

19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 3, 2021



WORLD

COMMUNION

SUNDAY



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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



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

The Family of God Gathers

Prelude

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

“Let All Things Now Living”

Robert A. Hobby

Greeting

Gathering Music “What Is This Place”

Lorin Divine, Lynn McFadyen

Call to Worship †§

L: From where some are sheltering in place, from sacred spaces where God’s people continue to wear masks and meet carefully,

P: we are gathered as God’s people, called to the Table where brokenness nourishes us with simple grace.

L: From virtual communities all over the world, to in-person assemblies, and those that are hybrids of the two,

P: we are gathered as God’s faithful community, serving, living, caring wherever we are.

L: From neighborhoods made up of those of every culture, every race, every branch of faith,

P: we are gathered as witnesses to God’s hope and peace, in every place and person in this uncertain time, during which the world’s people have found solidarity in a common struggle against the hardship of pandemic.

Opening Hymn 21 Bulletin page 9

“God Reigns o’er All the Earth”

Prayer of Confession †§

You gave us commandments, God of love, because you know the hardness of our hearts. You have created us to live in community, and still we oppress others and separate ourselves from each other. And by separating ourselves from one another, we separate ourselves from you. Forgive us, and call us to faithfulness. Bind all your children together as siblings in your holy family, that

we might share what we have been given, and receive your grace with the wonder and gratitude of children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon §

L: Never will there be a time when God's grace and fidelity will subside. You may rest assured that through 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 Bulletin page 10

“Gather Us In”

The Service of the Word

New Testament Lesson

Hebrews 1:1–4, 2:5–12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, “What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, subjecting all things under their feet.” Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one

Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

Psalm 8

L: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

P: **You have set your glory above the heavens.**

L: Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

P: **When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?**

L: Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

P: **You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

All: **O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

Gospel

Mark 10:2–16

Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Sermon

Offering “Here I Am”

Lorin Divine, Lynn McFadyen

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 can join in hoarding all the gifts with which you bless us, God of generosity, or we can share them with others. May what we offer in these moments be the very blessing, the very hope, the very peace others need. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Communion

Communion Hymn Bulletin page 11

“Bread for the World”

Prayer ‡§

L: May the Spirit of hope be with you!

P: And also with you!

L: Beloved, God has created us to live faithfully in these times.

P: We lift our hearts to the One who shapes us into communities of grace and peace.

L: Join in singing to God.

P: We will dance with joy to the Table of peace and hope.

L: We tremble in these moments of uncertainty, of days which seem endless, wondering if there is any word for us. So, remind us that you spoke into the trembling emptiness of chaos, and your goodness and wonder began all those days and nights when hope raced across the sky, when grace bubbled up from springs, when peace wandered the meadows.

P: In every moment when your people were alone, afraid, felt abandoned by all, you sent prophets—women and men, to remind us of your promises and point us to all the ways you continue to love. Even in these months of isolation, in these days which seem the same, you are with us in the life made known in the Child you sent to point us to the way home to you.

L: So, with those who trembled at the foot of your holy mountain, and with those who press on to follow you, we join our voices in praise to you:

P: Your Word opens our eyes to all creation.

Your Word is the sweet taste of joy for empty hearts.

Your Word helps us to endure through every moment which seems unbearable.

Blessed is your Word who comes in your name.

Hosanna in the highest!

L: Though others mock us for such trust, we continue to believe that we know your holiness in the hope you share, and we realize how blessed we are by the grace we have received in your Child, Jesus. In these times when we wonder if anyone really cares about us, he is the One who is your love poured out for each of us.

P: In these days when bitter voices would seek to seduce us with anger, he is the gentle voice which calls us to trust in your heart broken for us. In the moments when people seem not to care for the most vulnerable, he is the living demonstration that death has no ultimate power but that your resurrecting love is the final word spoken about us.

L: Now, around tables and altars in sacred spaces, some which still echo with silence, and some around kitchen or living room tables, we pray, Redeemer of all creation, that you would pour out your Spirit on each and every place, and on each and every person.

P: Whether it is bread that is broken, or crackers that are split apart, may these gifts remind us that it is moments when we least expect that we are called to share your grace, to listen to the lonely, to welcome the heartbroken, to embrace the vulnerable.

L: Whatever the contents of our cups this morning, may this be your grace poured into us so that we might become people who will not give up on justice or let go of hope, who will not hoard life, and who will trust in you always.

P: We gather once again at your table with our sisters and brothers around the world, anticipating when we will celebrate your promised Feast in that place, that time, that life beyond this, where all hurtful words are silenced,

where all pain is left behind, where hope and grace are our closest friends,
and we will join our hearts and voices to sing of your glory, God in
Community, Holy in One. 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

Lorin Divine

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 327 Bulletin page 12

“Jesus Loves Me”

Benediction †§

L: Come to Christ as a little child,
P: **and we will find welcome in the realm of God.**
L: May the grace of God lift you up;
P: **may the love of God hold you close;**
L: may the blessing of God be yours forever.
All: Alleluia!

