

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

June 14, 2020



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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: We come to worship our God, who has done wonders in our lives.

P: **God anoints us with joy and light, gifts from the treasures of God's heart.**

L: We come to follow Jesus, who bears our lives with grace and hope.

P: **Jesus sends us into the brokenness of the world to bring healing.**

L: We come to be touched by the Spirit, who brings gentleness and peace for all.

P: **The Spirit enables us to offer reconciliation and justice to everyone we meet.**

Hymn 27

“From All That Dwell below the Skies”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jl8pvfbg_ss

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, by every tongue.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal are your mercies, God; your truth stands ever high and broad:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Your praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer of Confession †§

Of course, we will do everything you ask, Faithfulness of creation, even as we cross our souls behind our backs. Yes, we could seek to end suffering, but we also like our comfort. Yes, we could be with others as they seek to endure life, but compassion is often hard to share. Yes, we could offer hope to the hungry and homeless, but we barely have enough for ourselves. Forgive us, Steadfast Love, and have mercy on us. Remind us that when the world would not welcome us, Jesus came—to listen to our emptiness, to comfort our grieving hearts, and to cast out death's power over us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon †§

L: God has brought us out of despair and into hope, because God considers us a precious treasure. Through the grace and love of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

The Service of the Word

Gospel

Matthew 10:1–8

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go,

proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Psalm 116:1–2, 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: 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!**

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 18:1–15, (21:1–7)

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

Sermon

Sermon Hymn

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

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

**Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of Thy redeeming love.**

**Hitherto Thy love has blest me; Thou hast bro't me to this place;
And I know Thy hand will bring me Safely home by Thy good grace.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Bought me with His precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it; Seal it for Thy courts above.**

The Response to the Word

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

For the offering, you might enjoy this Mack Wilberg arrangement of “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” performed by the Atlanta Master Chorale and the Morehouse College Glee Club.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KZUYJ4WEsg>

Or for something a bit more traditional, St. Hildegard of Bingen’s “Spiritus Sanctus” (Holy Spirit) (composed in mid 1100s, probably in the 1160s or 1170s) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFwxnWWjleU>

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self †§

“Here I Am, Lord”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBg-yDhM2KY>

We could be the healing for those who suffer; we could be the strength for those who long to endure; we could be the hope for those buffeted by the world, and so, we offer ourselves, as well as our gifts, in hopes that you will bless others who are in your heart. 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: God sends us out to bear witness to grace.

P: **We will speak of all God has done.**

L: Jesus sends us out into every neighborhood and community.

P: **We will go to bear the burdens of our neighbors.**

L: The Spirit sends us out on a journey of faithfulness.

P: **We will go to see everyone through the eyes of compassion. Amen.**

‡ <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>
§ Written/modified by Rev. David Huber

This week we pray for:

- The General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ Rev. John Dorhauer and Wisconsin Conference Minister Rev. Franz Rigert, along with all UCC staff at the national and Conference level
- These individuals/families: Charline Kozlowski, Dorothy Kruschke, Arvilla Kruschke, Cathy Lawler, Faye LaPean

Cross illumination for June is sponsored by Jim & Linda Oliver in honor of their family.

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

How is God's presence experienced in a Christian's life?

Household Prayer: Morning

Holy Presence, let me be with you today. Awaken my senses to the wonders of your creation, and fill me with compassion for every person I meet. Protect me from those who would hurt me; make me watchful so that I do not harm anyone. Fill my inward being with the love of Christ, and inasmuch as it is possible, let others know your presence through me. In this way let me glorify you, Holy One, Holy Three. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Maker of day and night, creator of sun, moon, and all planets and stars, thank you for your protection during the hours I have passed in your light. Guard me, I pray, through the coming dark. As I settle into sleep, recall to my mind each blessing you gave me while I was awake so that I can rejoice in your goodness. Grant me peace, rest, and renewal as I close my eyes in your presence. Watch over me while I am helpless in the world. If it is your will to speak to me in dreams while my mind is quieted and still, grant that I may be attentive to your Word and guided by your Spirit when I awake to a new day. Let me arise and join my voice with all the faithful in giving you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ, the Light. Amen.

God is still speaking,