



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

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PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

# Plymouth United Church of Christ

February 14, 2021

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## The Family of God Gathers

### Prelude

“Beautiful Savior”

arr. Lorie Line

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

### Call to Worship ‡

L: You are with us, God of sunrises:

**P: you awaken us with each bright new day, overflowing with promise.**

L: You are with us, Inviting God:

**P: calling us to respond to all the chances to share the spirit of grace and hope.**

L: You are with us, Glory of God:

**P: gathering us into the presence of your peace, listening to the deep sighs of our hearts.**

### Prayer of Confession ‡§

The radiance of your grace is poured out in every moment, trying to transform and transfigure our hearts and minds to be more faithful disciples, but we dull its luster by living in the shadows. We have trouble simply sitting in your presence, in your healing silence, and letting your Spirit change us. Forgive us for focusing on non-essentials while ignoring your radiant transformative presence. Help us tune out the noise so that may we hear your whispers of grace. Help us to trust the change you want us to make so that may we go forth to serve your world, filling it with the light and love of the One who is the Light of the world, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Assurance of Pardon §

L: God’s light has come to us in Jesus Christ, the Lord of light and love. Trust the good news that you are loved and you are forgiven!

### The Sign of Peace

*Now please take a moment and share the peace with those in your household and/or offer a moment to send prayers of peace to those you love who are not with you.*

### Centering Music

“Amazing Grace”

## The Service of the Word

### Psalms 50:1–6

L: The mighty one, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**P: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.**

L: Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him.

**P: He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people: “Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”**

L: The heavens declare his righteousness,  
P: **for God himself is judge.**

## Gospel

Mark 9:2–9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

## Sermon

### Musical Offering

“Come to the Mountain”

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

### Communion †§

#### Prayer

L: May God be with you.

P: **May God be with you also.**

L: Lift up your hearts, people of God.

P: **We open them to the One who loves us.**

L: People of God, give thanks to the One who meets us on the mountaintops of glory and in the valleys of service.

P: **It is good that we offer praise and thanksgiving to the One who is with us in every moment.**

L: You crafted mountains on which we might find your majesty; you carved rivers of life where we might bathe in your grace. All things were shaped by you, Bright Glory of creation, and given that we might live in the abundance of your hopes for us.

P: **When we could have lived in that garden of serenity which you planted for us, we caught a glimpse of temptation. We turned our eyes to the gifts of sin and death, certain that they would be better than anything you offered, but we found only disappointment, and that the attractive shininess was never anything but an illusion, hiding the dullness and emptiness within.**

L: But you never forsook us. You kept reaching out to us, and in the fullness of time you became one of us, that we might be transformed into your faithful disciples. Coming down Glory’s mountainside, he does not remain silent about your hopes, but calls us to follow him in your Way of mercy and love.

P: **Remembering that he could have chosen to stay with Moses and Elijah, but came down to serve us, we come to the Table he sets for all his people.**

L: On these gifts of the bread and the cup, and on your children gathered in their homes, pour out your Spirit, God of Joy. As we share the brokenness of Christ, may we be restored to wholeness; as we drink of his forgiveness, may we become more gracious. May his return in faith find us praying for your peace; may his return in hope, find us working for your justice; may his return in love, find us welcoming all your children. Amen.

## The Story

### 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.**

### Distribution

“Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken”

### Prayer of Thanksgiving §

**God of abundance, we thank you for feeding us at your table of love and friendship. May we who have received this sacrament be strengthened in your service as living sacrifices to your way of love, serving our neighbors without hesitation or consideration of cost, as the sign of our gratitude for your light, life, and love. Amen.**

### Closing Hymn

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

### Benediction †§

L: God sends us from this sacred space.

**P: We will go to share the good news of grace.**

L: Jesus would not have us stay here forever.

**P: We will go to serve our sisters and brothers in the valleys.**

L: The Spirit fills us with the gifts we need.

**P: We will go to share feasts of hope and peace with everyone. Amen!**

### Postlude

“This Little Light of Mine”

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

§ Modified/written by Rev. David Huber

### Worship Leaders

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

*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, February 14**

*Prayers for the People*

**Monday, February 15**

7:00 P.M. Leadership Team

**Tuesday, February 16**

9:00 A.M. Coffee & Conversation

**Wednesday, February 17**

*Ash Wednesday*

**Thursday, February 18**

3:30 P.M. Coffee & Conversation

**Sunday, February 21**

*OCWM offering*

*Cross illumination for February is sponsored by Mike & Marybeth Tschumperlin.*

*This bulletin is sponsored by an anonymous donor.*

### **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: Meghan Cartmill, Patty (John) Cartmill, Nancy Champion, Lilah Eastzman, Tami (Chris) Eisberner

*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/y2e87nrn>

### **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***

The Old Testament reading for today presents Elijah as a “new Moses”—striking the Jordan with his mantle and causing its waters to part so that he and Elisha could pass through on dry ground (2 Kgs. 2:8). The Gospel reading builds on this comparison by placing Moses and Elijah together at Jesus’ transfiguration (Mark 9:4). There is also a parent-child dynamic in each of these passages. Elisha asks to receive a “double share” of Elijah’s spirit (2 Kgs. 2:9)—the appointed inheritance of a firstborn son (see Deut. 21:17). At the transfiguration, God’s voice from the cloud bestows on Jesus the mantle of divine authority: “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” What do these constellations of relationships suggest to you? How do they help you to understand the transfiguration of Jesus? How is Jesus a fulfillment of the law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah)? (See also Luke 24:44.) How is Jesus revealed to be God’s Son, and what does that mean for us? (See also Luke 3:22, 38.)

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

God of glory, I greet you at the dawning of this day. Let my life proclaim Christ Jesus and the good news of the gospel from the rising of the sun to its setting; to the glory of your name. Amen.

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

God of glory, I greet you at the ending of this day. Overshadow me with your peace so that I may rest in your presence from the setting of the sun to its rising; to the glory of your name. Amen.

# **God is still speaking,**