

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

Plymouth United Church of Christ

July 11, 2021

10:30 A.M.

The Family of God Gathers

Gathering Music

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

“Gavotte and Variations”

Johann Pachelbel

Greeting

Call to Worship †§

L: Before the earth was formed, we were chosen by God to be God’s people.

P: God gathers us together that we might sing of joy and hope as God’s beloved community.

L: Before the stars glittered in the night sky and before the rivers flowed into the oceans,

P: we were included in God’s family of love,

L: gathered around Christ’s table of friendship and kindness.

P: The food of God for the people of God! Let us celebrate God’s goodness this day!

Opening Music 588 Bulletin page 7

“Let Justice Flow like Streams”

Prayer of Confession †§

Holy God, you call us to be your beloved community, caring for one another, yet we fail to love others and sometimes even fail to love ourselves. Helpless and in need of your grace, we turn our hearts to you. Forgive us, and teach us to stand strong and courageous in the fullness of your love, by the grace and mercy of Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon §

L: God is good and God is merciful. In Jesus’ name, you are forgiven!

P: You are forgiven!

L: May the peace of Christ be with you!

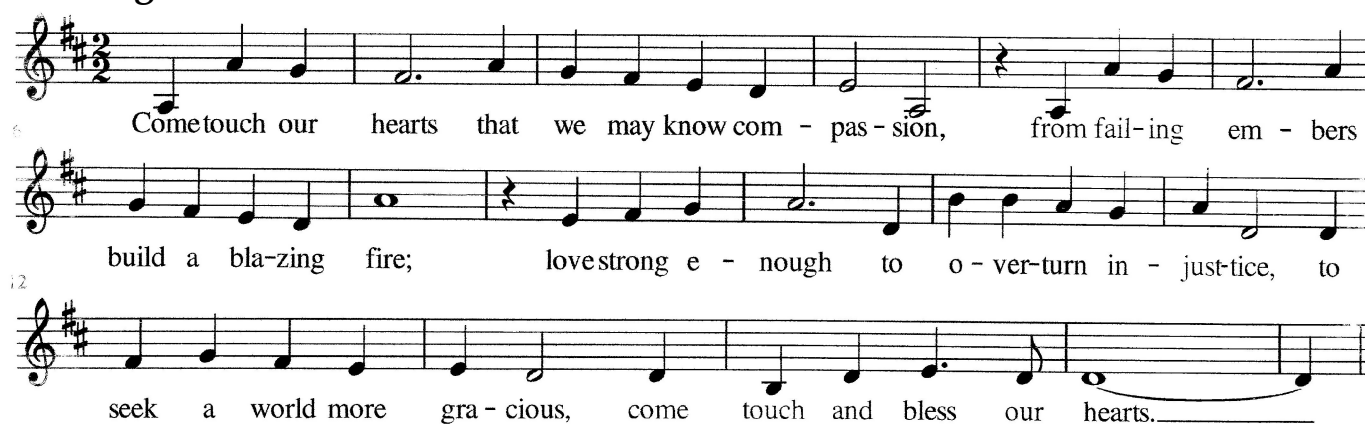
P: And also with you!

The Sign of Peace

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 Music Verse 1

“Come Touch Our Hearts”



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The Service of the Word

Old Testament Lesson

Amos 7:7–15

This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said, “See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said, ‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.’ ” And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’ ”

Psalms 85:8–13

L: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

P: Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

L: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

P: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

L: The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

P: Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Gospel

Mark 6:14–29

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus’ name had become known. Some were saying, “John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.” But others said, “It is Elijah.” And others said, “It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.”

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Sermon

Offering

"Dwell Thou in Me" Marian Wood Chaplin
Annie Bailey, soloist

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self †

Thank you for filling us with every spiritual grace that we might be a blessing for others.

Consecrate the gifts we offer for the increase of your love. May they bring blessings to others and praise to your glorious name. Amen.

Communion

Prayer ‡§

L: May the God of wonder be with you!

P: **And also with you!**

L: Lift up your hearts to God, whose steadfast love dwells within you.

P: **We welcome the One whose faithfulness runs barefoot through our hearts.**

L: Sing of the peace which is God's gift to you.

P: **We join in the chorus of glad praises to the One whose justice is the hope of all the world.**

L: Gathering up all that is good and beautiful, you shaped the universe and all that is in it: soft summer breezes dancing across verdant plains, snow-capped mountains reflecting the sunrise each new morning. It was your good pleasure to create us in your image, it was your glorious grace that filled us with your life. Yet, seeing the dazzling seductions offered by sin and death, we rushed back to you, imploring you to give us our every desire, and when you didn't give us what we wanted, we abandoned you for the idols who promised so much more but offered nothing but fantasy.

