

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

October 31, 2021



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

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October 31, 2021

10:30 A.M.

The Family of God Gathers

Gathering Music

“Built on a Rock”

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

Greeting

Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 139, ca. 9th century BCE, and traditional evening prayer, ca. 16th century CE)*

L: Light and Peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

L: If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,”

P: darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.

L: Lord Christ, your saints have been the lights of the world in every generation:

P: Grant that we who follow in their footsteps may be made worthy to enter with them into that heavenly country where you live and reign for ever and ever.

Phos Hilaron *(“O Gladsome Light,” 3rd century, quite likely the oldest prayer still used in Christian liturgy that isn’t directly from scripture)*

L: O Gracious Light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven;

P: O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

L: Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God.

P: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

L: You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of life,

P: and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Opening Hymn 57 Bulletin page 10

“O Holy Spirit, Root of Life”

(12th century text of Hildegard von Bingen; melody 16th century)

Prayer of Confession *(Dietrich Bonhoeffer, early 20th century CE)*

O God, early in the morning I cry to you. Help me to pray and to concentrate my thoughts on you; I cannot do this alone. In me there is darkness, but with you there is light; I am lonely, but you do not leave me; I am feeble in heart, but with you there is help; I am restless, but with you there is peace. In me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience; I do not understand your ways, but you know the way for me. Restore me to liberty, and enable me to live now that I may answer before you. Lord whatever this day may bring, Your name be praised. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon §

L: God's word of grace may be trusted: 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 4 Bulletin page 11

“Gather Us In”

Meditation

The Service of the Word

First Reading: The Witch of Endor

1 Samuel 28:3–25

Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in Ramah, his own city. Saul had expelled the mediums and the wizards from the land. When Saul saw the army of the Philistines encamped outside Israel, he was afraid and his heart trembled greatly.

When Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord did not answer him. Then Saul said to his servants, “Seek out for me a woman who is a medium, so that I may go to her and inquire of her.” His servants said to him, “There is a medium in Endor.”

So Saul disguised himself and put on other clothes and went there. They came to the woman by night. And he said, “Consult a spirit for me, and bring up for me the one whom I name to you.”

Then the woman said, “Whom shall I bring up for you?” He answered, “Bring up Samuel for me.”

He said to her, “Have no fear; what do you see?” The woman said to Saul, “I see a divine being coming up out of the ground.” He said to her, “What is his appearance?” She said, “An old man is coming up; he is wrapped in a robe.” So Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground.

Then Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?” Saul answered, “I am in great distress, for the Philistines are warring against me, and God has turned away from me and answers me no more. So I have summoned you to tell me what I should do.”

Samuel said, “Why then do you ask me, since the Lord has turned from you and become your enemy? The Lord will give Israel, along with you, into the hands of the Philistines; and tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me; the Lord will also give the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines.”

Immediately, Saul fell full length on the ground, filled with fear because of the words of Samuel.

Psalm 130

L: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

P: **If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.**

L: I wait for the Lord, my soul wait, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

P: **O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is the power to redeem.**

All: **It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.**

Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, you have made all things in your wisdom and established the boundaries of life and death: Grant that we may obey your voice in this world, and in the world to come may enjoy that rest and peace which you have appointed for your people; through Jesus Christ who is Resurrection and Life, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Second Reading: The Vision of Eliphaz the Temanite

Job 4:12–21

Now a word came stealing to me, my ear received the whisper of it.

Amid thought from visions of the night, when deep sleep falls on mortals, dread came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones shake. A spirit glided past my face; the hair of my flesh bristled.

It stood still, but I could not discern its appearance.

A form was before my eyes; there was silence, then I heard a voice: “Can mortals be righteous before God?

Can human beings be pure before their Maker?”

Psalm 13

L: How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

P: **How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long?**

L: How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

P: **Consider and answer me, O Lord my God! Give the light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,**

L: and my enemy will say, “I have prevailed;” my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

P: **But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.**

All: **I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.**

Prayer

You, O Lord, have made us from the dust of the Earth and to dust our bodies shall return; yet you have also breathed your Spirit upon us and called us to new life in you: Have mercy upon us, now and at the hour of our death; through Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate. Amen.

Hymn 298 Verse 1 Bulletin page 12

“O Savior, for the Saints”

Offering

“How Long Has It Been”
John Moore, soloist

Doxology (*written late 17th century CE*)

**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 †§

Dear God, we offer you these gifts that they might build up the work of your present and future realm. Make us living witnesses to the way of your righteous reign. For the glory of your son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Third Reading: The Valley of the Dry Bones

Ezekiel 37:1–10

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.”

Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

So I prophesied as I had been commanded and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Psalm 143

L: Hear my prayer, O Lord. Give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness; answer me in your righteousness.

