

1st Sunday of Lent

March 6, 2022



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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

The Family of God Gathers

Gathering Music

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

Arr. Lorie Line

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

Greeting

Call to Worship †§

L: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the discomfort of the wilderness.

P: As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

L: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation.

P: As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into making uncomfortable choices.

L: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

P: As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

Opening Hymn 205 Bulletin page 9

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

Prayer of Confession †§

O God, our refuge and fortress, forgive us when we only hear you and don't listen enough to trust you. We fall for false promises that we know couldn't be true; we are swayed by false words; we speak false words of our own. We choose our ease and comfort over your demanding claims upon us and upon the world. In turning from you, we think we are moving to something even better. But when we are honest with ourselves, we realize we have settled for less than the abundant generosity you intend. Forgive us, we pray, and guide us to more faithful living as your disciples. Amen.

Kyrie

1, 3 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
2 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer cy.
Christ, have mer cy.

Music: Russian Orthodox

Assurance of Pardon §

L: God knows our failings and our faithfulness, and loves us with pure love that never holds our failings against us. 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 Song

1. Sow the seeds of life, dear Lord. Help us grow by your word
2. May our minds be made a - new by your word break-ing through

Life will bloom with bless- ings when we your voice have heard.
Let the sun come shin- ing in; ev - 'ry heart re - new.

Text and music: Frank D. Janzow ©1984 Frank D. Janzow; 1993 Sun Day Publications
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The Service of the Word

Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16

- L: You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”
- P: Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.**
- L: For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.
- P: On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.**
- L: You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.
- P: Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.**
- L: When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.
- P: With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.**

Gospel

Luke 4:1–13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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 †§

Gracious and Generous God, we are amazed by the good gifts you bestow in abundance. Thank you for food that sustains us on our journey. Thank you for the company of saints to whom we are joined. Thank you for giving us your work to do on earth. We offer back to you a portion of all that we have received so your Church may continue to proclaim your Good News. Amen.

Communion

Hymn 346 Bulletin page 10

“Bread for the World, in Mercy Broken”

Prayer †§

L: May the God of wilderness hopes be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

L: Let us bring our hearts to God.

P: **We offer them to God who fills them with life.**

L: With songs on our lips and in our hearts, let us praise God.

P: **We sing of what we believe, offering thanksgivings from our hearts.**

L: From the deep wilderness of chaos, you created mountains that shade the valleys below, rich grain and vegetables to feed the hungry, rivers and lakes filled with the water of life. This creation was entrusted to those whom you shaped in your image, the first fruits of your love, but we chose to follow temptation into that wilderness that comes whenever we walk away from you. Seeking to be generous to all, you continued to send prophets to us, women and men who carried your words in their hands and hearts, yet we continued to serve the empty promises of sin and fear. So you sent your Word to us, the One who came to reveal your salvation to us.

With old-timers as well as newcomers, with insiders and those who have stood outside, we offer our praise to you:

**P: Holy, holy, holy are you, Giver of all goodness.
Creation's heart overflows with joyous praise to you.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who is full of the Spirit.
Hosanna in the highest!**

L: Holy are you, God of mercy and hope, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Lord of all. When he could have feasted on glory, he came to feed all who hungered for hope and for life. When he could have walked the halls of power, he chose to trek through the wilderness, picking up all who stumbled along the way. When he could have chosen an easy way, letting the angels carry the burden, he showed faith in your promises, being flung into death's wasteland where you brought him forth into new life.

L: As we seek to believe in our hearts all he did, and as we seek in our hearts to listen to all he taught, we proclaim the great mystery of faith:

**All: Christ died, trusting in your continued presence;
Christ was raised, the first fruits of resurrection;
Christ will come making no distinction,
but welcoming all into that realm overflowing with mercy and hope.**

L: Led by you, we come to this Table, where the first fruits of redemption, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, are filled with the gifts of your Spirit and offered to all who gather before you. As we are fed by the bread, may we become as generous as you, making no distinction as to who we will serve. As the cup nourishes us with your life, may we be poured out for others, feeding those who are hungry, joining the voices of the powerless, offering our lives in grace and hope to all.

P: And when we gather at last where you dwell, we will celebrate the great feast of the first fruits of your love and grace, joining our sisters and brothers in praising you, God in Community, Holy in One.

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 "I Will Remember Thee"

Sam Zehms

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 490 Bulletin page 11

"I Want Jesus to Go with Me"

Benediction †§

L: These Lenten days will take us to the cross of Christ. Go forward, knowing that you do not go this way alone.

P: Nor do we have to be afraid, for the Word of God strengthens us and the Holy Spirit sustains us.