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 October is sponsored by the Lyle Shepler Family.

Special flowers provided by Lil Savage in memory of Carl & Marie Savage.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, October 3

Community Table offering

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Communion Worship

Tuesday, October 5

10:00 A.M. Quilters

7:00 P.M. Dartball

St Mark's at Plymouth

Sunday, October 10

Prayers for the People

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Worship

We pray for:

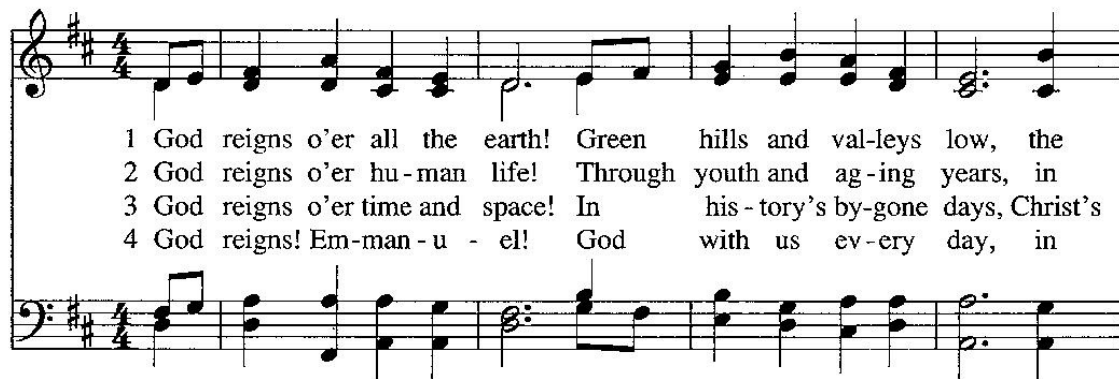
- The leadership and staff of Plymouth United Church of Christ

God Reigns o'er All the Earth

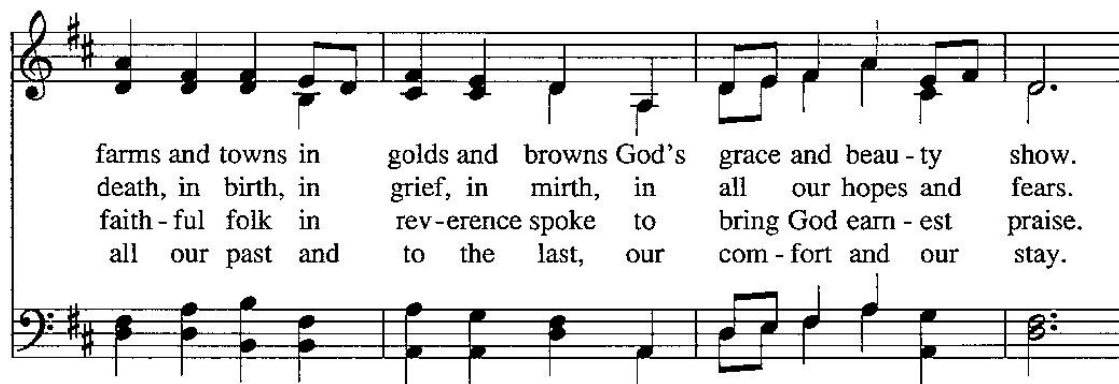
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Jane Parker Huber, 1981

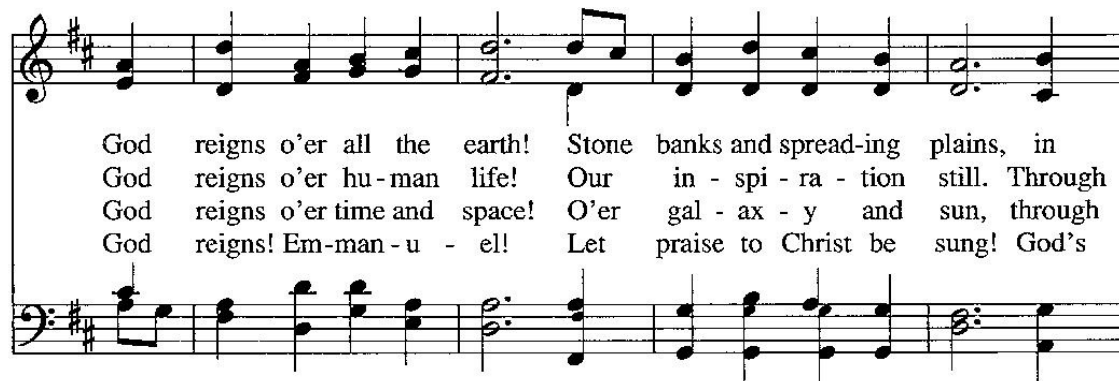
Isa. 52:7-10



1 God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and val-leys low, the
 2 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Through youth and ag-ing years, in
 3 God reigns o'er time and space! In his-tory's by-gone days, Christ's
 4 God reigns! Em-man-u - el! God with us ev-ery day, in



farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beau-ty show.
 death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
 faith-ful folk in rev-erence spoke to bring God earn-est praise.
 all our past and to the last, our com-fort and our stay.



