

4th Sunday after Epiphany

January 30, 2022

“Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown.”

Luke 4:24



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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The Family of God Gathers

Gathering Music

“Lead Me, Lord”
arr. Robert W. Thygerson

Greeting

Call to Worship †§

L: From the very beginning, God calls us.

P: **God sets us apart with a meaning and a purpose.**

L: God reassures us through the course of our days

P: **even if we are brought to the edge of a cliff, God is with us and sustains us.**

Opening Hymn 394 Bulletin page 8

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

Prayer of Confession †§

God our Deliverer, we confess we are too reluctant to speak and live according to your truth. We grow comfortable with the way things are, passively condoning injustice. We find it easier to pluck up and pull down, to destroy and overthrow, than to build and to plant. Forgive us, O God, for being timid disciples. Empty us of fear and shame, and fill us with love that is humble and patient and kind. We pray this in the name of the One who humbled himself, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon §

L: By God’s grace and unending love, all your sins are erased and forgotten. 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

Old Testament Lesson

Jeremiah 1:4–10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.” Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Psalm 71:1–6

L: In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

P: **In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.**

L: Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

P: **Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.**

L: For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth. Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother’s womb.

P: **My praise is continually of you.**

Gospel

Luke 4:21–30

Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in

Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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 †§

Generous God, we offer you these gifts as expressions of our love for you and our neighbors. Bless them that they may bring closer to fulfillment your reign of peace and love, and bless us that we may wisely use these offerings and all our gifts for the sake of your people. 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 388

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

**Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.**

**Teach us, O God, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.**

**Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter’s healing art.**

**God, for today’s encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
Bring us new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; God! Free us, make us one!**

Benediction †§

L: God is a refuge, but never an escape;

**P: therefore, we go into this day, to a world where things are being pulled
down and overthrown, where things are being built and planted.**

**L: Go this day open to the surprise of what God is doing and where and with whom
God is at work!**

P: We go into this day with the love of God made visible in us. Amen!

Postlude

“Allegro”

George Frideric Handel



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Modified/written by Rev. David Huber

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

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, January 30

10:30 A.M. Worship

11:30 A.M. Annual Meeting

Tuesday, February 1

10:00 A.M. Quilters

7:00 P.M. Dartball

Plymouth at Rock Creek

Sunday, February 6

Community Table offering

10:30 A.M. Communion Worship

11:30 A.M. Annual Meeting

We pray for:

- Our families and friends, our church, and ourselves

In Christ There Is No East or West

1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:14-22

John Oxenham, 1908; alt.
St. 3, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1987

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery-where their high com - mu - nion find;
 3 In Christ is nei - ther Jew nor Greek, and nei - ther slave nor free;
 4 In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;

But one com - mu - ni - ty of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 God's ser - vice is the gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 For men and wom - en live in God, and all are kin to me.
 One joy - ous, true com - mu - ni - ty through - out the whole wide earth.

Singer and composer Harry T. Burleigh studied at the National Conservatory of Music from 1892 to 1896. He is recognized as the first African-American composer to employ spirituals in concert arrangements. This tune is named after the rector of St. George's Episcopal Church in New York City, where Burleigh served as baritone soloist for more than fifty years.

Tune: McKEE C.M.
 African-American melody
 Arr. Harry T. Burleigh, 1939
 Alternate setting: ST. PETER

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Bernadette Farrell

Verses



1. Long-ing for light, — we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2. Long-ing for peace, — our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3. Long-ing for food, — man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
4. Long-ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
5. Man - y the gifts, — man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



1. truth, — we turn to you. Make us your own, —
2. hope, — man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone —
3. wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread, —
4. warmth, — man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
5. hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



1. your ho - ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
2. has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
3. bro - ken for oth-ers, shared un - til all are fed.
4. shel - ter - ing oth-ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
5. to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.

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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

In Jesus' first sermon, he referred to two scriptural stories to illustrate God's love. Why did that so enrage the congregation that they wanted to kill him? Do some of Jesus' teachings still enrage us today?

Household Prayer: Morning

God, you have given me the gift of another day; may I live it in gratitude. Help me to be loving to others, to Earth, and to myself; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Holy One, this day is drawing to an end. Be with me as I pause and ponder all the love I saw and received today. Help me to see you in each moment of love. Where I fell short of being patient and kind, help me to feel your patience and kindness toward me, and give me peace, as I give this day back to you. Amen.

God is still speaking,