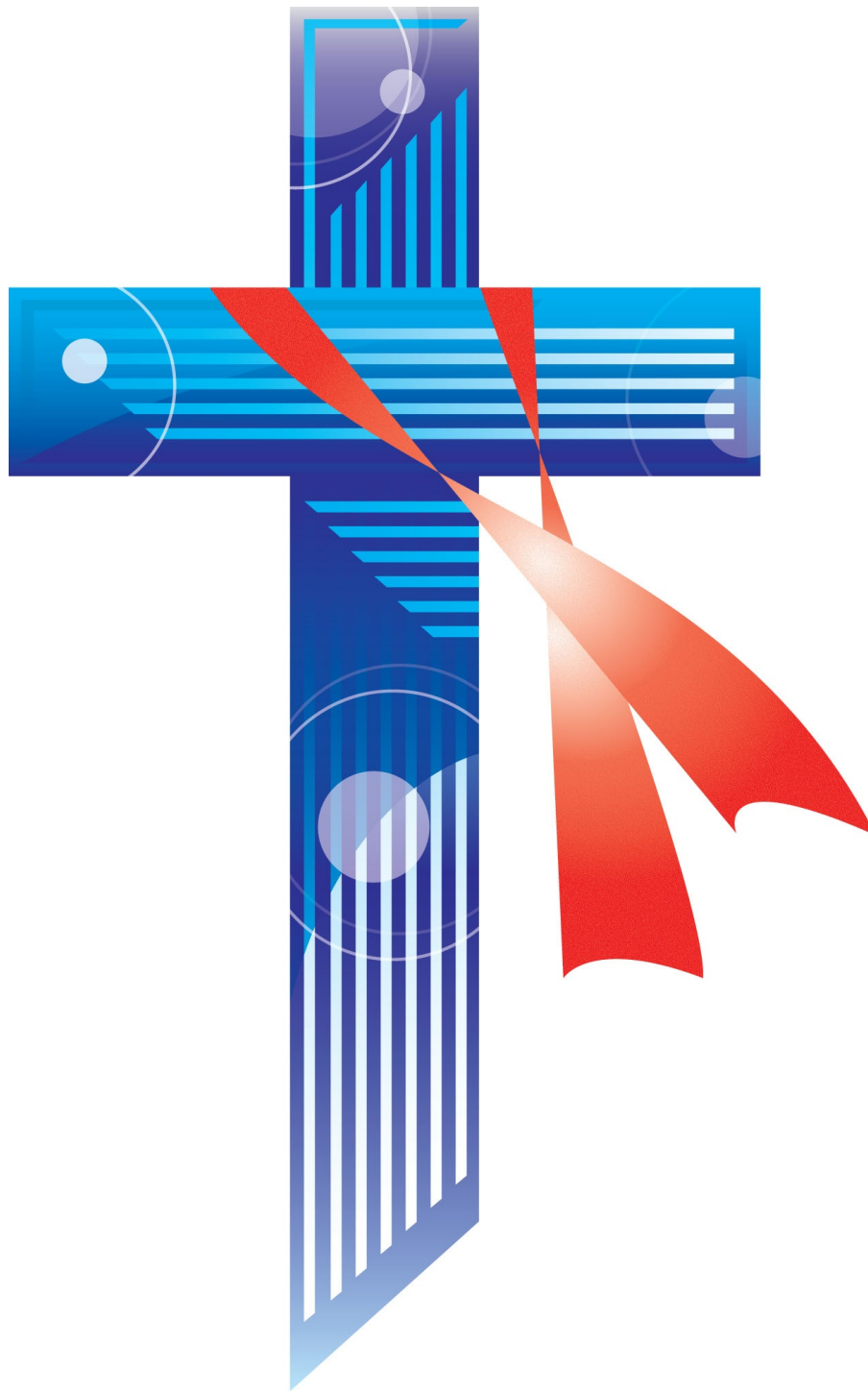


# *17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

September 19, 2021



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

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



PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

## The Family of God Gathers

### Gathering Music

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

“’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

William J. Kirkpatrick

### Greeting

### Call to Worship †§

L: Our world offers many wide avenues and beautiful boulevards to walk.

