



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

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PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

# Plymouth United Church of Christ

February 17, 2021

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## The Family of God Gathers

### Greetings

### Gathering Prayer †

L: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

**P: As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.**

L: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation.

**P: As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.**

L: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

**P: As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.**

### Opening Hymn

“Savior, When in Tears and Dust”

**Savior, when in tears and dust, low we bow to you in trust,  
When repentant, to the skies scarce we lift our weeping eyes,  
Mindful how you suffered pain that God’s love in us might reign—  
help us claim what we would be, hear our solemn litany.**

**By your helpless infant years, by your life of want and tears,  
By your days of sore distress in the savage wilderness,  
By the dread mysterious hour of the insulting tempter’s power:  
Turn, O turn a favoring eye, hear our solemn litany.**

**By your hour of dire despair, by your agony of prayer,  
By the cross, the nail, the thorn, piercing spear, and torturing scorn,  
By the gloom that veiled the skies o’er the dreadful sacrifice:  
Listen to our humble cry, hear our solemn litany.**

**By your deep expiring groan, by the sad sepulchral stone,  
By the vault whose cold abode held in vain the rising God:  
O from earth to realms of light, Christ restored in power and might,  
Listen, listen to the cry of our solemn litany.**

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### Psalm 51

L: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your perfect love.

**P: In your great kindness, erase my mistakes.**

L: Wash me completely of my sin,

**P: for I never forget my need for forgiveness.**

L: Against you alone have I sinned; I’ve failed you,

**P: so you are justified to judge us.**

L: You desire truth and integrity to the core;

**P: therefore transform me from within.**

L: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

**P: Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

L: Let me hear joy and gladness; let this crushed body rejoice.

**P: Forget my sins forever and erase all my mistakes.**

L: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew my spirit.

**P: Please don't throw me out or take your holy spirit from me.**

L: Restore my joy and sustain my spirit.

**P: Deliver us from violence, O God of healing, and we will cheer for your deliverance.**

L: Holy One, open my lips,

**P: and my mouth will sound your praise.**

L: For you care nothing for sacrifices.

**P: What you love is a broken spirit ready to change.**

L: You welcome a humble heart.

**P: So bless your covenant people in your good pleasure, and rebuild the walls of the Holy City.**

## Gospel

Matthew 4:1–11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’  
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

## Sermon

### Sermon Hymn Verses 1–3

“Just as I Am”

**Just as I am, without one plea but that your blood was shed for me,  
And that you called inviting me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, you will receive, will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:  
Because your promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

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# Communion

## 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

**Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with this bread of life and cup of salvation. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### \*Hymn Verse 4

“Just as I Am”

**Just as I am, your love unknown has broken every barrier down:  
Now to be yours, and yours alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

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### \*Benediction †

L: The blessing of God, who hears when you call; the grace of Christ, who reconciles you; the power of the Holy Spirit, who sustains you; remain with you in these Lenten days and for all your days, and forevermore.

**All: Amen.**

## Postlude

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

† *Feasting on the Word* Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 1 ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press. Used with permission.

## 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

**Wednesday, February 17**

*Ash Wednesday*

**Thursday, February 18**

3:30 P.M. Coffee & Conversation

**Sunday, February 21**

*OCWM offering*

### Announcements

## Empty Bowls Week

Help fight local hunger with us! This year's Empty Bowls fundraiser will be a week-long opportunity (March 1-6) to come to Feed My People and pick up a one-of-a-kind gift bag without ever leaving your vehicle. All proceeds go towards hunger-relief in west central Wisconsin.

Each gift bag includes a handcrafted bowl, local recipes, and coupons to restaurants who typically supply the meal for Empty Bowls. Additionally, you will gain access to an online silent auction, which will be open February 25 – March 6. A traditional Gift Bag is \$20 and contains a randomly selected handcrafted bowl made by a local artist or student. Signature Gift Bags are \$25 and feature a special bowl designed by Scheelhouse Pottery. Supporters also have the option of purchasing a Bowl with a Bow for \$10 that will go directly to someone in need as a gift.

Purchase tickets today at [give.fmpfoodbank.org/EmptyBowlsWeek](http://give.fmpfoodbank.org/EmptyBowlsWeek). Pickup times will be emailed with your ticket receipt. Thank you for helping feed your neighbors in need.



### ***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**

How can I give alms, pray, or fast without regard for the attention of others? How does Jesus' admonition to do these acts in secret compare to his earlier command in the Sermon on the Mount: "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:16)? What is the reward that God gives to those who give alms, pray, and fast?

### **Household Prayer: Morning**

Dear God, you call me to repentance as I begin this new day. If through careless ways I ignore your grace, O Lord, prick my heart, shake me, make me aware of your abiding presence, and lead me in the way of everlasting life. Amen.

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

[Pray Psalm 51:10] Create in me a clean heart, O God, And put a new and right spirit within me. Amen.

# **God is still speaking,**