



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

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November 22, 2020

The Family of God Gathers

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

Call to Worship †§

- L: O come, let us sing to the Lord;
P: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
L: For the Lord is a great God;
P: a great ruler over heaven and earth!

Prayer of Confession †§

Merciful God: We confess we have not seen your face among our neighbors in need. We have not shared our food with the hungry, we have not offered clothes to the destitute, or shelter to the homeless. We have not welcomed the stranger, nor have we visited prisoners. We have not paid attention to our neighbors, and in our neglect we have therefore failed to serve you. Lord, forgive us; open our eyes to recognize your beloved family, and give us the blessing of sincere repentance that we may live in right relationship with you and with all our neighbors. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon §

- L: To do God's will means to love and care for our neighbors; through God's grace, we have assurance we can do so however imperfect we are. 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 95:1–7a

- L: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
P: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
L: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
P: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.
L: The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
P: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
L: For he is our God,
P: and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Gospel

Matthew 25:31–46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Sermon

Musical Offering

“Jesus Shall Reign”

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

**Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
God's realm shall stretch from shore to shore
till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**People and realms of every tongue
dwell on God's love with sweetest song.
And infant voices shall proclaim
their earliest prayers in Jesus' name.**

**Let every creature rise and bring
tributes of praise to all to sing;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.**

Public domain

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: With the eyes of your heart enlightened, receive the hope to which God has called you in Jesus Christ.

P: Glory be to God!

L: May God who seeks the lost keep you; may God who brings back the wandering heart uphold you; may God who binds up the injured heal you; may God who strengthens the weak empower you, now and forever.

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 22

Reign of Christ

Tuesday, November 24

9:00 A.M. Coffee & Conversation

Thursday–Friday, November 26–27

Office closed

Sunday, November 29

Community Table offering

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

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.
- 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

What sort of power is manifest in the reign of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to claim that Christ is “far above all rule and authority and power and dominion” or that God has “put all things under his feet” (Eph. 1:21, 22)?

Household Prayer: Morning

Almighty God, reveal to me the greatness of your power, that I may see your presence among the lowly and the lost and know the authority and sovereignty of your love in Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is also our humble brother. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord Jesus, when did I see you hungry? When did I see you thirsty? When did I welcome you, or clothe you, or take care of you, or visit you? Have I ignored your claim upon my time, my attention, my resources? Open my eyes; melt my heart; enlighten my understanding. Let me see you in the world, welcome you as my brother, and serve you as my Lord, with the family you acknowledge as your own: the poor, the stranger, the sick, and the prisoner. Amen.

God is still speaking,