L: May the God of the Exodus lead us into freedom.

P: May the Holy Spirit bind us to God's will.

L: May Christ, God's only Son, show us the way of true justice and peace.

P: That we may all find our way through the wilderness, following the voice that beckons us to full life.

All: Amen!

Postlude

"Great Is the Lord"

† *Feasting on the Word* Worship Companion, Year C, Vol. 1 ©2012 Westminster John Knox Press. Used with permission.

‡ <http://lectionarylitrurgies.blogspot.com>

§ Modified/written by Rev. David Huber

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.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, March 6

Community Table offering

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Communion Worship

Tuesday, March 8

10:00 A.M. Quilters

7:00 P.M. Dartball

Rock Creek at Plymouth

Sunday, March 13

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

Anniversary of Rev. George and Diane Robie

Some of you will remember Rev. George Robie who served Plymouth for a number of years in the 1970s. His daughter Becky reached out to us to say that she and her siblings are holding a surprise anniversary party for their parents, celebrating their 58th anniversary in June. They are inviting people to send them cards, emails, or video messages. Please send cards by May 27 to:

George & Diane Robie

C/O Becky Coatney

385 South 37th Street

Lincoln, NE 68510

Emails may be sent to rrcoatney@gmail.com (please use subject line: George & Diane Robie). If you would like to make a video, please contact Becky at that email address for instructions on how to get it to her. You may also call Becky on her cell phone at 402-405-8155.

Forty Days and Forty Nights

205

George Hunt Smyttan, 1856; alt.

Matt. 4:1-11; Heb. 2:18

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights you were fast - ing in the wild;
 2 Shall we not your sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
 3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
 4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
 5 Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, ev - er con - stant by your side;

For - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.
 Fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with you to suf - fer pain?
 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant that we not faint or fail!
 'Round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as served you faith - ful - ly.
 That with you we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

The son of a doctor in Bombay, George Hunt Smyttan became a priest in the Church of England. He published several collections of verse. This hymn was one of three Lenten hymns that appeared in The Penny Post (1856).

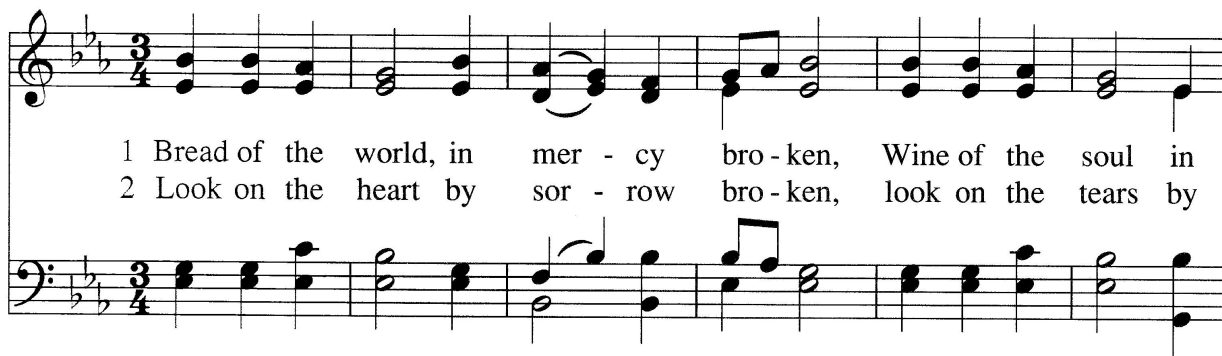
Tune: HEINLEIN 7.7.7.7.
 Attrib. to Martin Herbst, 1676

Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken

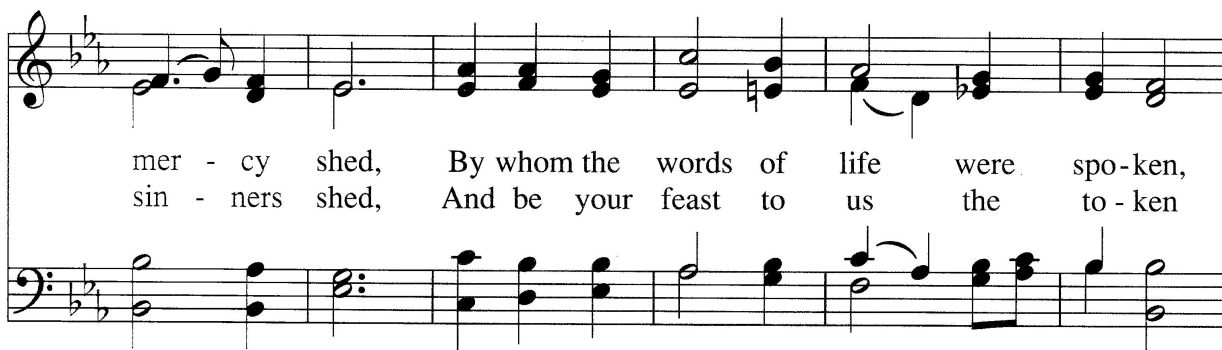
346

Reginald Heber, 1827; alt.

