



Palm
SUNDAY



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor
2010 Moholt Drive, Eau Claire WI 54703 ☎ 715-835-5475 🌐 pucc.com



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Plymouth United Church of Christ

March 28, 2021

The Family of God Gathers

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

Palm Sunday Entry Drama

Mark 11:1–11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Opening Music

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

**“Hosanna, loud hosanna,” the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang;
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.**

**From Olivet they followed amid a cheering crowd,
the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.
The one whom angels worship rode on in lowly state,
and glad to see the children, slowed down the donkey’s gait.**

**“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song is ours.
We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers:
“Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.
Hosanna! In your presence forever we’ll rejoice!”**

Prayer of Confession †‡§

Holy God, we confess we have failed you, and although we would like to deny it, we easily follow you in the Palm Sunday times but too easily forsake you in the Good Friday times. We have rejected the cornerstone you sent to build a people of righteousness even here, today. Forgive our failings. Open the gates of your forgiveness and restore us in your love. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon †

L: Your God has come to you, humble, in Jesus our friend and savior. In his 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 Song

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

Psalm 31:9–16

L: Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.
P: For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.
L: I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.
P: I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.
L: For I hear the whispering of many—terror all around!—as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.
P: But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, “You are my God.”
L: My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
P: Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Passion Story from Mark’s Gospel

Hymn Verses 1–2

“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.**

Jesus Shows His Authority

Mark 11:15–33

Hymn Verse 3

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

**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.**

The Great Commandment

Mark 1:28–13:2

Hymn Verses 1–2

“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!**

Anointing

Mark 14:3–11

Hymn Verses 3–4

“Just as I Am”

**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!**

**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!**

Last Supper, Jesus’ Arrest and Trial, Peter’s Denial

Mark 14:12–72

Hymn Verses 1–3

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

**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.**

Pilate and Crucifixion

Mark 15:1–41

Closing Music “Were You There?”

Hannah Zehms

There is no benediction during Holy Week until Easter worship.

- † *Feasting on the Word* Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 1 ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press. Used with permission.
Modified by Rev. David Huber.
‡ *Feasting on the Word* Worship Companion, Year B, Vol. 1 ©2014 Westminster John Knox Press. Used with permission.
§ Written/modified by Rev. David Huber

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. David Huber • Ministers: All the people of Plymouth • Pianist: Lynn McFadyen • Liturgist: Keith Zehms • Readers: Ben Bechle, Lil Savage, Barb Kleist, Craig Zehms

Cross illumination for March is sponsored by Ben Bechle in memory of David 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, March 28

Palm/Passion Sunday

Worship service online

Tuesday, March 30

9:00 A.M. Coffee & Conversation

Thursday, April 1

Maundy Thursday

3:30 P.M. Coffee & Conversation

Tenebrae Service online

Friday, April 2

Good Friday

Plymouth office closed

Sunday, April 4

Easter Sunday

Community Table offering

Worship service online

Announcements

We pray for:

- All houses of worship—churches, temples, and mosques in the Chippewa Valley who provide ecumenical and interfaith combined fellowship and service to our community.

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/y2e87nmn>

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 passion of Christ is a story of terror in which, against all odds, love wins. How might this story reshape your week, your life, our world? Where will you commit to letting love win? How will this change your life?

Household Prayer: Morning

Jesus, in your passion and resurrection, you show me there is no place you have not been and no place you fear to go. Morning by morning, you awaken me more deeply to this truth. Send me into the world this day with the courage and wisdom to be a faithful witness to your coming reign of justice, mercy, and peace. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Although I have sought to serve you this day, I have failed to keep your love. You know my strengths and weaknesses more than I; reveal them to me that I may be healed this night and begin afresh tomorrow. Amen.

God is still speaking,