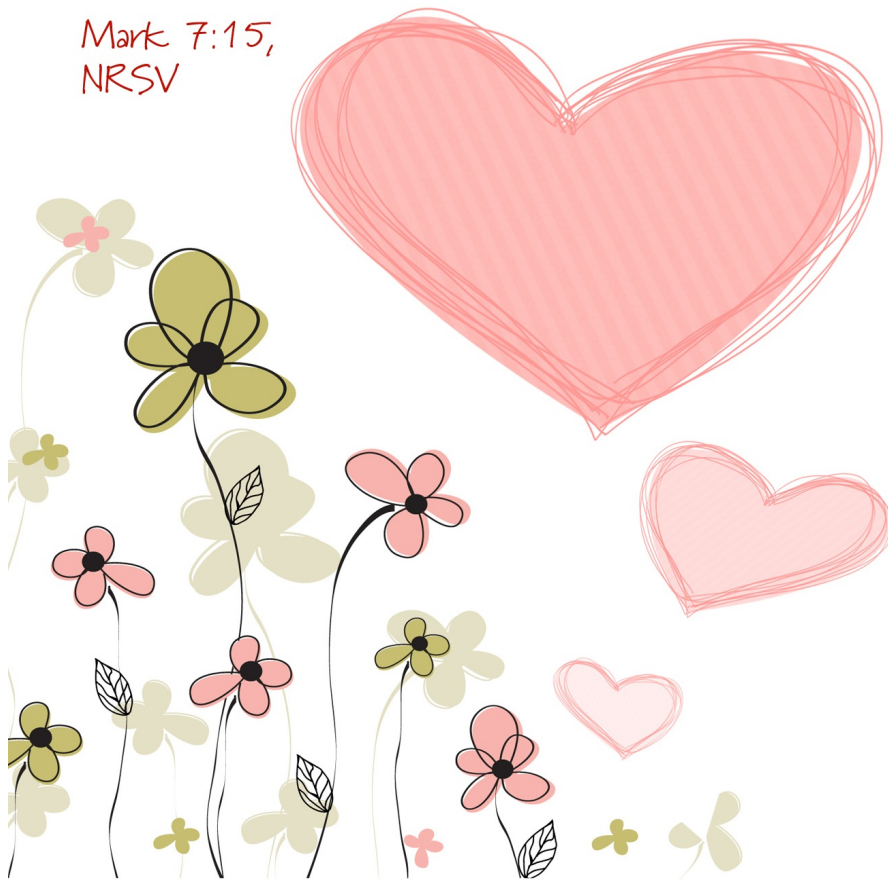


14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 29, 2021

There is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

Mark 7:15,
NRSV



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor
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[PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist](https://www.facebook.com/PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist)

The Family of God Gathers

Gathering Music

“Nearer My God to Thee”

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

Greeting

Call to Worship †§

L: To abide in you; to find strength in you;

P: to worship you in these moments, we gather, O God.

L: To challenge the evil around us;

P: to bring healing to the hurt;

L: to offer hope to the vulnerable;

P: we gather to hear from Jesus, our Guide and our Brother.

Opening Hymn 423 Bulletin page 7

“Great Is Your Faithfulness”

Prayer of Confession †§

God of light, we confess that too often we choose to live in the safety and cover of the shadows. Satisfied with the security of human traditions and norms, we avoid taking the risk of living fully into your liberating truth. We honor you with our lips but fail to serve you in our actions. Forgive us, we pray. By the power of your word save us from the prison of our conceit so that we may serve you with willing hearts. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon §

L: The God who rescues us does not keep us in bondage to guilt but frees us to bear light and hope: 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 singing Lord, kumbaya
Someone’s singing Lord, kumbaya
Someone’s singing Lord, kumbaya
Oh Lord, kumbaya**

The Service of the Word

New Testament Lesson

James 1:17–27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Psalm 15

L: O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

P: Who may dwell on your holy hill?

L: Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart; who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors; in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the Lord; who stand by their oath even to their hurt; who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

P: Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Gospel

Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Sermon

Offering

“Ode to Joy/As the Deer”

Lorin Divine, guitarist

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 †§

O God, receive these gifts for the work of your church. With these gifts we dedicate ourselves to live in the truth of your word, and follow your commandments with sincere hearts. 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 12 Bulletin page 8

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

Benediction †§

L: Go in peace to love and serve.

