

Easter Sunday

April 4, 2021



Easter
SUNDAY



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.

“Christ Arose”

Arr. Lorie Line

Call to Worship †§

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen! The women who went to anoint Jesus’ body found that tomb empty—he had risen from the dead!

P: **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

L: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

P: **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Hymn

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

Plymouth Brass

Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Let the Victor’s people sing, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!

Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!

Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!

God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession †§

God of life and hope, we confess that even on this most holy day we are unable to believe in the victory over death shown to us in the resurrection of Jesus. We confess our utter dependence on you not only for life but also for faith, hope, and love. Without your astonishing appearance to our ancestors and your loving presence throughout the ages, we would be lost. Forgive us and transform us, that in every way our work and prayer will make whole what is broken and give peace on earth. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon §

L: The good news of Easter is that life and love are victorious over the ways of death: through God’s steadfast love you are unconditionally 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.

The Service of the Word

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 25:6–9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24

L: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

P: Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”

L: The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

P: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

L: “The right hand of the Lord does valiantly; the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.”

P: I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

L: The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

P: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

L: This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

P: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

L: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

P: This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

L: This is the day that the Lord has made;

P: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Gospel

Mark 16:1–8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Hymn

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

Now all the vault of heav'n resounds In praise of love that still abounds:
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear! Repeat their song of glory here:
“Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!”
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal is the gift he brings, Therefore our heart with rapture sings:
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
Now still he comes to give us life And by his presence stills all strife.
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; Set heart and will on things above
That we conquer through your triumph,
Grant grace sufficient for life's day That by our lives we truly say:
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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Sermon

Sermon Hymn

“Halleluja”

Halle, halle, halleluja. Halle, halle, halleluja.
Halle, halle, halleluja. Halleluja, halleluja.

Communion †§

Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: May the God of resurrection be with you!

P: And also with you!

L: This is the day to offer yourselves to God.

P: We open our hearts to the One who fills them with grace.

L: Join in the glad songs of all creation this day.

P: Our voices praise the One who opens wide the gates of life.

L: When only emptiness stretched out, you spoke at that time, Joyous God, and goodness and beauty sprang forth. All this wonder and joy was your gift to your children created in your image, but we ran to play with death, when sin opened the gates of seduction.

P: Time after time after time, you sent the prophets to remind us of your never-ending love, but we chose to remain in the tomb, the stone of our rebellion locking us away.

L: So you sent your Hopeful heart, your grace made flesh so we might not be given over to death. We lift our Easter praise to you:

**P: Holy, holy, holy are you, God who has made this day!
All creation celebrates your constant love.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who is revealed on this morning.
Hosanna in the highest!**

L: When he could have clung to your glory, Jesus chose to become human at that time, so we might be filled with your grace.

P: When we stood against the wall wondering if anyone noticed us, he came to take us by the hand to teach us new dance steps.

L: When our lives crumble around us and we lie scattered on the ground, he gathers us up, reshaping us into your beloved community.

P: When we were unable to break the power of evil over us, he allowed sin to toss him aside like a pebble in a shoe, until he was raised from the tomb because you refuse to give us over to death. We stand before the empty tomb, celebrating the great and good news of this day.

L: At this time, wherever we find ourselves, at home, in apartments, in care facilities, pour out your Spirit upon your people and on the gifts of the feast of the resurrection.

P: May the bread which is broken open like the tomb, strengthen us so we may go to rebuild shattered hopes, to bind up the hurts of the world.

L: May the cup which is filled with the fruits of your steadfast love, nourish us to leave the shadows of our fears and doubts to stand with the lonely and forgotten, to listen to the cries of the world.

P: And in that time to come, when we will be gathered with our sisters and brothers of every place and of every moment, we will sing your praises, God in Community, Holy in One, as you hold on to us forever. Amen.

Music “I Know that My Redeemer Liveth” Handel

Hannah Zehms, soloist

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 “One Bread, One Body”

Lynn McFadyen and Annie Bailey, duet

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying to self that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Closing Hymn

“The Day of Resurrection”

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Christ who reigns eternal in resurrection light;
We listen for the teachings once heard so calm and plain,
for we, too, want to follow and raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,
the whole world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ again has risen, our joy that has no end.

Benediction †§

L: Go from here renewed and hopeful, knowing the Lord is alive and present. Look for the blessings that await you this week,

P: to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who celebrate, and to share the good news.

L: Now may the truth of the empty tomb keep you fearless and sure that you will see the Resurrected One again and again in this life. May the power of God’s endless love surround you and guide you, this day and always.

All: Alleluia!

Postlude “Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

Plymouth Brass

† *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: Sandy Moore • Plymouth Brass: Morgan Jaenke, Carter Jaenke, John Stecher

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, April 4

Community Table offering

Tuesday, April 6

9:00 A.M. Coffee & Conversation

Thursday, April 8

3:30 P.M. Coffee & Conversation

Sunday, April 11

Prayers of the People

We pray for:

- The leadership and staff of Plymouth United Church of Christ

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

Paul's claim about Christ Jesus in 1 Corinthians 15 is a creed: Christ died, was buried, was raised, and appeared to many disciples and finally to Paul, who writes, "by the grace of God I am what I am" (v. 10). If you were to say those words of yourself, what would it mean that everything about you—all you are and have done—is "by the grace of God"? Where is God's grace evident in your life today?

Household Prayer: Morning

Heavenly God, our Father, I am full of thanks for a night of rest and for this new day and all that now awaits me. I go forward toward encounters with family and friends, work and play, and all that will bring me into contact with strangers, certain that you are with me. Lead and guide me in the way of a resurrected life. Help me to see the risen Lord today; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Holy God, our Mother, you are my comfort at the end as at the beginning of each day. You pull me toward the goodness you desire for me. I give you thanks for all that has come my way this day, and I ask your enveloping power to watch over me this night. Give rest to all your people. Wherever there is pain and struggle, may your holy angels bring peace; in Jesus' name. Amen.

God is still speaking,