**P: Our God invites us to walk the road of service and sacrifice.**

L: Our society suggests we put down our roots in the shallow soil of pleasure and greed.

**P: Our God seeks to plant us on the banks of hope, watered by the rivers of joy and grace.**

L: Our culture promotes achievement, success, climbing to the top, ringing the bell.

**P: Our God tells us if we want to be first we need to go to the end of the line.**

### Opening Hymn 451 Bulletin page 6

“Be Now My Vision”

### Prayer of Confession †§

**God of wisdom, forgive our foolishness. We desire what we do not need and corrupt our relationships with envy. You urge us to gentleness, but we stir up conflict. You call us to humility, but we exhaust ourselves scrambling to be number one. Give us your grace, that we may harvest righteousness and peace, putting others before us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon §

L: In God’s realm there are no winners or losers; there are only those who are beloved, and that is all of us. 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 2 Bulletin page 7

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

## The Service of the Word

### Psalm 54

L: Save me, O God, by your name, and vindicate me by your might.

**P: Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.**

L: For the insolent have risen against me, the ruthless seek my life; they do not set God before them.

**P: But surely, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.**

L: He will repay my enemies for their evil.

**P: In your faithfulness, put an end to them.**

L: With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O Lord, for it is good.

**P: For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.**

### Gospel

Mark 9:30–37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

### 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 †§

**We thank you for the wealth you shower on us daily, O Lord, and we witness the marvelous goodness that comes from you. Transform these gifts into signs of welcome for all who are touched by their use. Transform us into people who bless others throughout each day. 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 487 Bulletin page 8

“Surely No One Can Be Safer”

## Benediction †§

**L: May God, who watches over all the righteous, give you the gifts needed to be a capable servant.**

**P: May Jesus Christ, who welcomes everyone, give you the loving heart of a child so that you can welcome others unconditionally.**

**L: May the Holy Spirit, who gives us the understanding we need to love God and to love others, give us unselfish and generous hearts, to heal relationships and to live in peace.**

**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: Linda Oliver

*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 19

#### *OCWM offering*

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

### Tuesday, September 21

10:00 A.M. Quilters

### Sunday, September 26

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

### We pray for:

- All UCC missionaries and ordained and licensed ministers; the ministry and mission of the UCC and the Church universal

## Be Now My Vision

*Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905  
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.*

*Unison*

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;  
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;  
3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,  
4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—  
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;  
you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,  
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,  
You and you on - ly are first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

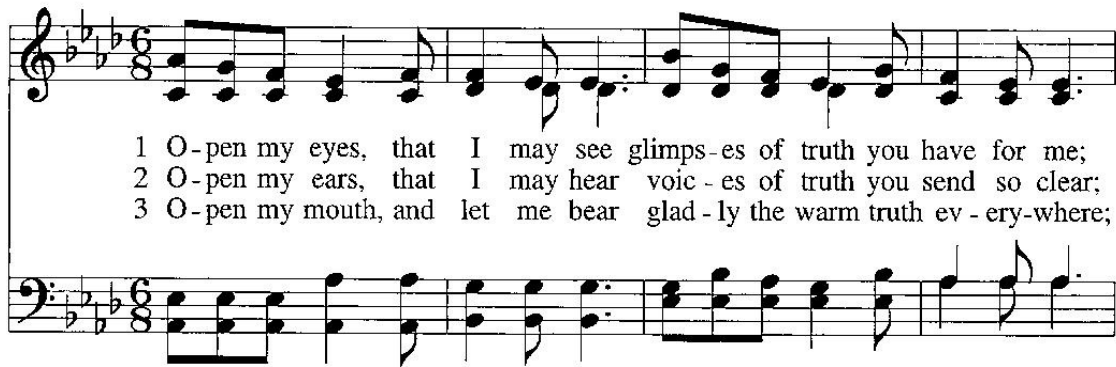
wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.  
now and for - ev - er your child I will be.  
great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor Hull, author of several books on Irish literature and history. David Evans arranged the Irish melody for this text in 1927.*


*Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.  
Traditional Irish melody  
Harm. David Evans, 1927*

Harmonization Copyright © 1927, Oxford University Press. From the *REVISED CHURCH HYMNARY, 1927.*

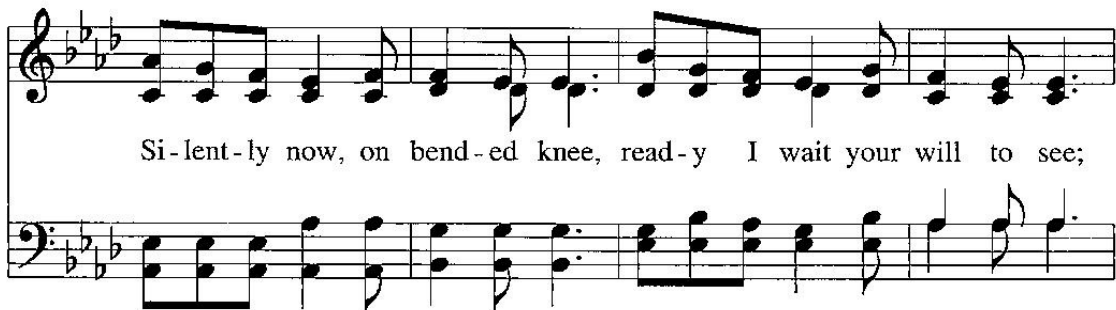
# Open My Eyes, That I May See



1 O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps - es of truth you have for me;  
2 O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth you send so clear;  
3 O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev - ery - where;



place in my hands the won - der - ful key that shall un - lock and set me free.  
and while the mes - sage sounds in my ear, ev - ery - thing false will dis - ap - pear.  
o - pen my heart, and let me pre - pare love with your chil - dren thus to share.



Si - lent - ly now, on bend - ed knee, read - y I wait your will to see;



o - pen my eyes, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
o - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
o - pen my heart, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

WORDS and MUSIC: Clara H. Scott (1841-1897), alt.

OPEN MY EYES  
8.8.9.8.8.8.8.4.