God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spread-ing plains, in
 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Our in-spi-ra-tion still. Through
 God reigns o'er time and space! O'er gal-ax-y and sun, through
 God reigns! Em-man-u - el! Let praise to Christ be sung! God's



rain-bow hues— reds, yel-lows, blues— of streams and coun-try lanes.
 all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reign-ing will.
 time-less years the cos-mos hears the heaven-ly mu-sic run.
 pres-ence here makes all things dear. Let joy-ful bells be rung!

The author's notes on this text describe it as a progression of awareness of God's reign among us—in physical surroundings, in the various stages of life, in time and space, and supremely in Christ, God with us.

Tune: TERRA BEATA S.M.D.
 Traditional English melody
 Adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

Gather Us In



- 1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
- 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
- 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
- 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ers,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Bread for the World



Re - jice, give thanks for a - bund - ant grace, food on our
 Hope burns a - new, thru' the world's des - pair, when eyes are
 Act strong in faith, for God's Reign is near; stand up with



ta - bles, and peace with - in this place, How rich, how
 o - pened and hearts are moved to care, when we can
 cour - age, speak out and do not fear! Now is the



wide is our God's em - brace! And thru' this great, sus - tain - ing
 lis - ten and learn to share, then we might fin - 'lly turn and
 time that the world must hear the task that God has called us

Refrain



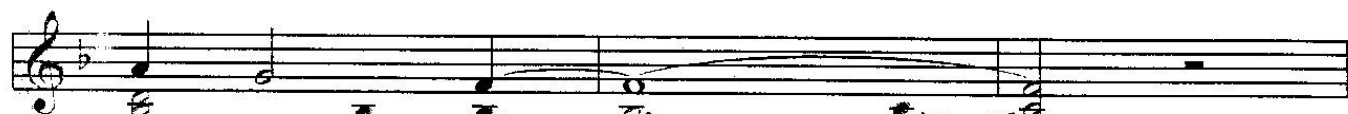
love
 see We are bread for the world, bread for the
 to:



world, bread for a hun - gry world. May we be



bread for the world, bread for the world, bread for a



hun - gry world.

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Jesus Loves Me

St. 1, Anna B. Warner, 1860

St. 2-3, David Rutherford McGuire, 1971

1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.
 2 Je - sus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long a - go,
 3 Je - sus loves me! Still to - day, walk-ing with me on my way,

Lit - tle ones to him be - long; they are weak, but he is strong.
 Tak - ing chil - dren on his knee, say - ing, "Let them come to me."
 Want-ing as a friend to give light and love to all who live.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

1 Deer He-soos zis guh see-reh,
 eem soorp keer-kus ice guh-seh,
 Inch koo-tov ink un-toon-etz
 po-ker dug-hak, yev orh-netz.

Vo, guh see-reh ziss!
 Vo, guh see-reh ziss!
 Vo, guh see-reh ziss!
 Soorp Kirk-uh ice guh-seh.

(Armenian transliteration Vartan Hartunian)

1 Lo'u A-līi ua faa-fe-tai
 I lou sa-ga a-lo-fa-mai,
 Ua i-lo-a-ti-no ai
 I lou tau-si pe-a mai.

O lou a-lo-fa!
 O lou a-lo-fa!
 O lou a-lo-fa!
 E si-li la-va lea.

(Samoan transl. anon.)

Anna B. Warner collaborated with her sister, Susan, on several novels. In one, Say and Seal, this hymn was sung to comfort a sick child. Two new stanzas have been provided by Canadian David R. McGuire, an Anglican priest.

Tune: JESUS LOVES ME 7.7.7.7. with refrain
 William B. Bradbury, 1862

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

We were created to live in relationship—with neighbors, friends, loved ones, and above all with God. Think about the relationships in your life. Where do you find help and partnership? Where do you feel the strain of separation? Who do you allow to get close to you, and who do you turn away? In what ways do those relationships reflect your relationship with God?

Household Prayer: Morning

Lord Jesus, my brother, bone of my bone, stand with me this day, and let me walk with you all my life. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord Jesus, my brother, flesh of my flesh, stay with me this night, and let me rest with you in eternal life. Amen.

God is still speaking,