P: **Do not enter into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.**

L: I remember the days of old, I think about all your deeds, I meditate on the works of your hands.

P: **I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.**

L: Answer me quickly, Lord, my spirit fails.

P: Do not hide your face from me, or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.

All: Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

Prayer

O God, you have called your people to your service from age to age. Do not give us over to death, but raise us up to serve you, to praise you, and to glorify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 298 Verse 2 Bulletin page 12

“O Savior, for the Saints”

Fourth Reading: The War In Heaven

Revelation 12:1–9

A great portent appeared in Heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth. Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns and seven diadems upon his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the Earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as It was born. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron.

But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne; and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, so that there she can be nourished for one thousand two hundred sixty days.

And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Psalm 103:17–22

L: But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children’s children,

P: to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

L: The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

P: Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, obedient to his spoken word.

All: Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers who do his will. Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Prayer

O most merciful and mighty God, your son Jesus Christ was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary to bring us salvation and to establish your kingdom on Earth: Grant that Michael and all your angels may defend your people against Satan and every evil foe, and that at the last we may come to that heavenly country, where your saints for ever and ever sing your praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 298 Verse 3 Bulletin page 12

“O Savior, for the Saints”

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.

Hymn 298 Verse 4 Bulletin page 12

“O Savior, for the Saints”

Benediction § *Anglican Book of Common Prayer*

L: Trust in the Lord, even in the face of death, and follow in the footsteps of all God’s saints.

P: May God keep a protective eye on you;

L: May Christ Jesus show you his grace and mercy;

P: May the Holy Spirit give you a vision of the life of the world made new.

L: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

P: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. David Huber • Ministers: All the people of Plymouth • Pianist: Lynn McFadyen • 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 October is sponsored by the Lyle Shepler Family. It is also sponsored by Mike & Marybeth Tschumperlin in memory of Mike's uncle Melvin Bechel.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, October 31

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Worship

Tuesday, November 2

10:00 A.M. Quilters

7:00 P.M. Dartball

Plymouth at Rock Creek

Sunday, November 7

All Saints' Sunday

Community Table offering

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Communion Worship

We pray for:

- Our families and friends, our church, and ourselves
- Rev. Carla Simmons and the congregation of Community UCC in Saint Germain as they install her as their pastor and teacher this afternoon.

Carrie Newcomer Concert

Saturday, November 6 at 6:30 P.M. at Grace Lutheran Church
It's a benefit for JONAH. Tickets at Volume One or at the door.

O Holy Spirit, Root of Life

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Jean Janzen, 1991; based on writings by
Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, 12th century

1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, Root of life, Cre - a - tor,
2 E - ter - nal Vig - or, Sav - ing One, you free us
3 O Ho - ly Wis - dom, Soar - ing Power, en - com - pass

cleans - er of all things, a - noint our wounds, a -
by your liv - ing Word, be - com - ing flesh to
us with wings un - furled, and car - ry us, en -

wak - en us with lus - trous move - ment of your wings.
wear our pain, and all cre - a - tion is re - stored.
cir - cling all, a - bove, be - low, and through the world.

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) was a "woman for all seasons." A German abbess, she was a prolific liturgical composer and poet, artist and mystic, and scientist and theologian whose works exhibit deep spirituality. This new text combines rich images from Hildegard's songs "De Spiritu Sancto," "O Virtus Sapientiae," and "O Vis Aeternitatis."

Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR L.M.
Melody from "Piae Cantiones," 1582
Adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609

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,



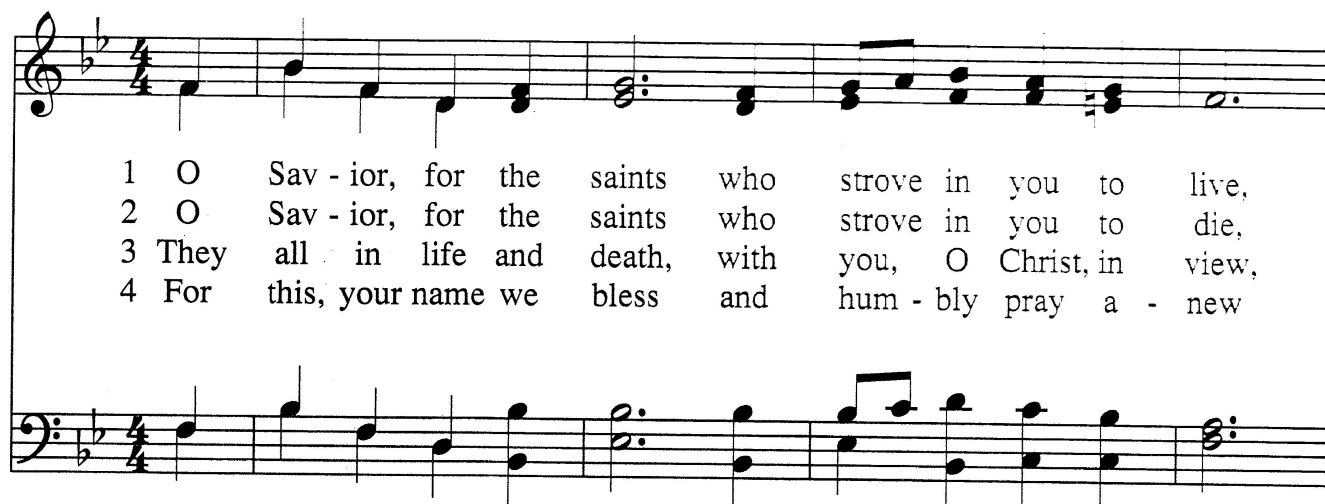
we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