Public domain

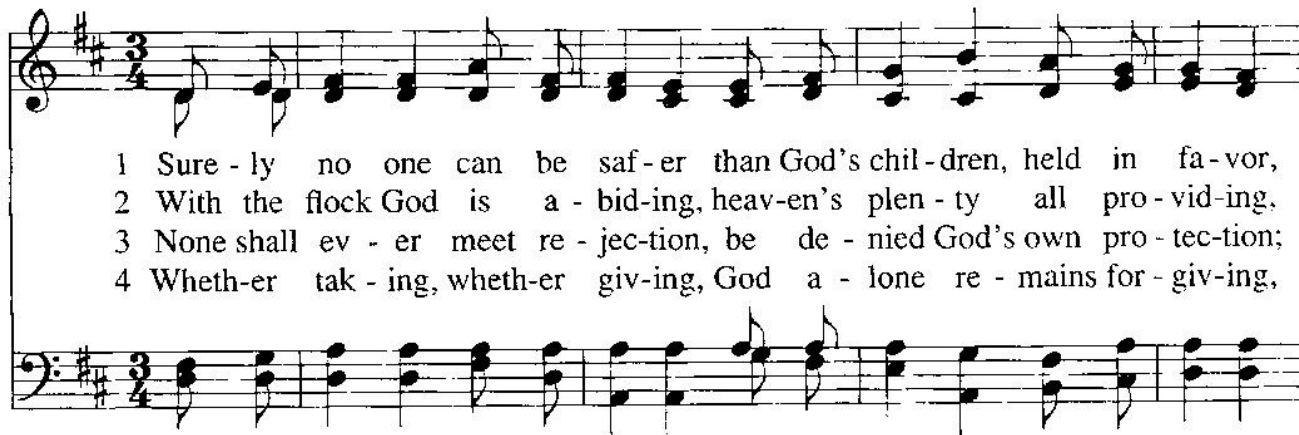
# Surely No One Can Be Safer

487

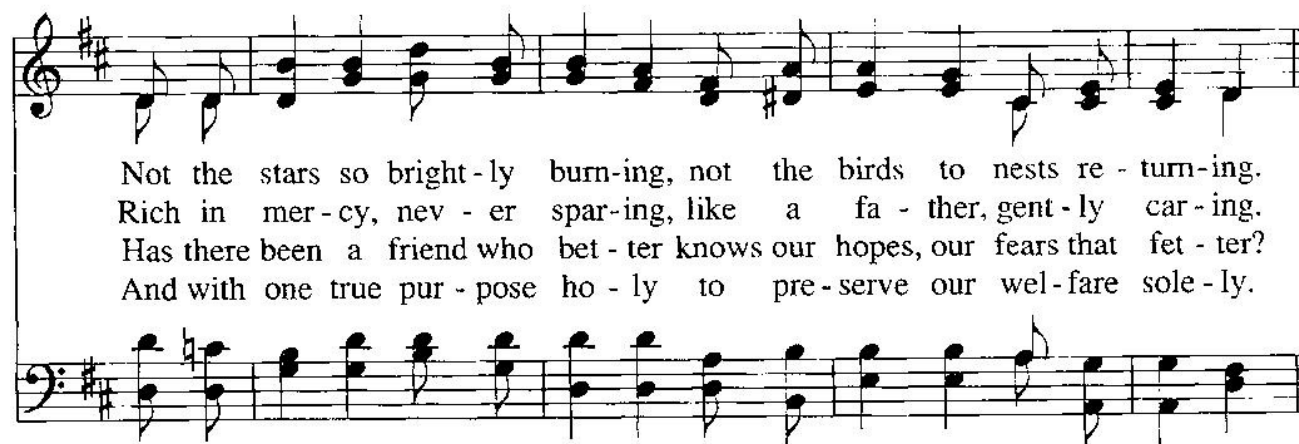
Lina Sandell, 1855

Rom. 8:38-39

Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



1 Sure - ly no one can be saf - er than God's chil - dren, held in fa - vor,  
2 With the flock God is a - bid - ing, heav - en's plen - ty all pro - vid - ing,  
3 None shall ev - er meet re - jec - tion, be de - nied God's own pro - tec - tion;  
4 Wheth - er tak - ing, wheth - er giv - ing, God a - lone re - mains for - giv - ing,



Not the stars so bright - ly burn - ing, not the birds to nests re - turn - ing.  
Rich in mer - cy, nev - er spar - ing, like a fa - ther, gent - ly car - ing.  
Has there been a friend who bet - ter knows our hopes, our fears that fet - ter?  
And with one true pur - pose ho - ly to pre - serve our wel - fare sole - ly.

*Lina Sandell endured many hardships in her early years, including illness, the death of a child, and the drowning of her father, who was a Swedish Lutheran pastor. She maintained a deep piety and strong commitment to mission, and wrote more than 650 hymns and poems.*

Tune: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA L.M.  
*Swedish folk melody*  
Harm. Song Book for Sunday School, 1871



***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***

What can you do to discern between good advice and advice that will lead you on the wrong path?

***Household Prayer: Morning***

As we rise, we have so much to do! We work without realizing that all we do can be a song of love to you and to the ones with whom you have surrounded us. Lead me, O God, so that everything that I do in my life can be done in praise to you. Amen.

***Household Prayer: Evening***

As this day ends, I hope I have done my work with a gentleness born out of your wisdom. Thank you, triune God, for the rest that you will provide and for the strength for a new morning. Amen.

**God is still speaking,**