P: We go to do good works as Jesus' disciples.

L: May the blessing of God be with you, the love of Jesus fill you, and the grace of the Holy Spirit sustain you, now and forevermore.

All: Amen!

Postlude

“Just as I Am”

† *Feasting on the Word* Worship Companion, Year B, Vol. 2 ©2014 Westminster John Knox Press. Used with permission.

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

§ Modified/written by Rev. David Huber

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. David Huber • Ministers: All the people of Plymouth • Pianist: John Stecher
• Liturgist: Deb Zehms

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 29

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

Tuesday, August 31

10:00 A.M. Quilters
2:00 P.M. LCIP Presentation
6:00 P.M. LCIP Presentation

Sunday, September 5

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

We pray for:

- Our families and friends, our church, and ourselves

Lam. 3:22-23

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; alt.



1 Great is your faith-ful-ness, O God, Cre-a-tor,*
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest,
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace so en-dur-ing,



with you no shad-ow of turn-ing we see.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours-es a-bove,
 your own dear pres-ence to cheer and to guide.



You do not change, your com-pas-sions they fail not;
 Join with all na-ture in man-i-fold wit-ness
 Strength for to-day and bright hope for to-mor-row,



all of your good-ness for-ev-er will be.
 to your great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 bless-ings all mine with ten thou-sand be-side.

Refrain

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed your



hand has pro-vid-ed, Great is your faith-ful-ness, God, un-to me!

*originally "my Father"

This hymn was one of a number sent by poet Thomas O. Chisholm to composer William M. Runyan for musical settings. It became a favorite of Will Houghton, president of Moody Bible Institute, whose enthusiasm helped establish its popularity.

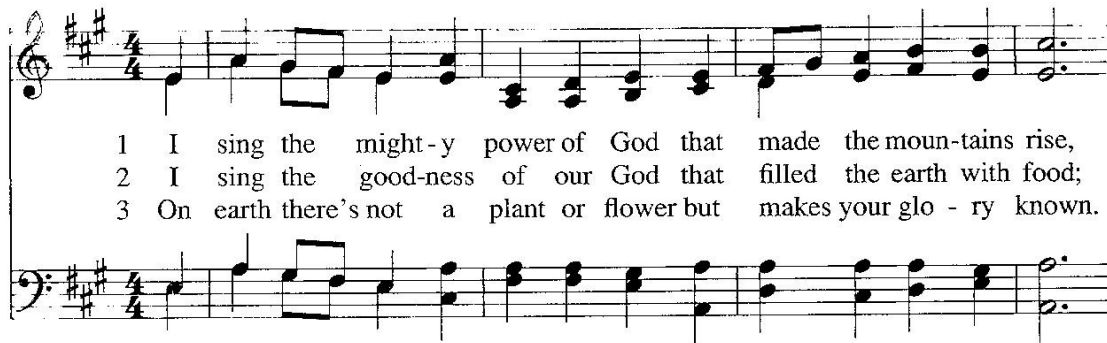
Tune: FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10. with refrain
 William M. Runyan, 1923

Copyright © 1923. Renewal 1951 by Hope Publishing Company

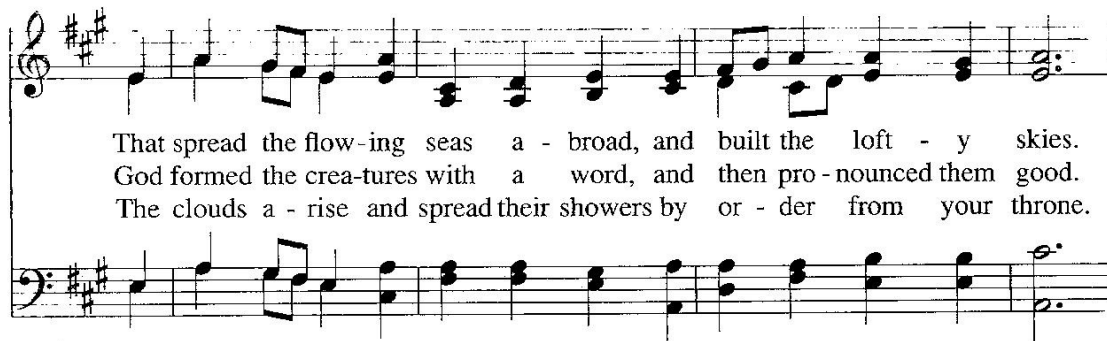
I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Ps. 136:5-9; James 1:17

