

*"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem ...*



*and to the ends of the earth."*

*Acts 1:8, NRSV*



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

2010 Moholt Drive, Eau Claire WI 54703 ☎ 715-835-5475 ✉ [pcucc.com](http://pcucc.com)



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

## Greeting

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

## Call to Worship ‡§

L: No great flowing fabrics of red hanging from sanctuary ceilings, yet this is still the day we celebrate Grace's breath shattering the shutters of our hearts.

P: **On this day, clad in our pajamas, sitting at home, may we continue to let the Spirit of new life breathe upon us!**

L: From the sanctuaries of our homes, through video worship, we gather with our sisters and brothers, proclaiming that we are God's Pentecost and we speak of God's love and the Spirit's peace for all.

P: **So that even apart, people know they are not alone, so that when that day comes, and we know it will, people will find a community awaiting them, when we open wide our doors once again.**

## Hymn 292

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmkzSjs9eAw>

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew  
That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
Until with you I will one will, to do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one desire:  
That every earthly part of me may glow with holy fire.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,  
But live with you the perfect life of your eternity.**

## Prayer of Confession ‡§

**O Pentecost's Spirit—if only we could tell of your wonders in our lives, yet social media and other ways we communicate is filled with anger, bitterness, and partisan arguments. If only we could share how you have transformed our lives, but we are stuck in our living spaces to help keep our neighbors safe from what is seeking to do us harm. Even in the closed rooms of our hearts, even with our shuttered souls, you continue to move, to live, to breathe upon us with your mercy and your grace. Now, in this moment, breathe your peace upon us so that we might be the balm for all the anger around us. Now, on this day, breathe your hope upon us so that we might drop it off on the porches of all huddling in their homes. Now, in the moments and days to come, continue to breathe your love upon us so that we might transform grudges into generosity, foolishness into common sense, and rejection into welcome. Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon ‡§

L: Listen! It is an old story, but it is also a brand new story because it is ours for this day. It may not happen with a mighty wind, but with a soft whisper. This is our Pentecost. This is our reminder that God forgives us and fills us with all things new. You are forgiven!

## The Service of the Word

### New Testament Lesson

1 Corinthians 12:3b–13

...no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

### Psalms 104:24–34, 35b

L: O Lord, how manifold are your works!

**P: In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.**

L: Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.

**P: There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.**

L: These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

**P: When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

L: When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

**P: May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works— who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.**

L: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

**P: May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.**

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

**P: Praise the Lord!**

### The Story of Pentecost

Acts 2:1–21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed

and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

## Sermon

### Sermon Hymn 261

“Let Every Christian Pray”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hz9uzZldDTg>

**Let every Christian pray, this day and every day,  
come, Holy Spirit, come! Was not the church we love  
commissioned from above? Come, Holy Spirit, come!**

**The Spirit brought to birth the church of Christ on earth  
to seek and save the lost: God never has withdrawn,  
since that tremendous dawn, the gifts of Pentecost.**

**Only the Spirit’s power can fit us for this hour:  
come, Holy Spirit, come! Unite, instruct, inspire  
and fill us with your fire: come, Holy Spirit, come!**

## The Response to the Word

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

For Pentecost, the ancient prayer "Veni Creator Spiritus" (Come, Holy Ghost, Creator, come) is appropriate. Gustav Mahler used that text for the beginning of his Symphony No. 8 composed in 1906-1910 (“The Symphony of a Thousand,” so-called because of the immense orchestra and even more immense multiple choirs and soloists it requires to perform). Here is the first section of the first movement, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plqzqdEWJNA> (just over three minutes long) or the entire first movement (just over 26 minutes long: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOk1ntMyWcs> ). Mahler uses snippets of the Veni Creator Spiritus chant, available here (with the score):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDhYGdK0KQg&t=440s>

Veni Creator Spiritus,  
mentes tuorum visita,  
imple superna gratia,  
quae tu creasti, pectora.

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator, come  
from thy bright heav'nly throne;  
come, take possession of our souls,  
and make them all thine own.

(You can see all the verses and learn more about this hymn/prayer at its wikipedia page:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veni\\_Creator\\_Spiritus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veni_Creator_Spiritus))

## Offering Prayer

**Blow the dust off our fears, Generous Spirit, so we might be more giving people. Blow the dust off our material gifts we think are so paltry, so we might realize how they can bring hope and life to others. Blow the dust off our mistaken views of others, so we might see them as our sisters and brothers, ready to grace us, even as we may bless them with these offerings. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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 shutters of our hearts have been flung open by the fresh breath of God!**

**P: We will go to offer God's love to everyone around us even if only from our living room or porch.**

**L: Our souls have been set on fire by the justice of the Brother of the poor.**

**P: We will go to share visions of hope, even if only through social media, a text, or phone call.**

**L: Our loneliness and fears will be set aside by the Spirit of inclusion creating community.**

**P: We will speak words of peace to all we meet even while maintaining a safe distance, we will open ourselves to the gifts of others even as we cocoon in place because we love them. Amen!**

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

§ Written/modified by Rev. David Huber

### This week we pray for:

- Our families and friends, our church, and ourselves

### ***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***

### ***Questions for Reflection***

What prophetic word for the community has God given to you? In what ways do you struggle with conflicts between your way of life and the prophetic word God would have you proclaim to others? How are the acts of God manifest in your life and witness?

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

Spirit of God, source of life, refresh my spirit, reshape my desire, and re-create my heart, that I may show forth your enduring glory; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

Spirit of God, you sustained me during the work of day; sustain me as I rest this night. Let my evening meditations be pleasing to you, that I may rise in the morning to rejoice in your goodness. Awake or asleep, I will sing your praise while I have being; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

# **God is still speaking,**