

... repentance and
forgiveness of sins
is to be proclaimed

in

JESUS

NAME

to all nations ...

LUKE 24:47, NRSV



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

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April 18, 2021

The Family of God Gathers

Prelude

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

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

arr. Lorie Line

Call to Worship †

L: When fear and doubts stroll through our doors:

P: God stands beside us, whispering of peace.

L: When we toss and turn late at night:

P: God sits by our beds, singing lullabies of love.

L: When we stumble through the shadows of sin:

P: God illuminates the paths of goodness and joy.

Opening Hymn

“I Love to Tell the Story”

**I love to tell the story of unseen things above
Of Jesus’ radiant glory, of Jesus’ endless love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it’s true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.**

Refrain:

**I love to tell the story, and when I am in glory
I’ll tell the old, old story of Jesus’ endless love.**

**I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when I sing in glory, I know the new, new song
will be the old, old story that I have loved so long. *Refrain***

Prayer of Confession †

God of empty tombs: Peter speaks with power and clarity of his faith, while we remain silent. The psalmist speaks of trusting in you, while our doubts overwhelm us. Jesus is ready to come and grace us with peace, but our fears keep our hearts shuttered and locked. God of full hearts: your love can change us from scared people to children of grace. You can weed doubts from our hearts and plant seeds of joy in their place. You can silence the panic of our souls with the peace Jesus offers to each of us. Transform us into Easter people, through the power of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon §

L: You are God’s beloved children: in Jesus’ name, and through his grace, 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

Acts 3:12–19

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

Psalm 4

L: Answer me when I call, O God of my right!

P: You gave me room when I was in distress.

L: Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

P: How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?

L: How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

P: But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him.

L: When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent.

P: Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.

L: There are many who say, “O that we might see some good!

P: Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!”

L: You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.

P: I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.

Gospel

Luke 24:36b–48

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Sermon

Musical Offering

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

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

**All hail the power of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Christ servant of all.
Attend the Savior’s sovereign claim, and crown Christ servant of all.**

**All heirs of Israel’s chosen race, now ransomed from the fall,
Proclaim the wonders of God’s grace, and crown Christ healer of all.
Proclaim the wonders of God’s grace, and crown Christ healer of all.**

**Before the cross, with heaven’s throng, we on our knees shall fall;
We’ll join the everlasting song, and crown Christ savior of all.
We’ll join the everlasting song, and crown Christ savior of all.**

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

“Be Now My Vision”

Benediction †§

L: The word of God assures us: What we will be has not yet been revealed.

P: We will live, therefore, with hope, sharing our joy, withholding our anger, shedding our disappointments, and turning to all people with gentleness.

L: The Lord bless and keep you, shine upon you with grace and mercy, and give you what is needed for each new day.

All: Amen!

Postlude

“Hope Will Rise Again”

Words and Music: Andra Moran and Ben Grace

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

† *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.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, April 18

OVCWM offering

Tuesday, April 20

9:00 A.M. Coffee & Conversation

Thursday, April 22

3:30 P.M. Coffee & Conversation

Sunday, April 25

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:

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

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

When Jesus appeared to the disciples, “he opened their minds to understand the scriptures” (Luke 24:45). What is it to “understand” God’s word? How does understanding feed your faith? In the coming week, take note of one new understanding that comes to you from something you hear or read or realize through another person.

Household Prayer: Morning

God of surprising revelations, I thank you for rest and renewal. I thank you that when you come to your people, you speak peace and invite faith in you. Make this new day a time when I will give more thanks for life than I did yesterday. Give me ears to hear your will for me, hands that are open to others, and eyes to see the beauty in your world; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

For all that has happened this day, O God, I give you thanks. Even for the obstacles I faced, I thank you. Especially when I wobbled in doubt, I thank you because I did not fall. You came to hold me strong and help me take the next step. Now give me rest, secure in your never-failing arms. Let my dreams revolve around what is pleasing and good, bringing me to a new day with zeal for your gifts; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

God is still speaking,