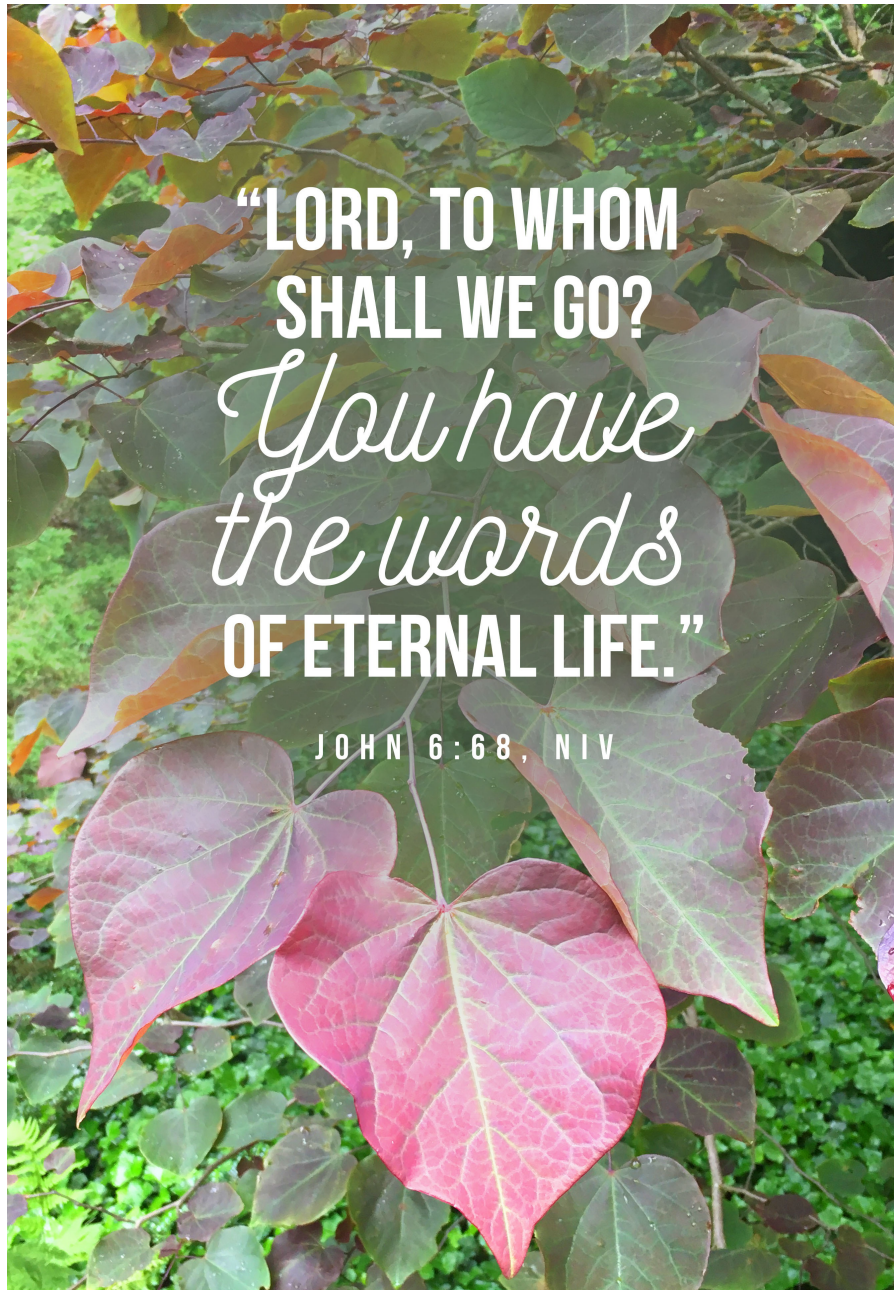


13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 22, 2021



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

2010 Moholt Drive, Eau Claire WI 54703 ☎ 715-835-5475 ☎ pucc.com



[PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist](https://www.facebook.com/PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist)

Plymouth United Church of Christ

August 22, 2021

10:30 A.M.

