

18th Sunday after Pentecost September 26, 2021



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

The Family of God Gathers

Gathering Music

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

“End of Summer”

Robert D. Vandall

Greeting

Call to Worship †§

L: Upon this gathering of your people, pour out your Spirit, O Lord.

P: Be near to us and speak to us, and we will proclaim your goodness.

L: The maker of heaven and earth offers us new life through Christ’s resurrection.

P: Blessed be God’s holy name!

Opening Hymn 67 Verses 1–4 Page 8

“Let Me Enter God’s Own Dwelling”

Prayer of Confession †

God, our hope and our source of life, you know our great transgressions, our hidden faults, our secret sins. With our hands we grasp at power; with our feet we stumble into evil; with our eyes we look out for ourselves. Forgive us, gracious God, and lead us in your holy way of life and love and peace; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon §

L: Even before we speak the words, God knows us and offers us grace: 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 3 Page 9

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

The Service of the Word

Psalm 19:7–14

L: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

P: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

L: Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

P: But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

L: Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

P: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Gospel

Mark 9:38–50

John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

Sermon

Reception of New Members

Invitation

L: We invite to come forward those who wish to unite with us in this household of faith.

Friends in Christ, we are all received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Sentences

L: You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are equally citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus alone being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Address

L: By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

Question about Participation

L: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

Candidates:

I promise, with the help of God.

Welcome and Reception

- L: Let us, the members of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.
- P: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

Greeting of Christian Love

- L: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church.

Prayer

- L: O God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this local church and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

Benediction

- L: Go in the peace of Christ.
- P: Thanks be to God.**

Offering "Jesus Loves Me"

Deb Zehms, soloist

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 †§

Your gift of life, O God, is more precious than gold and sweeter than honey to our lips. Take these gifts of our lives and let them be for the world a sign of your goodness and grace. 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 436 Verses 1–4 Page 10

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Benediction †

L: May the spirit of the Lord rest upon you,

P: **the word of the Lord live within you,**

L: and the glory of the Lord shine around you, this day and always.

All: **Alleluia!**

Postlude

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

§ Modified/written by Rev. David Huber

Worship Leaders

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

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 26

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Worship

Tuesday, September 28

10:00 A.M. Quilters

Sunday, October 3

World Communion Sunday

Community Table offering

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Communion Worship

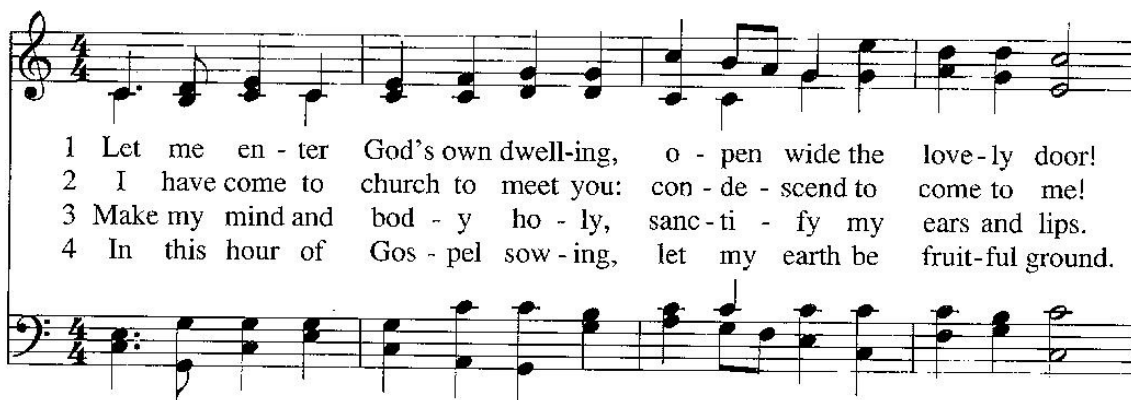
We pray for:

- All houses of worship—churches, temples, and mosques in the Chippewa Valley who provide ecumenical and interfaith combined fellowship and service to our community.
- Adam Wendt and Alyssa Stinson, married yesterday.
- Ken Snart and Jerry Holt, also married yesterday.

