

5th Sunday of Lent

April 3, 2022



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

2010 Moholt Drive, Eau Claire WI 54703 ☎ 715-835-5475 🌐 pucc.com



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

Assurance of Pardon §

- L: Just as Mary anointed Jesus' feet, God anoints us with the perfume of divine love. 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
All rights reserved. Used with permission.

The Service of the Word

Psalm 126

- L: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
- P: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."**
- L: The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.
- P: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.**
- L: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.
- P: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

Gospel

John 12:1–8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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 †§

God of abundance, you cause water to flow in desert places. You give wine to flow at a wedding feast, and food to feed five thousand on a grassy mountainside. Your generosity humbles us. May these gifts be a pleasing and fragrant offering. We bow before you, asking you to receive what we have brought as a sign of our gratitude. Amen.

Communion

Hymn Bulletin page 9

"Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken"

Prayer †§

L: May the God of all new things be with you.
P: And also with you.

L: Let us offer our hearts to the One who restores us to new life.

P: May we empty them of all that holds us back, so God may fill the emptiness with grace.

L: You made a path through the emptiness of chaos, God of every imagination, sending creation to spring forth. You even shaped us for life with you, so we might share in this beauty and goodness. But we went our own way, following temptations and the lies of our desires. Then you sent prophets who encouraged us to let go of the past and return to your side, but we liked where we were, and thought your way too costly. So you sent Jesus, setting aside your grieving heart so we might be restored to you. With those who long to know you, with those who run to be with you, we offer our thanksgiving:

All: Holy, holy, holy are you, God of new things.

All creation honors you with praise and joy. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes to take hold of us.

Hosanna in the highest!

L: Though you are holy, God of restoration, you were willing to set aside all we had done so that Jesus might anoint us with new life.

P: He could have clung to his glory, but set it aside to become one of us; he could have maintained all power, but became weak and foolish for us; he could have been surrounded by your love, but walked into the forest of our fears to make a way out for us; he could have avoided pain and suffering, but went into death's cold embrace, his tears sowing the seeds of hope which bring forth a bouquet of grace.

L: We pray that you would anoint this Table and its gifts of the bread and cup with your Spirit of life and love, which are offered to the people you love.

P: When we eat the bread which has been broken, we forget about our past and embrace your realm where we share in the sufferings of our siblings everywhere. When we drink from the cup, the fragrance of your grace fills us to go and serve your people.

L: And when the past is finally behind us and we are gathered in the new Jerusalem with the saints of every time and place, we will join our hands around your feast, and sing your praises from the depths of our hearts.

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 “A Woman Came Who Did Not Count the Cost” Lynn McFadyen

Prayer of Thanksgiving ☩§

Nourishing God, thank you for inviting us to this table of friendship and love. We give you thanks that you have called us to be your people. In our times of gloom, you have been our light. When we are weary and discouraged, you lift us up. In our thirst for meaning and purpose, you bring us to living water in Jesus Christ. Unite us in friendship with one another with Christ as our center and inspiration. Amen.

Closing Hymn 188 Bulletin page 10

“Give Me a Clean Heart”

Benediction †§

L: And now, God sends us out into our communities,

P: **not to cling to a faded past, but to share all the new things God is doing.**

L: Jesus calls us to notice those around us,

P: **to shower them with hope, to feed them from our deep pantries, to welcome them as family. Amen!**

Postlude

“Jesus Lives, and So Shall I”

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

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

☩ *Gathered by Love* by Levon Baylor ©1994 United Church Press. Used with permission.

§ Modified/written by Rev. David Huber

Worship Leaders

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

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 April is sponsored by Lil Savage in memory of her brothers, Paul and Carl.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, April 3

Community Table offering

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Communion Worship

Tuesday, April 5

10:00 A.M. Quilters

Sunday, April 10

Palm/Passion Sunday

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

*John 12:1-8**Sydney Carter, 1964; alt.*

- 1 Said Ju - das to Mar - y, "Now
 2 "O Mar - y, O Mar - y, O
 3 "To - mor-row, to - mor-row, I'll
 4 Said Je - sus to Mar - y, "Your



what will you do with your oint-ment so rich and so rare?" "I'll
 think of the poor. This oint-ment, it could have been sold; And
 think of the poor; to - mor-row," she said, "not to - day; For
 love is so deep, to - day you may do as you will. To -



pour it all o - ver the feet of the Christ, and I'll wipe it a-way with my
 think of the blan-kets and think of the bread you could buy with the sil - ver and
 dear-er than all of the poor in the world is my love who is go - ing a -
 mor-row, you say, I am go - ing a - way, but my bod - y I leave with you



hair," she said, "I'll wipe it a-way with my hair." (2 "O)
 gold," he said, "you could buy with the sil - ver and gold." (3 "To-
 way," she said, "my love who is go - ing a - way." (4 Said)
 still," he said, "my bo - dy I leave with you still." (5 "The)

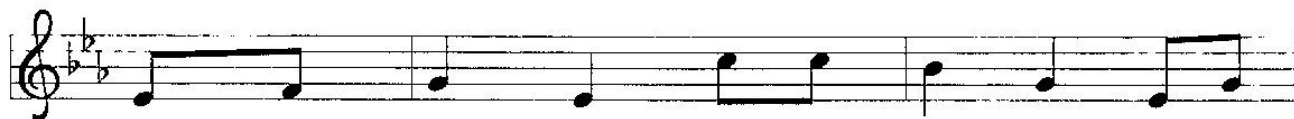
- 5 "The poor of the world are my bod-y,"
 he said,
 "to the end of the world they shall be.
 The bread and the blan-kets you give
 to the poor
 you will know you have giv-en to me,"
 he said,
 "you'll know you have giv-en to me."

