

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

June 18, 2023



Sarah conceived
and bore Abraham a son
in their old age...

and they
named him
LAUGHTER

GENESIS 21:2-3



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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The Family of God Gathers

Prelude

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

Greetings

Call to Worship ††§

L: On an ordinary Sunday, we come to worship God:

P: **we come, trusting God will speak to us; we come, hoping God will surprise us.**

L: On this day, like every other day, we seek to follow Jesus:

P: **we follow, believing Jesus will be with us; we follow, hoping Jesus will work through us.**

L: On this day, we lift our souls to God's Spirit:

P: **we open our hearts, that the Spirit may fill us as we Worship the Lord of laughter-bringing miracles!**

Opening Hymn 547 Verses 1, 3, 5 Bulletin page 8

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

Prayer of Confession †§

We confess that too often we ignore your nearness. When we are unaware of the angels among us, please forgive our lack of faith to see them. When we do not show the hospitality to strangers that Abraham showed to you, please forgive our lack of compassion for those that you have sent to us. Let us laugh with joy because your grace has made peace among us. Help us be your ambassadors of love. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon §

L: Trust the good news of the gospel: in 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 Verse 1 Bulletin page 9 “God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

The Service of the Word

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 18:1–15, 21:1–7

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

Psalms 116:1–2, 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: 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

Matthew 9:35–10:8

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Sermon

Sermon Hymn 503 Bulletin page 10

“O Savior, Let Me Walk with You”

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 †§

God of goodness, for your steadfast love and faithfulness we give you thanks. Let our whole lives become songs of gratitude, joy, and praise, by living without fear of being generous, so that others may know you are a God of love. 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.

Benediction †§

L: As you go, proclaim the good news:

P: the kingdom of heaven is here!

L: Live without fear of the wrath of God, trusting the peace of Christ and the hope of the Spirit.

All: Amen!

Postlude



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<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>



Written/modified by Rev. David Huber

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. David Huber • Ministers: All the people of Plymouth • Pianist: John Stecher
• 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.

Cross Illumination for June is sponsored by Lil Savage in memory of her parents, Marie and Durward.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, June 18

OCWM offering

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Worship

Tuesday, June 20

10:00 A.M. Quilters

Sunday, June 25

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

Who we are...

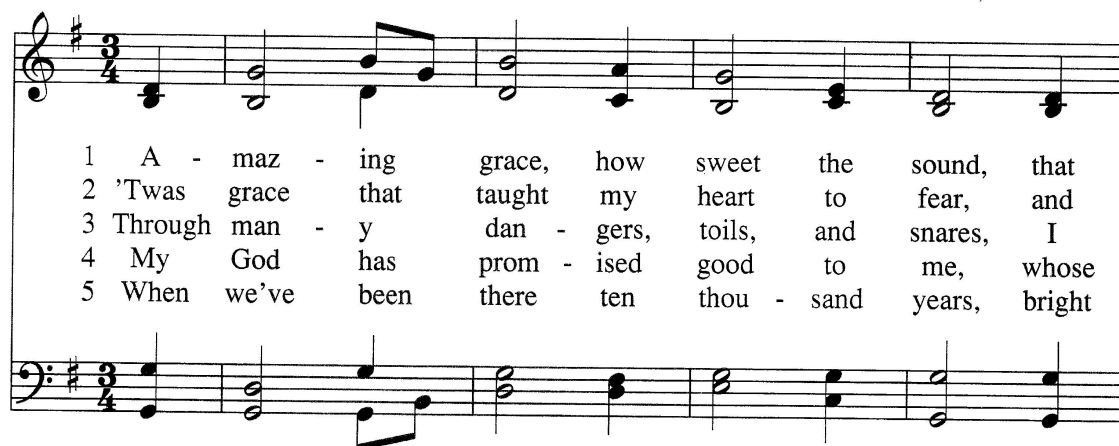
Plymouth UCC is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, since we are all created in God's image. We welcome into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ persons of every race, ethnic background, age, gender identity 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.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

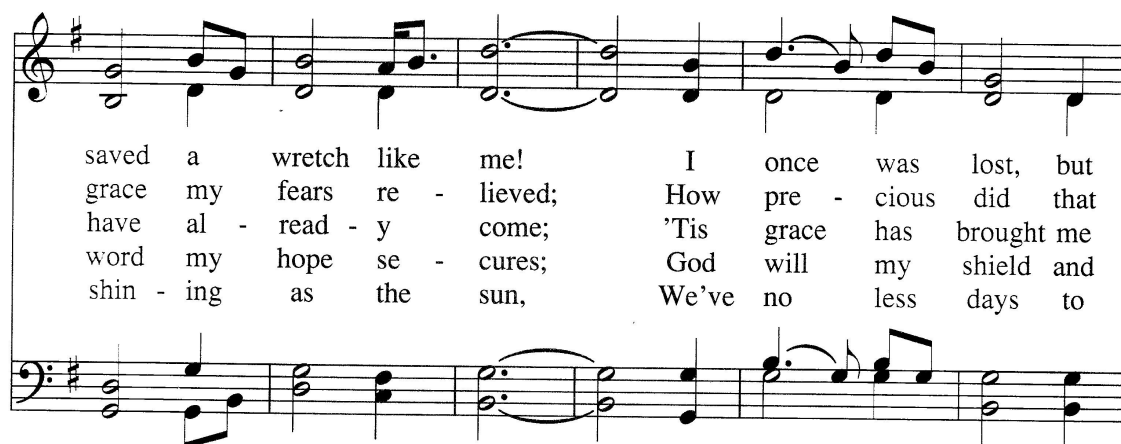
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St. 1-4, John Newton, 1779; alt.

