

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

January 16, 2022

The water now
become
WINE
... the first of
his signs.

John 2:9, 11, ESV



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PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

The Family of God Gathers

Greeting

Call to Worship †

L: We come in these endless days, Precious God, people in need of the constancy of your love:

P: may we drink deeply from your fountain of life; may we continue to be guided by your Light.

L: We gather in these weary days, Water-changing God, people looking for signs of hope and wonder:

P: may we drink deeply from your fountain of grace; may our weariness be wrapped in your Hope.

L: We worship in these overwhelming days, Gifting God, people who try to point others to Jesus:

P: may we drink deeply from your fountain of joy; may our life be strengthened by your Life.

Prayer of Confession †§

God of joy and hope, we cannot remain silent, but must speak of the ways we misuse your gifts. In our desire for more and more, we damage your good creation. In our selfish obsession, we diminish the lives of those around us. When we hoard what you have given us, we cannot be a blessing to other people. Forgive us, God, so we might be restored to life. May your steadfast love inspire us to trust that we may share our gifts with others without fear of not having enough. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon §

L: God is determined to walk with us no matter where we may stray, never leaving us alone, and embracing us in holy joy when we return: 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.

The Service of the Word

Psalm 36:5–10

L: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

P: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.

L: How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

P: They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

L: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

P: O continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your salvation to the upright of heart!

Gospel

John 2:1–11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.”

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Sermon

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.

Benediction †

L: God sends us out to the lonely, the forsaken, all those forgotten in these weary times.

P: We will go to gather them up into the heart of love, to welcome them as our siblings.

L: Jesus calls us to throw a party for those who are hungry for hope, who thirst for justice.

P: We will go to be with those who sit at empty tables, who long to taste the sweet bouquet of grace.

L: The Spirit sends us forth, transformed from the foolish to the faithful.

P: We will go to those who walk in the muck of life, who yearn for new days, of joy and wonder. Amen.

† <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>

§ Modified/written by Rev. David Huber

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. David Huber • Ministers: All the people of Plymouth • Liturgist: Mimi Pederson

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 January is sponsored by Lil Savage in memory of her parents.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, January 16

OCWM offering

10:30 A.M. Worship

Tuesday, January 11

7:00 P.M. Dartball

Plymouth at PB&J

Sunday, January 23

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

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

The Holy Spirit enlivens each of us with unique gifts that nurture faith and serve the common good. To identify those gifts we can ask ourselves such questions as, When do I feel most alive? What do I love to do? What things, tasks, or actions fill me with a sense of purpose? What am I doing when time seems to stand still? These questions help us discern the Spirit's movement in our lives. Created in the image of God, each of us is uniquely gifted to reveal divine likeness. When our deep joy is united with meaning and purpose, vocation is birthed. How or where is God calling you?

Household Prayer: Morning

Enlivening God, each morning I am awakened by your goodness nudging the earth to life. I am filled with wonder. Your steadfast love extends to the sky, your constancy reaches to the clouds. How precious is your steadfast love! It shines like the dawn, and dews the desolation of my soul. Manifest in me the gifts of your Spirit that I may rejoice in you as I delight in serving your world this day. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

As evening falls and darkness shuts the day, do not forsake us, O God. Crown the sky with jewels of light that your salvation may burnish the heavens and illumine the earth, and all find refuge in the shadow of your wings. Amen.

God is still speaking,