P: **Deeply grieved by our failure to be satisfied with having only what we need, you sent the company of prophets to lead us back to your heart, but we continued to dance with the wrong partners. In the fullness of your wisdom, you sent Jesus, to seek our faces and to turn us back to you.**

L: So now, with those who praise you with song and silence, with tambourines and organs, we proclaim the riches of your grace:

**P: Holy, holy, holy, God who has blessed us with Christ!
All creation is yours, for the riches of your grace are poured upon it.
Holy, holy, holy! Just and merciful are you, God in Community, Holy in One! Holy indeed are you, God of every blessing, and blameless is Jesus Christ, your Beloved.**

L: He sets free all imprisoned by their fears, as well as their past.

P: He proclaims good news to the poor, and challenges the rich to generous lives.

L: He gave himself into death's hands and was laid into a cold tomb.

P: He leaped from the grave, teaching us resurrection's joy.

L: We offer our songs of joy to you, knowing that whenever we eat the bread and share the cup, we live out that mystery we call faith. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, as you gather us all in this place.

P: As we take and taste the Bread of Heaven, may its brokenness become our healing, that we may become hope to a world shattered by fear. As we share the Cup, may its grace become our fullness, that we might empty ourselves to become blessings to those who long for peace and reconciliation.

L: And when all time has been fulfilled and you gather up all your children to yourself, with clean hands and pure hearts we will gather around your Table in glory, singing our praises to you through all eternity.

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, forever. Amen.

Distribution

This table of friendship and love is open to all who desire an encounter with the living Christ. Please hold your bread in silent prayer until all are served, when we will eat together, symbolizing our unity as the body of Christ. Please drink the cup of salvation (grape juice on the outside rings, wine on the inside rings) as you are served, symbolizing our individual longing for Christ.

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.

***Benediction ‡**

L: We are sent by God, to be God’s people in the world.

P: We will go to sing of God’s joy and hope to all.

L: We are called by Christ, adopted into God’s gracious family.

P: We will go to share the good news of Christ’s grace for everyone.

L: We are chosen by the Spirit to care for and serve creation.

P: We will go to join hands with our sisters and brothers in every moment. Amen!

Postlude

† *Feasting on the Word* Worship Companion, Year B, Vol. 2 ©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: 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.

Cross illumination for July is sponsored by Larry & Barb Kleist in honor of their 45th wedding anniversary.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, July 11

Prayers for the People

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Communion Worship

11:30 A.M. Pot luck

Tuesday, July 13

10:00 A.M. Quilters

Sunday, July 18

OCWM offering

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Worship

We pray for:

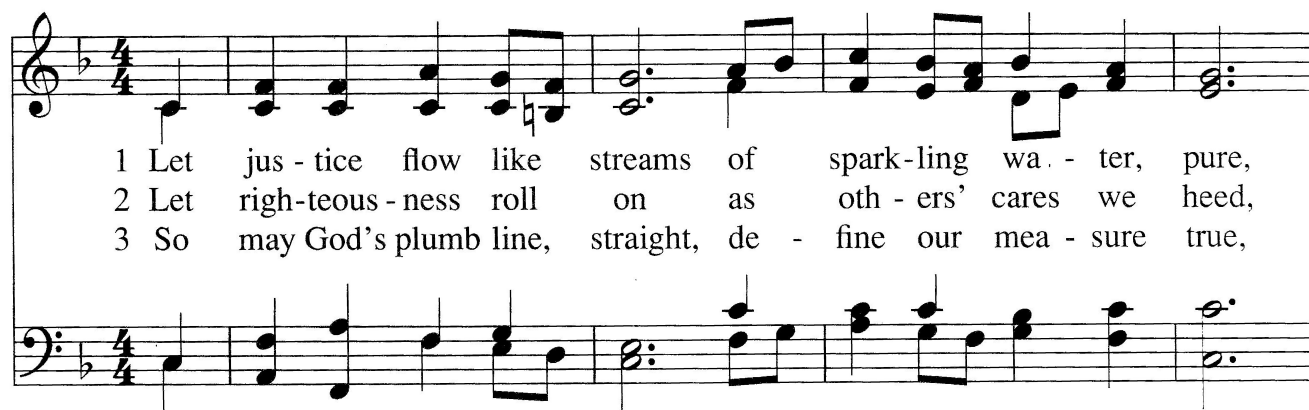
- The General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ Rev. John Dorhauer and Wisconsin Conference Minister Rev. Franz Rigert, along with all UCC staff at the national and Conference level
- These individuals/families: Joanne Miller, John & Sandy Moore, Jim & Linda Oliver, Louise Partlow