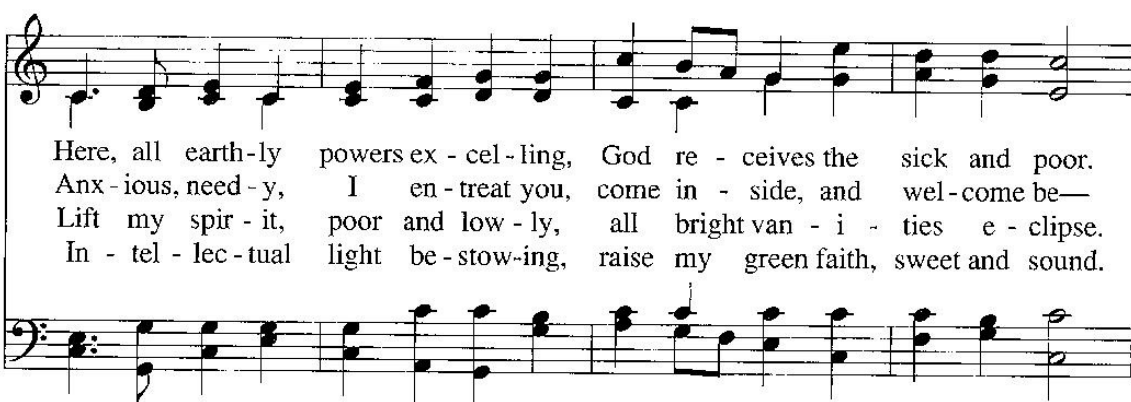
Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling

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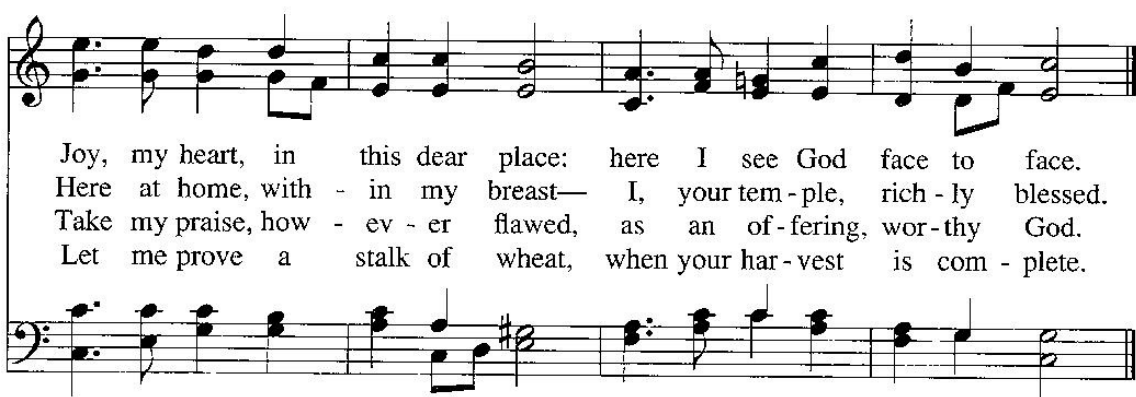
Benjamin Schmolck, 1732
Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993



1 Let me en - ter God's own dwell - ing, o - pen wide the love - ly door!
2 I have come to church to meet you: con - de - scend to come to me!
3 Make my mind and bod - y ho - ly, sanc - ti - fy my ears and lips.
4 In this hour of Gos - pel sow - ing, let my earth be fruit - ful ground.



Here, all earth - ly powers ex - cel - ling, God re - ceives the sick and poor.
Anx - ious, need - y, I en - treat you, come in - side, and wel - come be—
Lift my spir - it, poor and low - ly, all bright van - i - ties e - clipse.
In - tel - lec - tual light be - stow - ing, raise my green faith, sweet and sound.



Joy, my heart, in this dear place: here I see God face to face.
Here at home, with - in my breast— I, your tem - ple, rich - ly blessed.
Take my praise, how - ev - er flawed, as an of - fering, wor - thy God.
Let me prove a stalk of wheat, when your har - vest is com - plete.

5 Re - in - force me, weak and fail - ing,
mak - ing sure your pre - cious word—
(Thieves and e - vil un - a - vail - ing)—
lives with - in my heart se - cured.
Shin - ing word, my star - ry guide,
plant - ed for me, deep in - side.

6 Let me hear when you com - mand me,
let me leap to do your will.
When I wan - der, rep - ri - mand me,
com - fort me when I lie ill.
In the hour of si - lent dread,
feed me with your heav - en - ly bread.

A native of Silesia, Benjamin Schmolck was ordained a Lutheran pastor. Although he was one of only three clergy serving thirty-six villages, he wrote more than 1,000 hymns. Joachim Neander, an important Reformed musician, wrote the music.

Tune: UNSER HERRSCHER 8.7.8.7.7.7.
Joachim Neander, 1680

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

God of Grace and God of Glory

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Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.
 in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.
 John Hughes, c. 1907

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

Numbers 11:24–29 and Mark 9:38–41 are both concerned with expressions of divine power that occur outside the bounds of formal leadership and authority. Where have you experienced God' mighty or gracious action in the church and in the world? What does it mean for the church to pray or act in the name of Jesus Christ? How do you account for gifts of the Spirit that seem to spill out beyond the church's control?

Household Prayer: Morning

God of heavenly glory, brighter than the midday sun, as each day tells your wonder, may the words of my mouth be acceptable to you, my rock and my redeemer. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God of heavenly glory, deeper than the midnight dark, as each night sings your mystery, may the dreams of my heart be acceptable to you, my rock and my redeemer. Amen.

God is still speaking,