O Savior, for the Saints

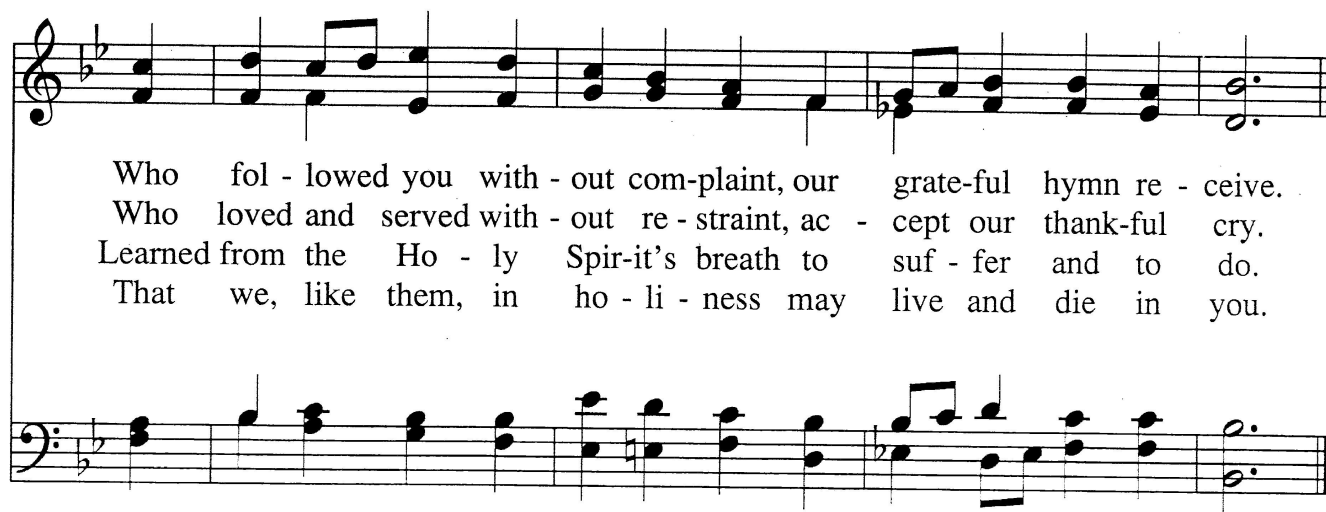
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Richard Mant, 1837; alt.

Rom. 14:7-9



1 O Sav - ior, for the saints who strove in you to live,
2 O Sav - ior, for the saints who strove in you to die,
3 They all in life and death, with you, O Christ, in view,
4 For this, your name we bless and hum - bly pray a - new



Who fol - lowed you with - out com-plaint, our grate-ful hymn re - ceive.
Who loved and served with - out re - straint, ac - cept our thank-ful cry.
Learned from the Ho - ly Spir-it's breath to suf - fer and to do.
That we, like them, in ho - li - ness may live and die in you.

This was one of several original hymns appended to Richard Mant's book of translations of Latin hymns from the Roman Breviary. A priest of the Church of England, Mant was for many years a bishop in Ireland.

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.
William Walter, 1872

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

We serve a living God. This week, look each day for the presence of God alive in the midst of God's people and the creation God has made. Where is God at work, bringing people together for good?

Household Prayer: Morning

Holy God, on this new day, I give you thanks for all that lies before me and those I love. Guide us and keep us on the path that you intend. Help us to see the journey you set before us when the way grows dim. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Gracious giver of all good things, for all that has transpired in your world today, I pray for peace and quiet to come where it is most needed. I thank you for the work I have had to do and pray for those who have no work. I ask your presence now for rest and renewal, in safety and calm, that tomorrow I may again see your face in those I meet, in Jesus' name. Amen.

God is still speaking,