

3rd Sunday of Lent

March 20, 2022



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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Plymouth United Church of Christ

March 20, 2022

10:30 A.M.

The Family of God Gathers

Gathering Music

“Jesus Paid It All”

Greeting

Call to Worship ¶§

L: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, buy, and eat!

P: **Our souls thirst for God in a dry and weary land.**

L: Listen carefully to God and eat what is good; delight yourselves in the rich food God provides.

P: **Here our souls are satisfied as with a rich feast. Together our mouths praise God with joyful lips.**

Opening Hymn 190 Bulletin page 8

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

Prayer of Confession †

Holy God, we confess that we have grown complacent in our response to you. You set before us a rich feast of blessing, but we are drawn to lesser things that cannot satisfy. You call us to attend to urgent needs in the world, but we indulge our own desires. Forgive us when we fall short. Disturb our complacency and quicken our desire for a more fruitful life. Be patient, we pray, as we amend who we are, in the hope of becoming who you intend us to be. Amen.

Kyrie



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

Assurance of Pardon §

L: God's love for us is patient, merciful, and unending. 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



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.

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The Service of the Word

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 55:1–9

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the

Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalm 63:1–8

L: O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

P: **So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.**

L: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

P: **So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

L: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

P: **My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.**

Gospel

Luke 13:1–9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

Sermon

Offering “Gentle Voice”

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 ✠§

God of wilderness and Promised Land, in days of want and in days of plenty you have been with us. All that we present to you now we have received by your hand. We share to send the good news of your love to those who have not heard. We invest in just causes, that your mercy may be known among all people. Send us to console and comfort, to lift up and reach out, to listen and sit beside your children everywhere in loving compassion. Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Invitation to Prayer



Pray - ing, let your spir - it soar, as we're
lay - ing our bur - dens at God's door. With o - pen
hearts our needs in faith we of - fer here, while
pray - ing: God be near.

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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 23 Bulletin page 9

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Benediction ☩§

L: God sends us out as witnesses to good news.

P: **God’s mercy and pardon break through life’s clouds.**

L: Call on God in the midst of each day’s tasks.

P: **God is our help in all times and places.**

All: Amen!

Postlude

“The Way of the Cross Leads Home”

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

§ Modified/written by Rev. David Huber

This bulletin was sponsored by an anonymous donor.

Cross illumination for March is sponsored by Ben Bechle in memory of his father, Dave Bechle.

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. David Huber • Ministers: All the people of Plymouth • Pianist: Lynn McFadyen • 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.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, March 20

OCWM offering

10:00 A.M. Coffee
10:30 A.M. Worship
11:30 A.M. Leadership Team

Tuesday, March 22

10:00 A.M. Quilters

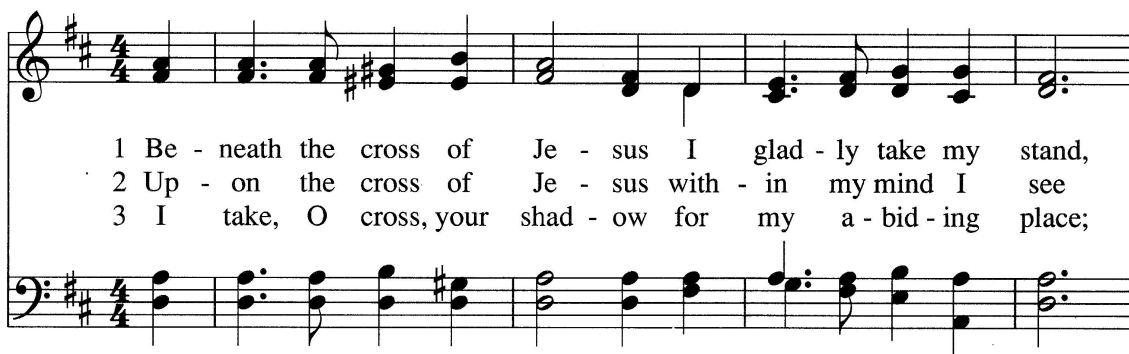
Sunday, March 27

10:00 A.M. Coffee
10:30 A.M. Worship

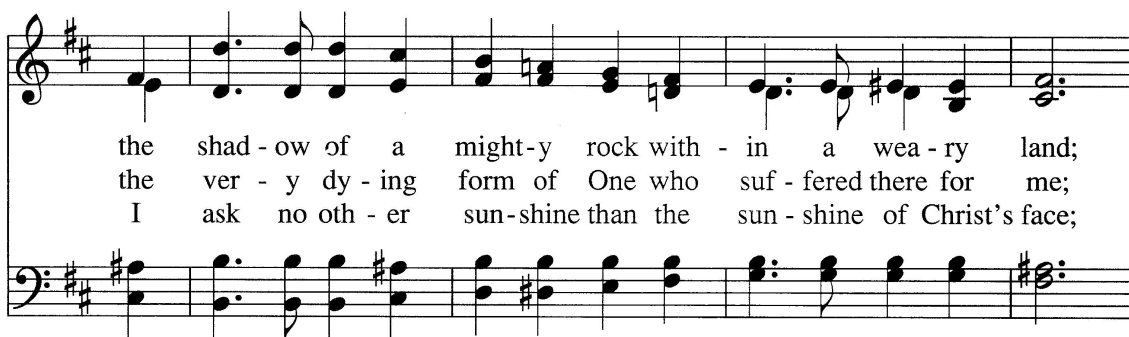
We pray for:

