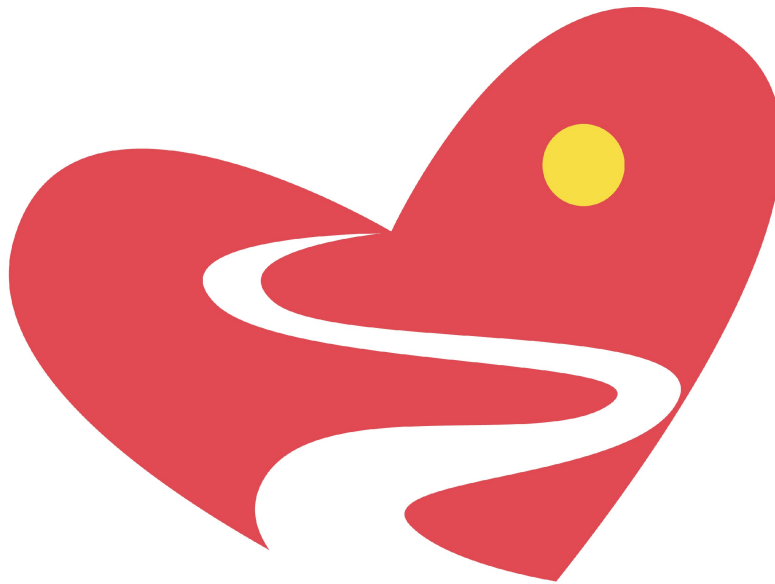


# *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter*

April 23, 2023



"Did not our **hearts**  
**burn within us** ...  
while **he opened** to us  
the **Scriptures**?"

**Luke 24:32, ESV**



**Plymouth United Church of Christ** Rev. David Huber, Pastor

2010 Moholt Drive, Eau Claire WI 54703 ☎ 715-835-5475 🌐 [pcucc.com](http://pcucc.com)



PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

## **The Family of God Gathers**

### **Prelude**

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

### **Greetings**

### **Call to Worship †‡§**

**L:** Lift your voices to God.

**P: We call on the One who promises to hear us.**

**L:** In life, in death, in every moment, God deals graciously with us.

**P: We rejoice in the One who saves us from ourselves.**

**L:** By his love we are made new in the living and enduring Word of God.

**P: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

### **Opening Hymn** Bulletin page 8

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

### **Prayer of Confession †§**

**You walk with us, God, yet we so often fail to see you or recognize your presence. We see in others only what might be useful to us or what might hurt us, instead of seeing how we might be useful, or how we might bring healing. We confess to you, O God, that we have been caught in the web of thinking we come first. By the power of your Holy Spirit, save us from our selfishness and free us to see your presence manifest in others so that we may see the joy of Jesus’ resurrection and trust the promise of everlasting life. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon †§**

**L:** Followers of Jesus: God promises life to us, to our children, and to all who are near and far. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**P: You are forgiven!**

**L:** May the peace of Christ be with you!

**P: And also with you!**

## Passing the 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** Bulletin page 9

“Open My Heart to Your Love”

## The Service of the Word

### New Testament Lesson

Acts 2:14a, 36–41

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

### Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19

**L:** I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

**P:** **Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

**L:** The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

**P:** **Then I called on the name of the Lord: “O Lord, I pray, save my life!”**

**L:** What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?

**P:** **I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.**

**L:** Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.

**P:** **O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.**

**L:** You have loosed my bonds.

**P:** **I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.**

L: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

**P: Praise the Lord!**

## Gospel

Luke 24:13–35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

## Sermon

### Sermon Hymn

“Emmaus Road”

**O Lord whose love designed this day,  
you walked with us along the road;  
so as the daylight fades away  
stay with us when we rest our load.**

**Our stumbling steps were known to you  
before we recognised your face;  
you loved us long before we knew  
your covenant of saving grace.**

**So through the darkness, be our light,  
O Lord whose love designed this day;  
we praise and bless your name tonight  
for love that never fades away.**

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## The Response to the Word

### 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 †

**As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, O God, may they be used to pass on  
the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of community to all in need of your gifts  
and presence in their lives. 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, for ever. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn 474** Bulletin page 10

**"I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me"**

## **\*Benediction †**

**L: The stone has been rolled away!**

**P: We will go to share this good news!**

**L: Jesus walks with us on our journey.**

**P: We will go with him wherever the road takes us.**

**L: Jesus has opened our eyes.**

**P: We will go to serve everyone we see. Amen!**

## Postlude

† *Feasting on the Word* Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 1 ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press. Used with permission.

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

§ Written/modified by Rev. David Huber

## Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. David Huber • Ministers: All the people of Plymouth • Musician: Lorin Divine • 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 April is sponsored by Linda Oliver in memory of her brother, Douglas Newhouse.***