- 6 "My bod-y will hang on the cross
 of the world
 to-mor-row," he said, "not to-day.
 And Mar-tha and Mar-y will find me
 a-gain
 and wash all my sor-row a-way,"
 he said,
 "and wash all my sor-row a-way."

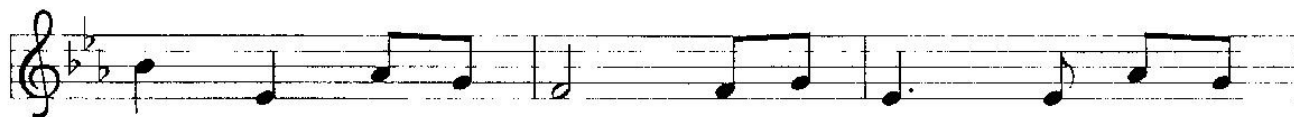
Sydney Carter has enjoyed a varied career as a schoolteacher, journalist, and songwriter, and was a leader of the folk-song renaissance in English church music in the early 1960s. This hymn imagines the dialogue between Mary of Bethany, Judas Iscariot, and Jesus.

Tune: JUDAS AND MARY Irr.
Sydney Carter, 1964

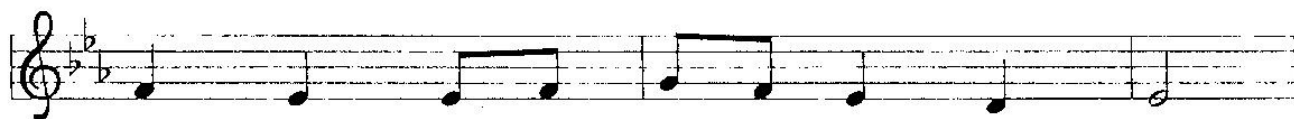
Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions

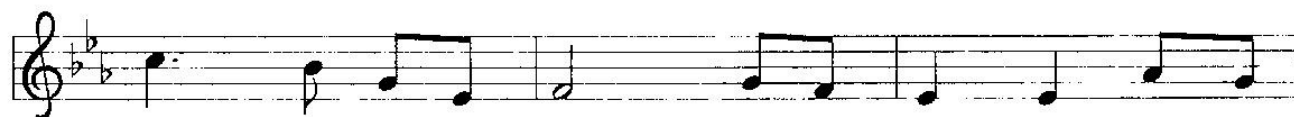


heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.

Refrain



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman Stuempfle ©2006 GIA Publications Music: Marty Haugen ©1987 GIA Publications
 All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-703808

*Ps. 51:1-12**Margaret J. Douroux, 1970; alt.*

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.

God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.

For I'm not wor - thy of all these bless - ings.

Give me a clean heart and I'll fol-low you.

Margaret J. Douroux, the daughter of a Baptist minister, is known especially for this gospel song, which was recorded by singer James Cleveland. Among her other popular songs found in church hymnals is "God Is Not Dead."

Tune: DOUROUX 10.12.10.10.
Margaret J. Douroux, 1970
 Arr. Albert Denis Tessier, 1987

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

John 12:1–8 draws our attention to three people: Mary, Judas, and Jesus. It is easy enough to identify Mary as “the good disciple” and Judas as “the bad disciple” not only in this story but also in the larger story of Jesus’ life and death. We can (and do) make this judgment: Mary is accepted and affirmed, while Judas is rejected. But is this the judgment that the other person in the story would make? As one commentator puts it, “. . . if Jesus came to save the lost, surely there is no one in the gospel story who is more lost than the one who betrays Jesus. . . . If the Good Shepherd can and does go to any length to save a lost sheep, is Judas beyond the saving grasp of the Good Shepherd?” This is not a question with an easy answer. As this story ushers you into Holy Week, consider how the cross, the grace of Christ, speaks to this story and to your own life story, which like most life stories may not be a simple “either/or” example of faithfulness, but a “both/and” mix of faithfulness and unfaithfulness.

Household Prayer: Morning

Merciful God, as I begin this day, place in me a spirit of generosity so that I may freely share love, joy, and encouragement with those I encounter. Keep me from quick judgments so that I leave room for your grace in my life and in the lives of others. Make me your faithful disciple in my words and in my actions, as well as in the thoughts of my heart; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

All through the day, Lord Jesus, you have been present. As I settle into the routines of home and evening, I long to be at home in my relationship with you. Help me to put aside the cares of the day and the worries of tomorrow in order to fully enjoy the peace of your presence now. I pray that your peace will also be with those I know who have special need of your care tonight, and I pray for those who lie down this night without the safety of home or bed, without enough food or resources. Bring your light into the surrounding darkness so that all of us may sleep in the security of your love. Amen.

God is still speaking,