

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 5, 2021



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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Plymouth United Church of Christ

September 5, 2021

10:30 A.M.

The Family of God Gathers

Gathering Music

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

“Jesus Loves Me”

William B. Bradbury

Greeting

Call to Worship †

L: Here at the feast of God’s holy word and holy meal,

P: eyes and ears are opened so that we may all be made glad and filled with hope.

Opening Hymn Bulletin page 9

“We Are Called”

Prayer of Confession †§

God of favor, we have not been true to you. You have chosen the poor in the world, but we have dishonored them. You plead the cause of the afflicted, but we crush them. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have favored the rich and despised the poor. We have dismissed the needy with empty words. Soften our hearts and make straight our ways. Heal our unbelief and turn us back to you to be doers of your word. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon §

L: Mercy is preferred over judgment, and so we stand in the grace offered by our merciful God: 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 sharing Lord, kumbaya
Someone’s sharing Lord, kumbaya
Someone’s sharing Lord, kumbaya
Oh Lord, kumbaya**

The Service of the Word

New Testament Lesson

James 2:1–17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Psalm 146

L: Praise the Lord!

P: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

L: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

P: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

L: When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

P: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

L: The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

P: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

L: The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

P: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

All: Praise the Lord!

Gospel

Mark 7:24–37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no

one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

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 †§

Receive our thanks, O God, for your gifts of life, means, and time. We treasure your offerings and, small as our return giving may be, welcome it for the sake of those in need and for the furtherance of your witness in this world. Make us daily more grateful for all we have been given. Amen.

Communion

Communion Hymn Bulletin page 10

“One Bread, One Body”

Prayer †§

L: Beloved of God, may the Lord be with you.
P: **And also with you.**
L: Beloved of God, lift up your hearts.
P: **Our hearts are offered to our God.**
L: Beloved of God, let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
P: **Thanksgiving is in our hearts, and praise is on our lips.**
L: Our hearts leap with gratitude and our joy echoes off the mountains, Creator of all, for your unfailing grace, your boundless generosity, and for creating us in your image. Yet though we are all your image, we ridicule others who look different from us; our lungs are filled with your Spirit’s breath, yet we laugh at those who are not as good as we imagine we are. But even when we turn our backs on you, your love is steadfast and your grace is abundant.

And so, with all your people, those beside us in this moment and those with you throughout eternity, we join in everlasting praise:

**All: Holy, holy, holy, God who surrounds creation with your grace!
Heaven and earth sing to the One who made them all.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who shares bread with the poor.
Hosanna in the highest!**

L: Holy are you, and blessed is Jesus, your Son, our Brother, our Savior. Jesus has done everything well. Eating and drinking with sinners, he taught us that there is a place at the Table for each and every one of us;

P: responding to the cries of the poor, he shows us we are all equal in God's heart;

L: clearing the eyes of the blind and opening the ears of the deaf, conversing with the outsiders of his day,

P: he models the radical inclusiveness of your new realm.

L: May the Spirit of the Risen Lord be poured out on us in this place, and on the gifts of the bread and the cup. As we take the broken loaf, we feast, not on the crumbs which fall from the Table, but on the grace which makes us whole; on the hope which makes us one; on the love which calls us to serve: to welcome the immigrants to our neighborhood, to teach the little child to read, to affirm the awkward adolescent, to share our bread and all we have with those in need, until that day when Christ returns and all shall feast at his banquet in heaven. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory are yours, Great God, our hope, our trust, our redemption, now and forever. Amen.

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

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.

Closing Hymn 537 Bulletin page 11

“Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed”

Benediction †§

L: Beloved of God, share your bread with the poor, advocate for the afflicted, show your faith in acts of kindness, love your neighbor as yourself.

P: **Our generous God has blessed us and surrounded us with favor forever, that we may love our neighbors as ourselves through the good name of Jesus Christ.**

L: Go now in the grace and mercy of God!

All: 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: Cindy Halfen

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 September is sponsored by Pete Spitt in memory of his brother Wallace and his wife Sharon.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, September 5

Community Table offering

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Communion Worship

Monday, September 6

Labor Day

Office closed

Tuesday, September 7

10:00 A.M. Quilters

Sunday, September 12

Prayers for the People

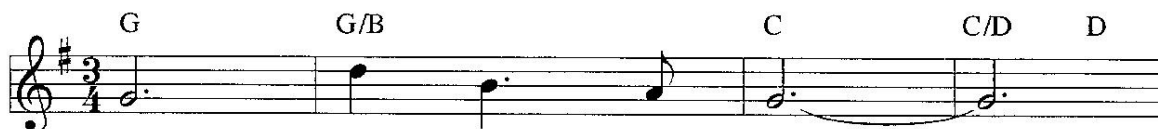
10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Worship

We pray for:

- The leadership and staff of Plymouth United Church of Christ

We are called



1 Come! Live in the light!
 2 Come! O - pen your heart!
 3 Sing! Sing a new song!



Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are
 Show your . . . mer - cy to all those in fear! We are
 Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will



called to be light for the king - dom, to
 called to be hope for the hope - less so all
 reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 ha - tred and blind - ness will be . . . no more.
 sis - ters and broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

Refrain



We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

One Bread, One Body

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or - Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,



Refrain

wom - an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath - ered to one for all.

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Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

537


Francis Albert Rollo Russell, 1893; alt.



1 Chris - tian, rise and act your creed; let your
 2 Hearts a - round you sink with care; you can
 3 Of - fer oth - ers' hope and joy, and God's
 4 Come then, law di - vine, and reign: faith that



prayer be in your deed; Seek the right, per - form the
 help their load to bear; You can bring in - spir - ing
 wor - ship your em - ploy; Giv - ing thanks in hum - ble
 doubt as - sails in vain, Per - fect love be - reft of



true, raise your work and life a - new.
 light, strength - en them to do the right.
 zeal, learn - ing all God's will to feel.
 fear, born in heaven and ra - diant here.

Francis Albert Rollo Russell was a writer on scientific subjects and a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. This hymn was first published in the Pilgrim Hymnal (1904). The tune originated with a text used for the Feast of the Holy Innocents.

Tune: INNOCENTS 7.7.7.7.
 The Parish Choir, 1850

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

Try to recall the first time in your life when you did not retreat in the face of opposition. How is your experience like that of the Syrophenician woman putting her case to Jesus? Where in your life today is that same courage calling you to speak out? What could you do this week to take steps in that direction?

Household Prayer: Morning

Holy God, I thank you for another day, whether it brings the sort of happiness for which I always hope or the challenges I sometimes fear. Each day in your presence is a time to notice the marvels of creation that surround me. Help me to see them today and to move gracefully from one hour to the next, in the name of your holy and miraculous ways. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Giver of all good things, you have been at my side, beneath, above, and within me all day long, and I thank you for your presence. I thank you now, as well, that as I grow weary, you have given me a place to lay my head. Watch over all who sleep this night, especially those who have no shelter. Guard them and keep all your people in safety, in Jesus' name. Amen

God is still speaking,