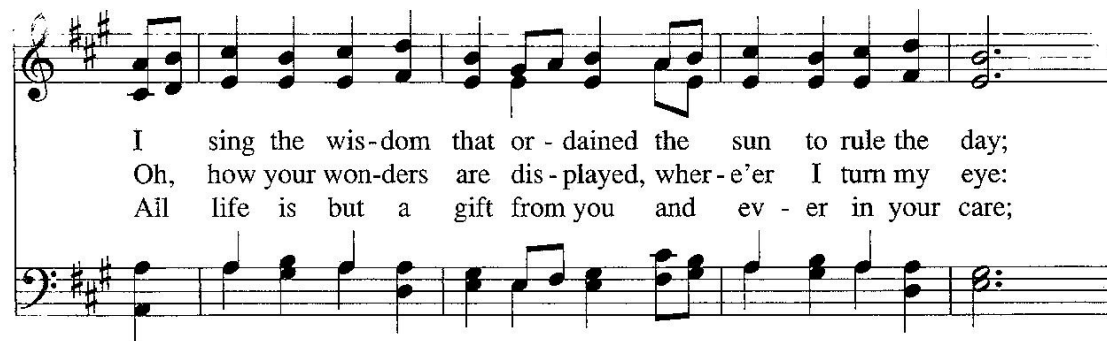
Isaac Watts, 1715; alt.



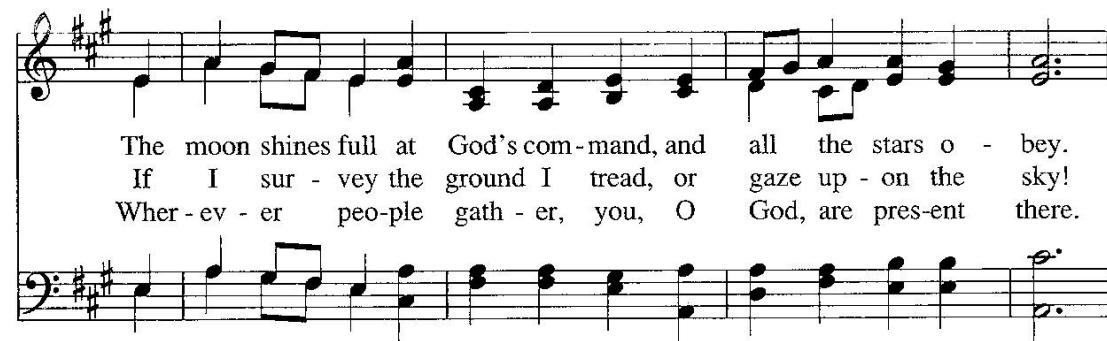
1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of our God that filled the earth with food;
 3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.



That spread the flow-ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.
 God formed the crea-tures with a word, and then pro - nounced them good.
 The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.



I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
 Oh, how your won-ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye:
 Ail life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;



The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
 If I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
 Wher - ev - er peo-ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres-ent there.

The tune Ellacombe was named for a place in Devonshire, England. It was first published in a collection of tunes used in the private chapel of the Duke of Wirtemberg, and was possibly sung with the text "Ave Maria, klärer."

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen
 Wirtembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784
 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

Questions for Reflection

How can we know the difference between human tradition and the commandments of God? How can we know that we serve God from the heart?

Household Prayer: Morning

Lord Jesus, help me walk blamelessly and do what is right, to speak the truth in love, to avoid gossip and slander, and do good to all I meet, that I may abide in your presence and dwell in fellowship with the Holy Trinity. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord, you have been my light this day. As evening comes, be my light in the darkness. With meekness I welcome the word you have implanted in my heart, and with confidence I claim the power of salvation in Jesus Christ. And let me rest from my labors, confident that in you there is no shadow of fear. Amen.

God is still speaking,