## **This Week at Plymouth**

### **Sunday, April 23**

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Worship

### **Tuesday, April 25**

10:00 A.M. Quilters

### **Sunday, April 30**

10:00 A.M. Coffee

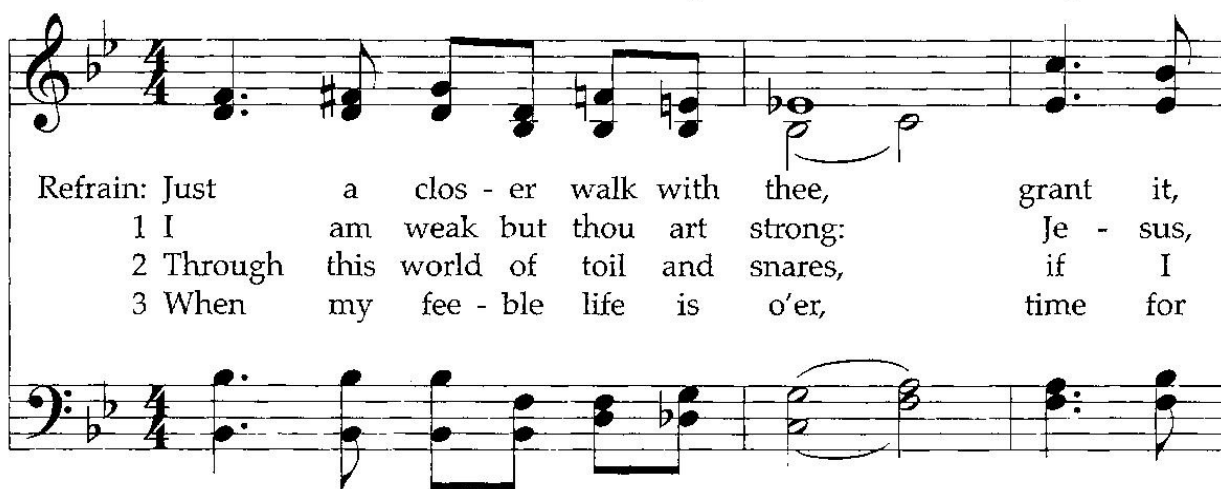
10:30 A.M. Worship

### **We pray for:**

- All houses of worship—churches, temples, and mosques in the Chippewa Valley who provide ecumenical and interfaith combined fellowship and service to our community.
- We pray for Congregational UCC in Amery as they install Rev. Dana Caldwell as their pastor and teacher on Saturday, April 29.

# Just a closer walk with thee

CLOSER WALK Irregular



Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it,  
 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus,  
 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I  
 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for



Je - sus, is my plea; dai - ly walk-ing close to  
 keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as  
 fal - ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my bur - den  
 me will be no more; guide me gent - ly, safe - ly



thee, let it be, dear — Lord, let it be.  
 long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
 shares? None but thee, dear — Lord, none but thee.  
 o'er to thy king - dom — shore, to thy shore.

Text: North American traditional  
 Music: North American traditional



# OPEN MY HEART TO YOUR LOVE

Swing eighth notes  
♩ = 95



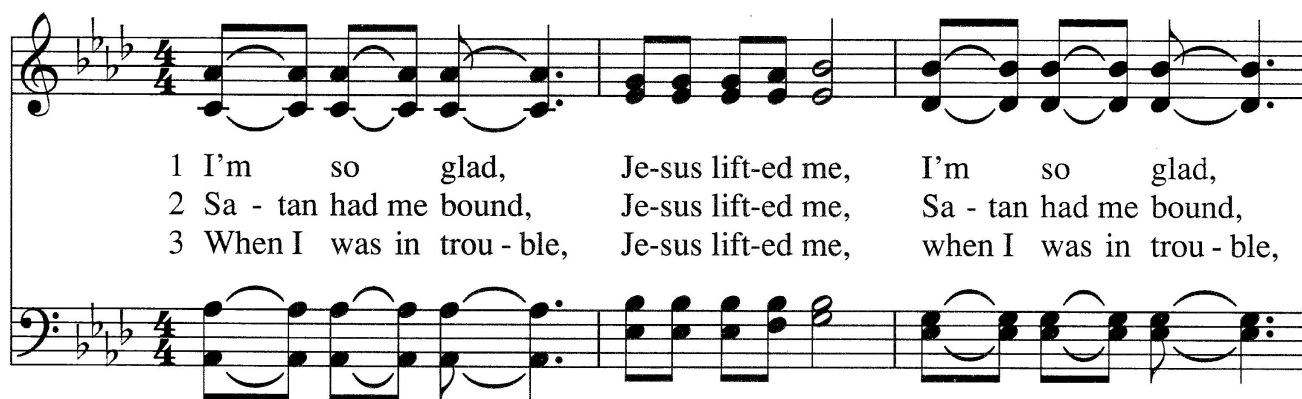
O - pen my heart to your love, oh God.  
Hea - ler of na - tions and bro - ken hearts,  
O - pen my heart to your love, oh God.




# I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me

474

*African-American spiritual*



1 I'm so glad, Je-sus lift-ed me, I'm so glad,  
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je-sus lift-ed me, Sa - tan had me bound,  
3 When I was in trou - ble, Je-sus lift-ed me, when I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me, I'm so glad,  
Je - sus lift - ed me, Sa - tan had me bound,  
Je - sus lift - ed me, when I was in trou - ble,



Je-sus lift-ed me, sing-ing glo-ry, hal-le - lu - jah, Je-sus lift-ed me.

*Just as the spirituals were adapted to be sung in a folk-song style during the 1960s music festivals and civil rights marches, so have they been adapted in a gospel style. This is a spiritual that especially lends itself to gospel rendering.*

Tune: I'M SO GLAD Irr.  
*African-American spiritual*

### ***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***

The disciples on the road to Emmaus were with Jesus for hours as he taught them the meaning of the Scriptures. However, they finally recognized him as the risen Lord only in "the breaking of the bread." How does the Lord's Supper enable you to recognize Jesus?

### ***Household Prayer: Morning***

Lord Jesus, your rising from tomb heralds the dawning of life eternal as the dawning of this day holds the possibilities of life anew. Open my eyes to the signs of your resurrection and confirm in my heart the power of your amazing love, that I may with confidence sing "Alleluia." Amen.

### ***Household Prayer: Evening***

Loving God, you have upheld me with your love even when I have not been aware of your presence. As I rest from my labors let me sleep without fear of darkness or death and rise refreshed to begin a new day in humble service, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

# **God is still speaking,**