The Family of God Gathers

Gathering Music

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

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

Greeting

Call to Worship †§

L: For cool mornings and afternoon storms, for beautiful days and ordinary evenings:

P: we give thanks to God!

L: For the laughing God who brings us joy, for the broken-hearted Love who joins in our struggles:

P: we give thanks to God!

L: For the Bread of heaven who feeds us hope,

P: we give thanks to God!

Opening Hymn 473 Bulletin page 7

“Blessed Assurance”

Prayer of Confession †§

Watchful God, you know our plight. We have not believed your words, we have betrayed your love, we fall to temptations that we know are not good for us, because too often we try to stand in our own strength instead of trusting in your presence. Shine your light in our darkness, feed us with your bread of life, and guide us back to our place in you. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon §

L: God’s mercy is boundless: 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

“Kumbaya”

**Kumbaya my Lord, kumbaya
Kumbaya my Lord, kumbaya
Kumbaya my Lord, kumbaya
Oh Lord, kumbaya**

**Someone’s listening Lord, kumbaya
Someone’s listening Lord, kumbaya
Someone’s listening Lord, kumbaya
Oh Lord, kumbaya**

The Service of the Word

New Testament Lesson

Ephesians 6:10–20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Psalm 34:15–22

L: The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry.

P: The face of the Lord is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

L: When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles.

P: The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.

L: Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all.

P: He keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken.

L: Evil brings death to the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

P: The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Gospel

John 6:56–69

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

Sermon

Offering

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 †§

Living God, we give you thanks for Christ, the bread from heaven, through whom we offer these gifts. Endow these offerings with your spirit that they may express your steadfast love and help this church to become living bread for our neighbors. 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, forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn 471 Bulletin page 8

“What a Covenant”

Benediction †§

L: You are the body of Christ: you have chosen to serve God because God has chosen you in Jesus Christ.

P: We go, therefore, to love and serve as God's people in the world. We go in Jesus' name.

L: The blessing of God, who delivers us, the grace of Christ, who sustains us, and the communion of the Spirit, who empowers us, be with you always.

All: Amen.

Postlude

Worship Leaders

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

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 August is sponsored by Mimi Pederson in honor of her 51st wedding anniversary.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, August 22

10:00 A.M. Coffee
10:30 A.M. Worship

Tuesday, August 24

10:00 A.M. Quilters

Sunday, August 29

10:00 A.M. Coffee
10:30 A.M. Worship

We pray for:

- All houses of worship—churches, temples, and mosques in the Chippewa Valley who provide ecumenical and interfaith combined fellowship and service to our community.

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Blessed Assurance

*Acts 17:30-31; Rev. 7:9-14**Fanny Crosby, 1873; alt.*

1 Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a
 2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light! Vi - sions of
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my



fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blessed; Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -



God, born of the Spir - it, washed in Christ's blood.
 bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 bove, filled with God's good - ness, lost in Christ's love.

Refrain

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long;



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

After hearing Phoebe Knapp play this tune on the piano, Fanny Crosby composed the poem on the spot. In her almost 95 years, Crosby wrote more than 8,500 gospel hymns and songs.

Tune: ASSURANCE Irr.
 Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873

*Deut. 33:27**Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.*

1 What a *cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing
 last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

Refrain

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

*Or, "fellowship"

In a letter to two grieving friends, A. J. Showalter quoted Deuteronomy 33:27, "... underneath are the everlasting arms." Showalter then wrote this music and the refrain and sent them to E. A. Hoffman to provide the stanzas.

Tune: LEANING 5.5.9.D. with refrain
Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

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

In the Gospel of John, Peter declares to Jesus, "You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God" Are "believing" and "knowing" the same action? How does knowing something intensify our believing something?

Household Prayer: Morning

Living God, give me strength for this day. Let your truth surround me, your righteousness defend me, your gospel guide me, your trustworthiness shield me, and your salvation protect me, that in every trial I may stand by the power of your Spirit and live by your holy Word. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Loving God, as the day ends and the night begins be near the brokenhearted, save the crushed in spirit, and redeem the life of your servants. You are our shield by day. Be our refuge by night so that we may rest in the confidence of your grace; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God is still speaking,