



FIFTH SUNDAY
in
LENT



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

Mar 21, 2021

The Family of God Gathers

Prelude

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

“The Old Rugged Cross”

arr. Lorie Line

Call to Worship †§

L: Jesus said, “When I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself.”

P: Blessed be the God of our salvation who bears our burdens and broods over us.

L: Let us give thanks for God’s steadfast love,

P: and all the Lord’s wonderful works to humankind.

Prayer of Confession †§

Redeeming God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart, and have not loved our neighbors as we ought. Do not remember our sins, but forgive our iniquities, that we may fix our eyes on you and sin no more, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon §

L: Jesus said, “When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself.” In Jesus’ name, you are forgiven! May the peace of Christ be with you!

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 119:9–16

L: How can young people keep their way pure?

P: By guarding it according to your word.

L: With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments.

P: I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.

L: Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

P: With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth.

L: I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches.

P: I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways.

L: I will delight in your statutes;

P: I will not forget your word.

Gospel

John 12:20–33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Sermon

Musical Offering

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

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

**Beneath the cross of Jesus I gladly take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.**

**Upon the cross of Jesus within my mind I see
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
And from my grieving heart with tears two wonders I confess—
the wonders of Christ’s glorious love and my unworthiness.**

**I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of Christ’s face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.**

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

“Lift High the Cross”

Refrain:

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim;
Let all adore and praise that sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
the Lamb victorious, Christ the Child of God. *Refrain***

**O Christ, once lifted on the glorious tree,
your death has brought us life eternally. *Refrain***

**Set up your throne, that earth’s despair may cease,
beneath the shadow of its healing peace. *Refrain***

Benediction †§

L: Jesus said, “Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also.” Go in peace to love and serve Christ, and may the blessing of God, who loves, forgives, and calls us home, be with you now and always. 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: Deb Zehms

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:

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

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, March 21

OCWM offering

Tuesday, March 23

9:00 A.M. Coffee & Conversation

Thursday, March 25

3:30 P.M. Coffee & Conversation

Sunday, March 28

Palm/Passion Sunday

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

God is at work offering forgiveness, showing mercy, and giving knowledge of life, death, and salvation. Where is God enacting that new life within or around you? What in your life must die so that you may flourish? What must fall away so that you can rise again in Christ?

Household Prayer: Morning

Loving God, you offer the gift of new life each day. Open my heart to receive this grace that I may be wholly yours, then give me the courage to share this gift wherever I go as I seek to walk in your way of mercy, forgiveness, and newness of life. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Forgiving God, who makes all things new, you know where I have flourished this day, and you know where I have failed. Help me to know that in all my challenges there is a seed of hope that enables me to more faithfully depend on you. May I rest in peace this night and awake refreshed to greet the newness of your day. Amen.

God is still speaking,