Let Justice Flow like Streams

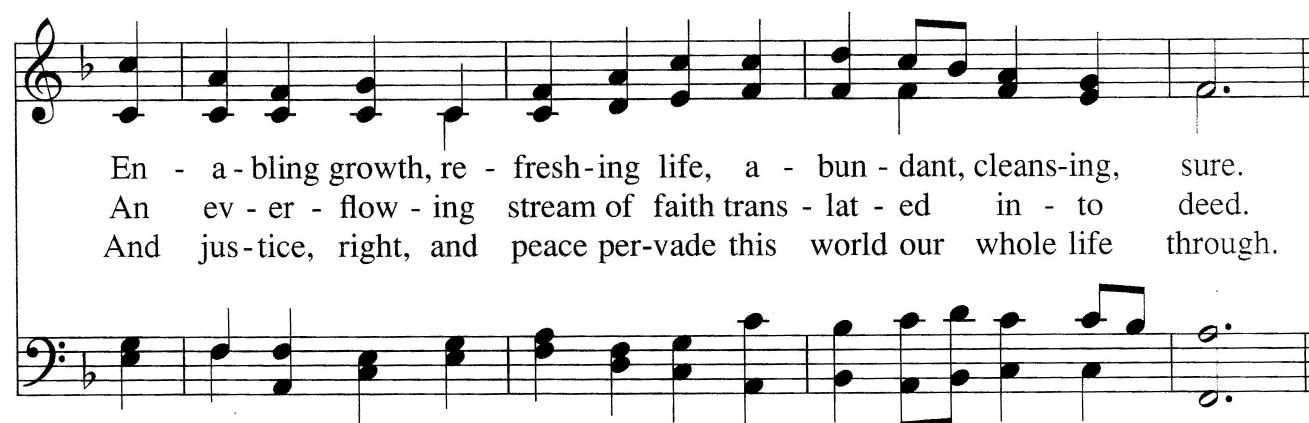
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Jane Parker Huber, 1984

Amos 5:14-15, 24; 7:7-8



1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spark - ling wa - ter, pure,
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



En - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
An ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
And jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

This is one of two hymns Jane Parker Huber wrote for special events emphasizing economic justice for women at the time of the reunification of two Presbyterian denominations in 1983. The text's brevity underscores the urgency of Amos' pronouncements against injustice.

Tune: ST. THOMAS S.M.
Aaron Williams' New Universal Psalmist, 1770

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

John 13:1-20; Gal. 5:13-14

Tom Colvin, 1969; rev. 1994

Refrain
Unison

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you. *Last time, end*

1 Knelt at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their
2 Neigh-bors are rich and poor, var - ied in col - or and
3 These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, show - ing our faith by our
5 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

feet, Je - su, you act - ed as ser - vant to them.
race, neigh-bors are near and far a - way.
love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
deeds, serv - ing the neigh-bors we have from you.
feet, this is the way we should live with you. *to Refrain*

This African folk melody was presented to the Church at Chereponi, Northern Ghana, by Ghanaian musicologist, A. A. Mensah, when United Church of Christ missionaries, Al and Sue Krass were serving there. Like Tom Colvin, a Scottish missionary in neighboring Tamale, Al Krass was encouraging the making of hymns to indigenous melodies. Tom Colvin wrote these words to this adapted form of the melody in dedication to the Church at Chereponi.

*Tune: CHEREPONI Irr. with refrain
Ghanaian folk song; adapt. Tom Colvin, 1969
Arr. Jane Marshall, 1982*

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

To experience one's self as God's beloved is a gift beyond compare. For some, it is difficult to receive such a gift; for others, such grace comes more easily. How can we deepen our experience of that gift in ourselves? How might we encourage this gift in others?

Household Prayer: Morning

O God of steadfast love and faithfulness, as I awaken this day in expectation, I turn my heart toward you, for I am your beloved. Fill me with your wisdom and insight, and guide my feet into the way of peace as I walk your righteous path. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Recounting both the blessings and challenges of this day, I give thanks to you, O God, for my hope is in Christ who makes all things new, and so I rest this night. Amen.

God is still speaking,