- All UCC missionaries and ordained and licensed ministers; the ministry and mission of the UCC and the Church universal

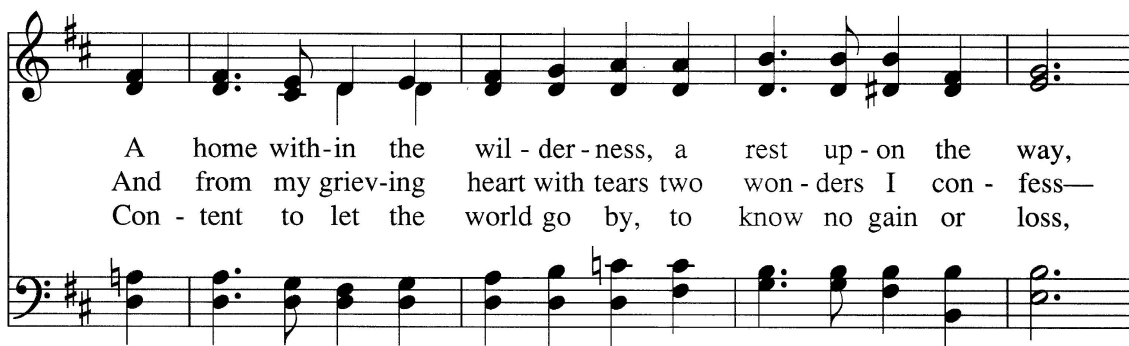
Beneath the Cross of Jesus

*Isa. 32:2; Gal. 6:14**Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1872; alt.*


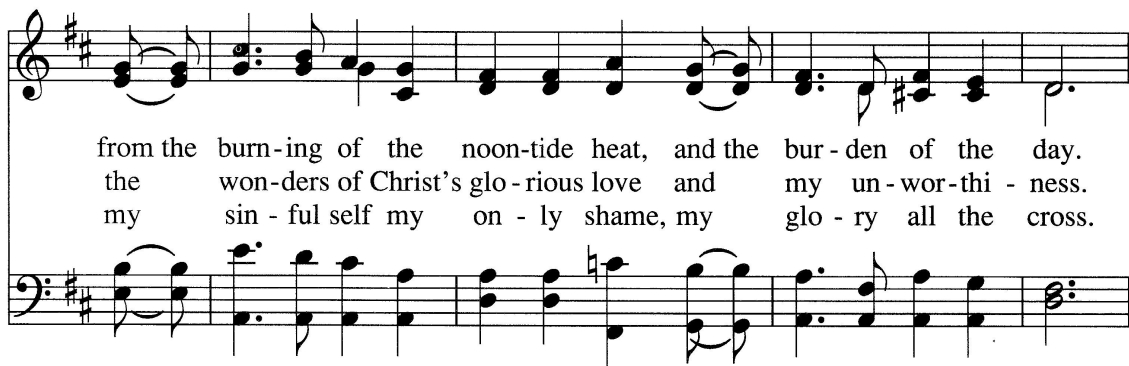
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I glad - ly take my stand,
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus with - in my mind I see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land;
the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me;
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of Christ's face;



A home with-in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my griev-ing heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess—
Con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,



from the burn-ing of the noon-tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.
the won-ders of Christ's glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

Elizabeth Clephane was known during her short lifetime for her charitable work in her hometown of Melrose, Scotland. After her death, this hymn was compiled from several stanzas of a longer poem that had appeared in a popular Scottish religious magazine.

