



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



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Plymouth United Church of Christ

April 11, 2021

The Family of God Gathers

Prelude

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

“Alleluia”

Plymouth Brass

Call to Worship ‡

- L: The Word of life spoke:
P: so we could hear the “Alleluias!” of the angels.
L: The Word of life reached out:
P: so we could touch the hope which heals us.
L: The Word of life walked out of death’s dread tomb:
P: so we could follow him into life forever.

Opening Hymn

“Alleluia! Alleluia!”

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heav’n and voices raise;
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise.
He who on the cross as Savior for the world’s salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.**

**Now the iron bars are broken, Christ from death to life is born,
Glorious life, and life immortal, On this resurrection morn;
Christ has triumphed, and we conquer By his mighty enterprise,
We with him to life eternal By his resurrection rise.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Savior, Who has won the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, Font of love and sanctity;
Alleluia! Alleluia! To the Triune Majesty.**

Prayer of Confession ‡§

We use a lot of words, Gracious God, but do little to turn them into deeds. Instead of being of one heart and soul, we choose sides and form groups of folks just like us. Blessed with great grace, we have trouble sharing it with those who need it the most. Forgive us, God of love. Help us honor your forgiveness by stepping out of our shadows into your light. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon ‡§

- L: This is the good news of Easter: God leads us out of the shadows to walk in the light of Christ. 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.

The Service of the Word

New Testament Lesson

1 John 1:1–2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Psalms 133

L: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

P: **It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.**

L: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

P: **For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.**

Gospel

John 20:19–31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Sermon

Musical Offering

“These Things Did Thomas Count”

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

**These things did Thomas count as real: the warmth of blood, the chill of steel.
The grain of wood, the heft of stone, the last frail twitch of flesh and bone.**

**The vision of his skeptic mind was keen enough to make him blind
To any unexpected act too large for his small world of fact.**

**His reasoned certainties denied that one could live when one had died,
Until his fingers read like Braille the markings of the spear and nail.**

**May we, O God, by grace believe and thus the risen Christ receive,
Whose raw, imprinted palms reached out and beckoned Thomas from his doubt.**

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

“Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!”

**Yours is the glory, Resurrected One!
Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.
Angels clothed in radiance rolled the stone away;
conquered is the grave in which your body lay.**

Refrain

**Yours is the glory, Resurrected One!
Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.**

**See, it is Jesus, Jesus has appeared;
do not doubt at all for nothing you will fear.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing;
tell it without ceasing: Death has lost its sting. *Refrain***

**Am I still frightened? One whom I adore,
Jesus, lives again, gives peace forevermore.
Jesus is my victory, life and strength and Head;
Jesus is my glory, nothing shall I dread. *Refrain***

Benediction †§

P: Go now to walk in God's light.

L: **We will tell of what we have seen in the glory of creation and in the goodness of those who around us.**

L: Go now to serve in Christ's light.

P: **We will touch the broken places with healing, sharing God's love with our neighbors. Amen.**

Postlude

“Hope Will Rise Again”

Words and Music: Andra Moran and Ben Grace

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† <http://lectionarylitanies.blogspot.com>

§ Modified/written by Rev. David Huber

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. David Huber • Ministers: All the people of Plymouth • Pianist: Lynn McFadyen • Liturgist: Lil Savage

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 11

Prayers for the People

Monday, April 12

7:00 P.M. Leadership Team

Tuesday, April 13

9:00 A.M. Coffee & Conversation

Thursday, April 15

3:30 P.M. Coffee & Conversation

Sunday, April 18

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/y2e87nrn>

Cross illumination for April is sponsored by Lil Savage in memory of Marie Savage.

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: Jeff & Lesa Green, Cindy (Jerry) Halfen, Harlan & Charlene Hartwich, Gordy & Audrey Heimstead, Joyce Holmen

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

It all happened on Sunday. It was on “the first day of the week” (John 20:19)—the same day Jesus rose from the dead (John 20:1)—when the risen Lord appeared to a group of disciples in a locked house and offered them the gift of the Holy Spirit. Then, one week later (John 20:26), Jesus came again to the disciples (still shut inside the house), this time allowing Thomas to see and touch his hands and side. Think about the place where you gather for worship on Sunday. Is it open to the surprising presence of Christ and the liberating gifts of the Spirit? (If not, does the Spirit still move? Does Jesus show up anyway?) Are there times when your questions and doubts grow deeper? Are there times when your faith is strengthened and renewed?

Household Prayer: Morning

God of light, I praise you for the gift of this new day. By the power of your Spirit enable me to live in your light and seek the holy fellowship of Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Be with me, Lord Jesus, at the evening of this day. Enter into my heart and fill it with your peace so that I may rejoice and rest in your presence. Amen.

God is still speaking,