

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

June 13, 2021



Mark 4:30-32



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

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PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

## **The Family of God Gathers**

### **Gathering Music**

“My Life Flows on in Endless Song”

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

### **Greeting**

### **Call to Worship †§**

**L:** Small as a mustard seed and lofty as a cedar, God’s realm is growing.

**P:** **While we sleep and rise night and day, God’s realm is growing.**

**L:** The tree of God’s realm grows and grows,

**P:** **large enough to be home for all of God’s people!**

### **Opening Music 17 Bulletin page 6**

“To You, O God, All Creatures Sing”

### **Prayer of Confession †§**

**Gracious God, we so often miss the mustard seeds you have planted around us. Forgive us for failing to notice where and how you are at work. Forgive us when we foil your plans—fostering divisions when you have called us to a ministry of reconciliation; beset by apathy when you have called us to a ministry of service; building walls to keep people out when you have called us to a ministry of hospitality. Give us your spirit to trust that your branches offer generous nests, plentiful resources, and ample supplies for everyone. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon §**

**L:** God’s realm is one of unconditional love and acceptance: In Jesus’ name, you are forgiven!

**P:** **You are forgiven!**

**L:** May the peace of Christ be with you!

**P:** **And also with you!**

### **The Sign of Peace**

### **Centering Music Bulletin page 7**

“We Come to Hear Your Word”

# The Service of the Word

## Old Testament Lesson

Ezekiel 17:22–24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

## Psalm 92:1–4, 12–15

**L:** It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

**P:** **For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

**L:** The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

**P:** **They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God.**

**L:** In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap, showing that the Lord is upright;

**P:** **he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.**

## Gospel

Mark 4:26–34

He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

## **Sermon**

## **Offering**

**“How Long Has It Been”**  
John Moore, soloist

## **\*Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God above ye heavenly host  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## **\*Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self †§**

**Bless, O God, the gifts that we bring this day, that they may be a sign of our commitment to growing your realm and a pledge of our love for you and your world. Multiply the work done by our time, treasures, and talents, that your presence and compassion may be known in all the earth. Amen.**

## **Joys and Concerns**

## **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 Music 76 Bulletin page 8**

**“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”**

## \*Benediction †§

L: May God bless you with new life,

**P: Christ tend you in grace,**

L: and the Holy Spirit guide your steps,

**P: as we walk by faith now and forever. Amen!**

## Postlude

“God Be with You”

*Cross illumination for June is sponsored by Jim & Linda Oliver in honor of their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.*

†

*Feasting on the Word* Worship Companion, Year B, Vol. 2 ©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: John Stecher  
• 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, June 13

#### *Prayers for the People*

10:00 A.M.

Coffee

10:30 A.M.

Worship

### Tuesday, June 15

10:00 A.M.

Quilters

### Sunday, June 20

#### *OCWM offering*

10:00 A.M.

Coffee

10:30 A.M.

Worship

## 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: Dorothy Kruschke, Arvilla Kruschke, Cathy Lawler, Cathy Lee, Ashley (Nick) Mayer

## To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

Ps. 148

St. Francis of Assisi, 1225  
Adapt. Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

- 1 To you, O God, all crea-tures sing, and all cre - a - tion, ev - ery-  
 2 Your wind that blows the tem-pest by, your clouds that sail a-cross the  
 3 Your flow-ing wa - ters, crys - tal clear, make mel - o - dies for you to  
 4 To you, O God, day af - ter day, your plan - et earth in ev - ery



- thing sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your burn-ing sun with gold-en  
 sky sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your morn-ing ris - es with a  
 hear, sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your fire, . . . boun-ti - ful and  
 way, sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia, As sa - vory fruit and fra-grant



- beam, your sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam sing your prais-es,  
 song, and lights of eve - ning sing a - long, sing your prais-es,  
 bright, re - mem - bering your warmth and light, sings your prais-es, al-le -  
 flower show forth your glo - ry and your power, sing - ing prais-es,



- lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

- 5 Now we who are of ten-der heart,  
 for-giv-ing oth-ers, take our part,  
 sing your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia!  
 To you we lift our pain and care,  
 re-ceive the bur-dens that we bear,  
 sing-ing prais-es, al-le-lu-ia,  
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

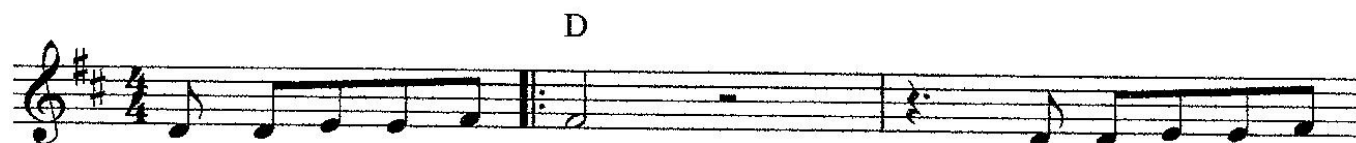
- 6 In you, a kind and gen-tle death  
 pre-pares to hush our fi-nal breath,  
 sing-ing prais-es, al-le-lu-ia!  
 Christ goes be-fore us to re-new  
 the way that leads us home to you.  
 Hear our prais-es, al-le-lu-ia,  
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Miriam Therese Winter described her thoughts about adapting this text: "As I entered into communion with the word and spirit of the hymn, I felt called to enable that unknown-to-me poet's wisdom to live on into the future, a moving commission, and also felt a bond with the one who had gone before."

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
 8.8.4.4.8.8. with alleluias  
 Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Cologne, 1623  
 Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906  
 Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993

# We come to hear your word

Chris Juby



1. We come to hear your word:

2. We come to hear your word:

Lord, o - pen up our

let re - ve - la - tion



hearts and lives a - gain.

shape our hearts a - new.

So let your voice be heard:

We long to know you more:



we're rea - dy to re - ceive this dai - ly bread.

come, Spi - rit, lead us dee - per in - to truth.

Your word is



truth and life to us, so light the way.

As we be - lieve your pro - mi



ses, re - new our faith.

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## Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Omer Westendorf, 1964

*Unison*

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the  
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

peo - ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave. The ser - vice is  
 tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the fruits of our wor - ship in  
 shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach - ing, re -  
 each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with

cep - tive hearts reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for  
 your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this

God and for all. God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u -  
 life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -

nite us to work for God's realm and to an - swer the call.  
 giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

*Omer Westendorf, author of numerous hymns, compiler of several hymnals, and founder of World Library Publications, included this hymn in People's Mass Book, 1964, the first vernacular Roman Catholic hymn and service book to implement the decrees of Vatican II.*

Tune: THE ASH GROVE 6.6.11.6.6.11.D.  
 Welsh folk melody  
 Harm. Leland Sateren, 1972  
 Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993



***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***

***Question for Reflection***

How can you practice walking by faith and not by sight?

***Household Prayer: Morning***

The sunlight greets me in morning, reminding me that I begin this day in your presence. The air I breathe instructs me that I live by your constant love. Lord, I acknowledge you are my God! I will seek your face in those I meet and make my aim to please and serve you alone, Jesus, my Lord. Amen.

***Household Prayer: Evening***

The numerous stars shine the wonder of God whose grace is beyond measure; whisper to me your abundant grace, which sustains me. As I lay down my head, I recall Jesus saying that the Son of Man has no place to lay his head. I imagine Jesus being with those who look for a place to lay their heads. O God, I ask for your mercy and pray for the day when we all can sleep in shalom, trusting in your mysterious work through Jesus Christ, the Savior for all. Amen.

# **God is still speaking,**