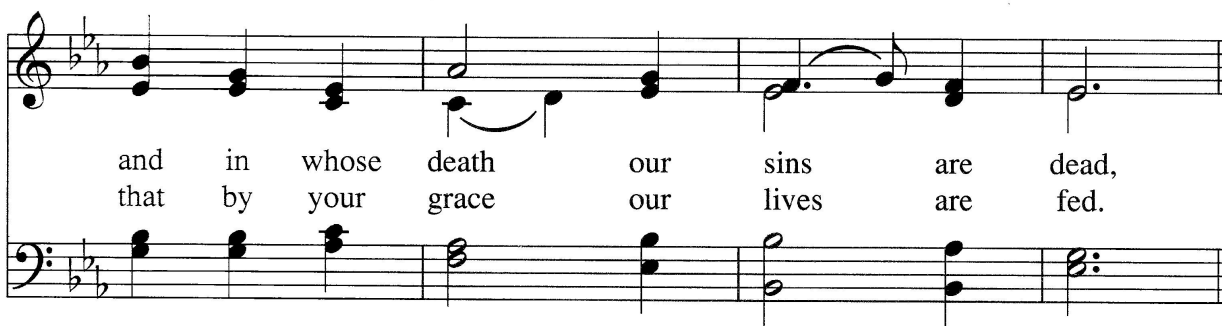
John 6:35-58



1 Bread of the world, in mer - cy bro - ken, Wine of the soul in
2 Look on the heart by sor - row bro - ken, look on the tears by



mer - cy shed, By whom the words of life were spo - ken,
sin - ners shed, And be your feast to us the to - ken



and in whose death our sins are dead,
that by your grace our lives are fed.

Author of a number of familiar hymns, Reginald Heber published the first modern English hymnal arranged according to the church year. The musical setting for this hymn was written by Episcopal priest and hymnal editor John Sebastian Bach Hodges.

Tune: EUCHARISTIC HYMN 9.8.9.8.

J. S. B. Hodges, 1868

Alternate tune: RENDEZ À DIEU
(sung in one stanza)

I Want Jesus to Go with Me

*African-American spiritual; alt.**Unison*

1 I want Je - sus to go with me;
 2 In my tri - als, O com - fort me;
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, O stay with me;

I want Je - sus to go with me;
 In my tri - als, O com - fort me;
 When I'm in trou - ble, O stay with me;

All a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 When my heart is al - most break - ing,
 When my head is bowed in sor - row,

O I want Je - sus to go with me.
 O I want Je - sus to com - fort me.
 O I want Je - sus to stay with me.

Most spirituals were congregational songs, but such "sorrow songs" as this convey the image of a lone person singing prayerfully to God. The solemnity of this particular spiritual reminds us of the oppression and tragedy with which slavery afflicted so many lives.

*Tune: African-American spiritual 8.8.8.9.
 Harm. J. Jefferson Cleveland
 and Verolga Nix, 1981*

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

In Luke 4:1–13, the devil tempted Jesus to turn stones into bread, to take control of the kingdoms of the world, and to perform a spectacular stunt that would “wow the crowd.” Jesus refused to take control in these ways. Instead, Jesus chose another way to feed hungry people, to demonstrate what the kingdom of God looks like, and to enter Jerusalem humbly. Why do think Jesus chose another way to “do justice” and what are some ways that you and your faith community practice justice in his name?

Household Prayer: Morning

Loving God, all night I slept in your shadow, sheltered by you. As I enter into the gift of this day, I trust that you are with me. May I see signs and wonders of your presence in the world today, for you alone are God. I ask that this day afford me opportunities to celebrate and share with others the abundance of your grace and love. Help me to be open to all people you bring my way, for you yourself make no distinctions, but are Lord of all. In Christ's name, I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God, my dwelling place, as the shadows fall, I rest in you. Thank you for the faith that held me fast this day. Thank you, too, for every person who offered me grace, and for those to whom I could also show grace. I pray this night for all who long to see a sign of your power in the darkness that surrounds them. Be near to them and show them your salvation. And in the morning when I rise, give me your work to do for another day; in Jesus' name. Amen.

God is still speaking,