

4th Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021



FOURTH SUNDAY
in
LENT



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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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: O give thanks to the Lord, who is good;
P: **God's steadfast love endures forever.**
L: For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,
P: **but in order that the world might be saved through him!**

Prayer of Confession †§

Merciful God, we confess the folly of our sin and the hypocrisy of our complaints. We grumble about the evils in our world, even as we add to them or do little to reduce them. We fret about the scarcity of resources while hoarding earth's goods and cheating the poor. We protest the problems of our world, but we do not actively work to address them. Merciful God, expose our sins before the light of your grace. Heal us and free us from our foolish ways that we may know the joy of life as your disciples. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon §

- L: God came to us as one of us to show us the depths of divine 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 107:1–3, 17–22

- L: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.
P: **Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.**
L: Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.
P: **Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.**
L: Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.
P: **And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.**

Gospel

John 3:14–21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Sermon

Musical Offering

“We Are Called”

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

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

**We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.**

Refrain

**We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.**

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!

**We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so all hatred and blindness will be no more. *Refrain***

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!

**God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love. *Refrain***

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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.

Closing Hymn

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

What wondrous love is this, O my soul! O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this!
that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the heavy cross for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing , I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am.
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on!
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Benediction †§

- L: We have received the immeasurable riches of God's grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
P: We go forth to share this gift with others.
L: May the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the light of the Spirit bless you and keep you in the way of truth.
P: 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.

§ 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.

Cross illumination for March is sponsored by Ben Bechle in memory of David Bechle.

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: Donald Erickson, Terri (Joe) Gilbert, Dorothy Gilbertson, Joe (Emily) Gilbertson, Paul (Gay) Gilbertson

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, March 14

Prayers for the People

One Great Hour of Sharing offering

Tuesday, March 16

9:00 A.M. Coffee & Conversation

Thursday, March 18

3:30 P.M. Coffee & Conversation

Sunday, March 21

OCWM offering

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/y2e87nrm>

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 does the light of God's truth reveal about your life? Are there parts of your life that you want to hide from God? Can you imagine what it would be like to live completely transparent to God's piercing light?

Household Prayer: Morning

Loving God, draw me to your light, that I may avoid the dangers of sin and receive the freedom of your grace in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord Christ, as shadows of night draw near, sustain me by the light that banishes the fearful claim of death. Help me believe in you with all my heart that I may know the freedom of salvation and at last receive the joy of eternal life. Amen.

God is still speaking,