

1st Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021



FIRST SUNDAY
in
LENT



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

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The Family of God Gathers

Prelude

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

“Give Me Jesus”
arr. Lorie Line

Call to Worship †§

L: Here, at the outer limits of Lent, we are called to walk:

P: to the paper-thin edges which cut us to the soul; to the workplaces which weary us; to the people who confuse us; to the faith which threatens us.

L: Here, at the corner of Steadfast Love and Faithfulness, we are called to wait:

P: when our clenched stomachs awaken us; in the moments of unbearable sorrow; with the angels who would carry us.

L: Here, where time is fulfilled, where God’s Kingdom is as near to us as our neighbor, we begin Lent:

P: with the Beloved, whose tears wash away our fears, with the God who will not let go of our hands.

Prayer of Confession †

Lord God, you know the ways of good and evil. You know the things that tempt us and the things that give us life. You know our nakedness, and you know our sin. We confess that we have disobeyed your word, denying your providence and care and relying on our own cleverness. Have mercy on us, we pray: cover us with your grace, feed us with the bread of life, and re-create us in your image; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon §

L: Nothing can separate us from God’s love: in Jesus’ name, 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

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

The Service of the Word

Psalm 25:1–10

L: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

P: O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

L: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

P: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

L: Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

P: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

L: Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

P: Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

L: He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

P: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Gospel

Mark 1:9–15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Sermon

Musical Offering

"You Are the Rock of My Salvation"

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

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.

Closing Hymn

"Again We Keep This Solemn Fast"

Benediction †

L: Trusting in God, let us go from this place.

P: Taught all we need, we will bring hope and peace to others.

L: Trusting in Jesus, let us go into the world.

P: Given all we need, we will go to serve those around us.

L: Trusting in the Spirit, we will not be tempted to stay, so let us go.

P: Baptized in hope, we will go to welcome others as God's Beloved. Amen!

Postlude

"O God, How We Have Wandered"

† *Feasting on the Word* Worship Companion, Year B, Vol. 1 ©2014 Westminster John Knox Press. Used with permission.

‡ <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: Mimi Pederson

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 21

OCWM offering

Tuesday, February 23

9:00 A.M. Coffee & Conversation

Thursday, February 25

3:30 P.M. Coffee & Conversation

Sunday, February 14

Prayers for the People

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>

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

This bulletin is sponsored by an anonymous donor.

We pray for:

- All UCC missionaries and ordained and licensed ministers; the ministry and mission of the UCC and the Church universal

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

The phrase “kingdom of God” occurs fourteen times in the Gospel of Mark. Though Jesus is described at the Gospel’s opening as being “from Nazareth of Galilee” (Mark 1:9), at Jesus’ baptism it becomes clear whence he comes and to whom he belongs. Jesus is God’s beloved Son, and his baptism signals the only realm to which he owes allegiance. His baptism, then, not only is a religious act, but also is a political and economic one. In what ways does your baptism into Christ make claims on your political, social, and economic practices as well as your religious practices?

Household Prayer: Morning

God of ancient covenants, your steadfast love and faithfulness are still new every morning. I thank you that I can begin this day in the confidence of your abiding love and unending mercy. Help me to treat others—family, friends, coworkers, classmates, and even strangers—with love and mercy in our encounters today. When I disappoint or am discordant, help me to show love to others. Open my eyes to the places, people, and circumstances in which your kingdom has come near. I pray in the name of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God of peace, as the day draws to a close and the evening draws in around me, I think of the creatures of the earth that also seek rest in the hours of the night. You love them even as you love me, and your covenant faithfulness covers all of us. So, with the birds of the air, the beasts of the field, and the tiny ones who burrow in the ground, I offer you all thanks and praise: for your unending goodness; for the beauty of our home, the earth; for your gift of life instead of a deserved destruction. As your colorful bow now rests in the clouds, so may we color the earth with the ways of peace until all creation rests with you in completeness. In Christ’s name I pray. Amen.

God is still speaking,