Tune: ST. CHRISTOPHER 7.6.8.6.8.6.8.6.
Frederick C. Maker, 1881

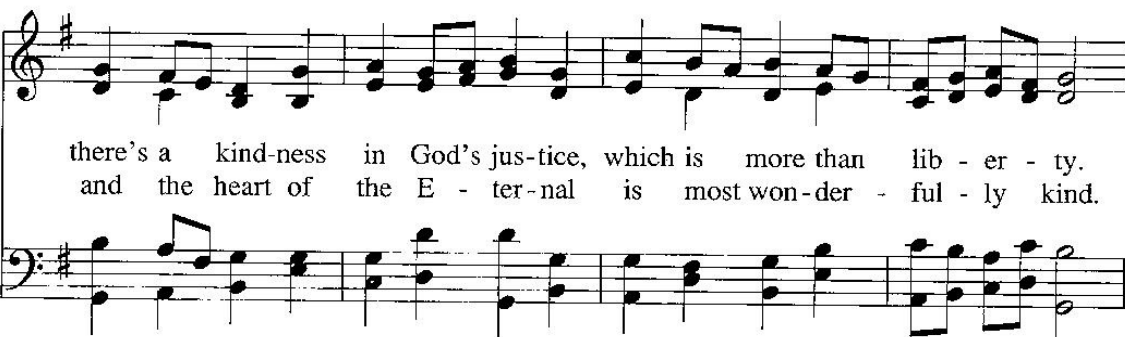
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

23

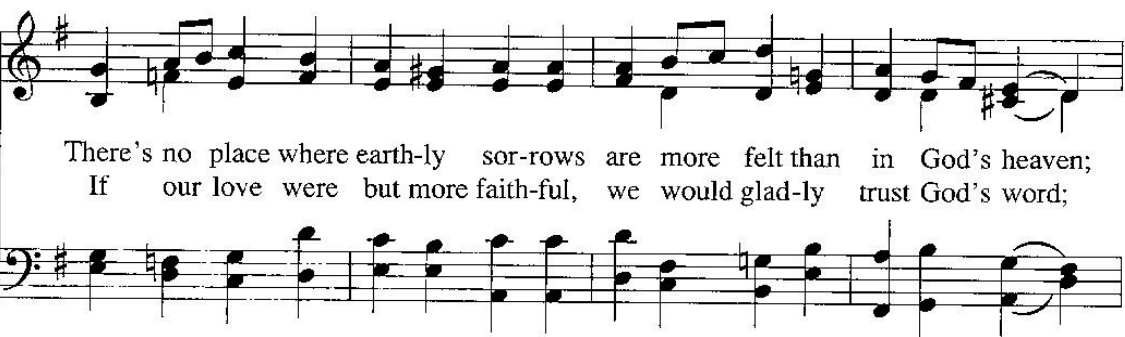
Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.



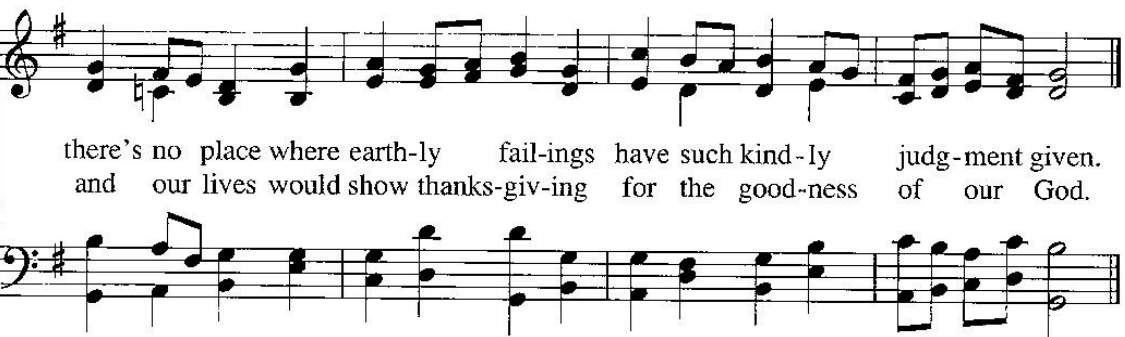
1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.



There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;



there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a Catholic priest. He wrote 150 hymns to correspond to the number of psalms.

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906
Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA

Spiritual Care Package

Questions for Reflection

Luke 13:1–9 tells the story of a fruitless fig tree that the owner is ready to cut down. The gardener, however, asks for a little more time. The gardener wants to tend and cultivate the soil in the hope that figs may yet grow. The gardener is open to a different future for this tree, in spite of its present condition. Think about my own life, or the life of someone I love, in relationship to this story: What needs special tending? What will cultivate the “soil” of daily life so that new growth, new possibilities, might emerge? And what can I learn from this gardener about allowing for a different outcome, a new possibility?

Household Prayer: Morning

Gracious God, this new day carries the potential for growth and new life. Help me to attend to those things in me that need care and attention. Sow your word in me that I may grow in faithfulness and understanding. Shake me out of dull routines, so that I may take part in the good news you continue to tell urgently and passionately. In Christ’s name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

As I lie down this night in the shadow of your wings, God of my life, I know that you will be with me even as you have helped me through this day. Whether I am weary from the day, or whether the day has been a rich feast of blessings, I give thanks for your power and glory, which are present in every circumstance. As I give myself over to rest and sleep, I remember that your steadfast love is better than life. So, I pray, surround me with your love tonight and always. In the peace of Christ I pray. Amen.

God is still speaking,