We are so intent on finding just the right way to tell off someone, that we forget the words of reconciliation you have taught to us. We are so convinced we can figure out your schedule that we forget to open ourselves to the presence of your Spirit within us. Forgive us, please, for all that we have done to others. Fill us with the wisdom to resist evil in our lives and strengthen us in that faith which is given to us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon †§

L: Beloved, do not be surprised. Our God is gracious to all, restoring us to new life. This is the good news which is for us: you are forgiven!

The Service of the Word

Psalm 93

- L: The Lord is king, he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed, he is girded with strength.
P: **He has established the world; it shall never be moved; your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.**
L: The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring.
P: **More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord!**
L: Your decrees are very sure;
P: **holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.**

Gospel

Luke 24:44–53

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Sermon

Sermon Hymn 260

“Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NhElgM311Sw>

**Hail the day that sees Christ rise, Alleluia! To a throne in paradise; Alleluia!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, Alleluia! Enters now the highest heaven. Alleluia!**

**Christ, for you high triumph waits, Alleluia! Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!
You have conquered death and sin; Alleluia! You, our Sovereign, enter in! Alleluia!**

**See! The nailmarked hands above; Alleluia! Sing of God’s redeeming love; Alleluia!
Hark! Christ’s words our hearts assure: Alleluia! “I will send a Comforter!” Alleluia!**

**Christ for us still intercede, Alleluia! By your suffering for us plead; Alleluia!
Make us worthy of the place, Alleluia! Which you offer us by grace. Alleluia!**

**Now, though parted from our sight, Alleluia! In the depths of starry night, Alleluia!
May our souls with you arise, Alleluia! Seeking wholeness at your side. Alleluia!**

**There we will with you remain, Alleluia! Heirs in your eternal reign; Alleluia!
In the presence of your face, Alleluia! We will dwell in heaven’s grace. Alleluia!**

The Response to the Word

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

During the offering, you might enjoy listening to Oliver Messiaen's "L'Ascension" (The Ascension), composed circa 1932–33. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icCQu1FCtfQ&t=5s> Messiaen was one of the greatest organists of the 20th century, as well as a great composer of mystical, meditative music. L'Ascension was originally composed for orchestra, and then Messiaen created this organ version later. It's 20 minutes 14 seconds long, and quite beautiful. For something a little shorter, here is a 5-voice motet "Ascendit Deus" by Peter Philips (born in England in 1560 or 1561, and left England in 1582 because he was Catholic and England was growing more anti-catholic at that point), written in the early 1600s.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjU9GdGt3NI>

Offering Prayer

Loving God, you pour out your grace upon us without reservation; help us to be as gracious and generous with our gifts and resources so others might know your hope, your healing, your presence. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

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: The hour has come to go into the world, even if only virtually,

P: **where our worship of God will continue in every moment of our lives.**

L: The hour has come to serve those around us,

P: **to shoulder the burdens of our sisters, to ease the pain of our brothers.**

L: The hour has come to glorify God,

P: **with our prayers as well as our praise, with songs as well as acts of service.**

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

§ Written/modified by Rev. David Huber

This week we pray for:

- All houses of worship—churches, temples, and mosques in the Chippewa Valley who provide ecumenical and interfaith combined fellowship and service to our community.

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 risen and ascended Christ promises to send us power from on high. How do I use such "soul force" to bring forgiveness, blessing, and love to others?

Household Prayer: Morning

Holy God, I give thanks this day that your Son ascends in the core of my being as new life arises in me. Open the eyes of my heart this day to seek and serve you in all whom I meet. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

I repent of the wrongs I have done this day, and seek forgiveness by the grace of your love. Clothe me with power on high this night that my life may rest hidden in you. Amen.

God is still speaking,