



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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Plymouth United Church of Christ

November 15, 2020

The Family of God Gathers

Prelude *Please let the prelude be a signal to prepare for worship.*

Call to Worship †§

- L: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations;
P: you have been our home throughout all the ages.
L: You were there before the world was made and will be forever.
P: From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Prayer of Confession †§

Almighty God, you have shown us the ways of justice and nurtured us with love. Even so, we have not lived according to your will. When we are oppressed or unjustly accused, we cling to fear and forget to trust in your deliverance. When we are giddy with power and abuse the rights of others, we hold tight to our privilege and forget your command to love. Have mercy on us, Lord, for we are weak and prone to disobedience. Hear our confession, and respond to us with kindness, that we might walk in the light and live in equity and peace. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon §

- L: God's grace is stronger than our failures: in Jesus' name, you are forgiven!
P: You are forgiven!
L: May the peace of Christ be with you!
P: And also with you!

The Sign of Peace

Centering Music

The Service of the Word

Psalm 90:1–8, 12

- L: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
P: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
L: You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
P: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.
L: You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.
P: For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
L: You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
P: So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Gospel

Matthew 25:14–30

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Sermon

Musical Offering

“Hope of the World”

*Please mail your offerings and **pledge cards** to the church or drop them off at the office.*

**Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion,
Speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.
Save us, thy people, from consuming passion,
Who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.**

**Hope of the world, God’s gift from highest heaven,
Bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
Still let thy Spirit unto us be given
To heal earth’s wounds and end her bitter strife.**

**Hope of the world, O Christ, o’er death victorious,
Who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain,
We would be faithful to thy gospel glorious;
Thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign!**

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The Response to the Word

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.

Musical Amen

Benediction †§

L: Encourage one another and build each other up,

P: faithfully working together to create God's realm here on earth.

L: May the God of creation work wonders in you by the power of the Holy Spirit!

All: Amen!

Postlude

† *Feasting on the Word* Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 2 ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press. Used with permission.

§ Modified/written by Rev. David Huber

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. David Huber • Ministers: All the people of Plymouth • Pianist: Lynn McFadyen • Liturgist: Linda Oliver

We of Plymouth extend to you our hand of fellowship and an invitation to become a member. If you are interested, or have any questions, please speak with or send a note to Pastor David or our Moderator, Barb Kleist. Our table always has room for more.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, November 15

OCWM offering

Tuesday, November 17

9:00 A.M. Coffee & Conversation

Thursday, November 19

3:30 P.M. Coffee & Conversation

Sunday, November 22

Reign of Christ

Cross illumination for November is sponsored by Mimi Pederson in loving memory of her sister Trudy Brewer.

We pray for:

- All UCC missionaries and ordained and licensed ministers; the ministry and mission of the UCC and the Church universal
- Paul Holmen dealing with health concerns
- The Jaenke family dealing with health concerns
- Paul Gilbertson dealing with health concerns

Coffee and Conversation is a virtual gathering via Zoom for folks who miss the Sunday morning coffee time at church. There is no set topic of conversation, and it's a nice way to keep in touch while we have to maintain social distance. Pastor David hosts the gatherings and posts the link on the church Facebook page. Check it out! <https://tinyurl.com/y2e87nm>

The Community Table is looking for donations of food for Thanksgiving gift baskets. The traditional things (cranberry sauce, stuffing, etc) and/or gift cards for turkeys are needed.

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

Human beings have been graced with the gift of persistence, imagination, and the capacity for extraordinary accomplishment. We have even been given life-giving gifts. Yet, as the psalmist reminds us, we are finite beings. When is our refusal to accept human limits productive, and when does this hinder our creaturely stance before God? Is knowing that God is God, and we are not, a message of eternal grace that we can hear? And in the face of tragedy and death, can we bear that grace in confidence and peace?

Household Prayer: Morning

I give thanks this day for the gift of Christ and the privilege to follow in his way. This is the greatest life-giving treasure that I am called to steward; may I share this as freely as I have received it from the One who gave himself for the life of the world. May I be continually awakened to your love this day. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God, I do not like to confront what I cannot control; I shrink before my own limitations and human frailty. Help me to trust in your steadfast constancy and know that your sovereign goodness is all that I need. Teach me to number my days so that I may grow wise in heart, knowing that, no matter their length, I dwell in you eternally. Amen.

God is still speaking,