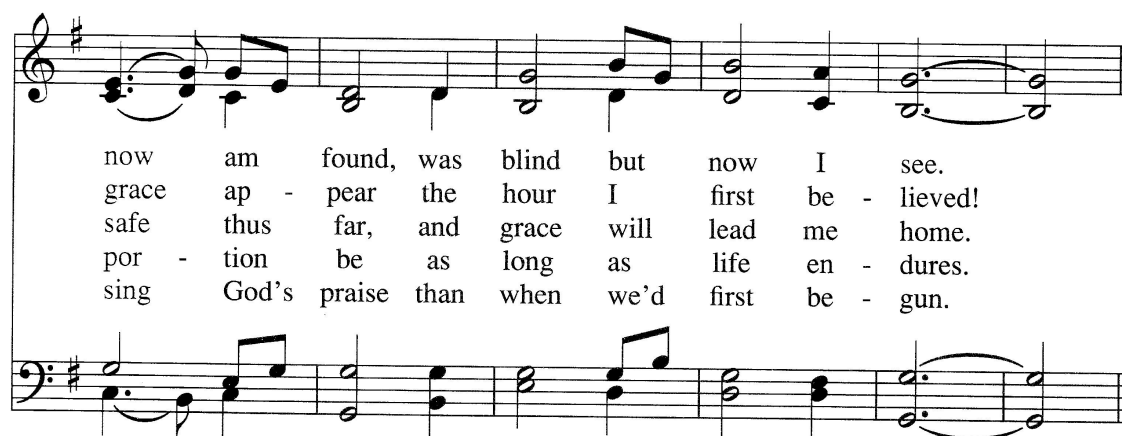
St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.
 (NEW BRITAIN)
 Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829
 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

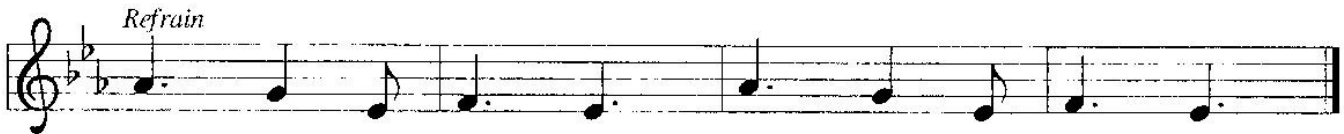
O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

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O Savior, Let Me Walk with You

Washington Gladden, 1879; alt.

1 O Sav - ior, let me walk with you in earth - ly
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; let me be in clos - er,
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; Tell me your se - cret,
 win - ning word of love. Teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, In work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - ening way, In peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
 you can give, with you, O Sav - ior, let me live.

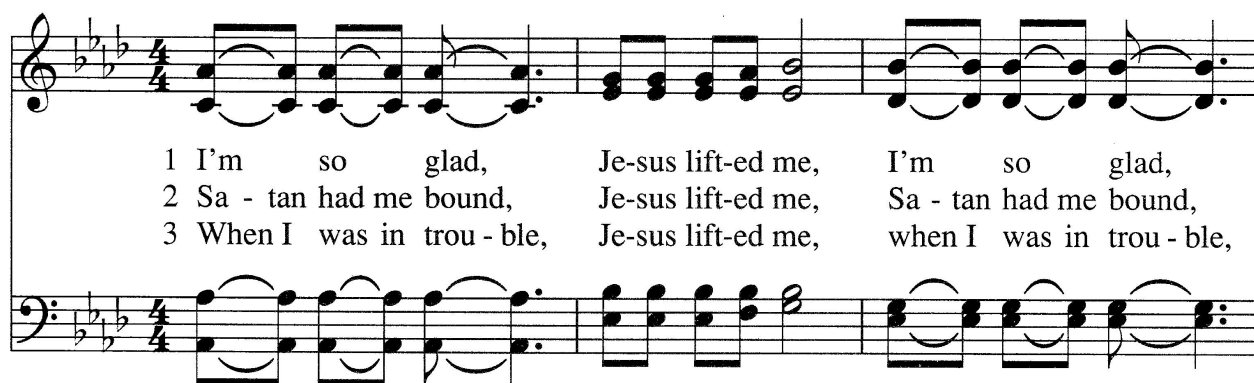
Washington Gladden was a Congregational minister, distinguished preacher and lecturer, and author of over thirty works. Gladden wrote extensively on civic and social affairs of his day. This hymn was penned in 1879 and published in his periodical, The Sunday Afternoon.

Tune: MARYTON L.M.
 H. Percy Smith, 1874

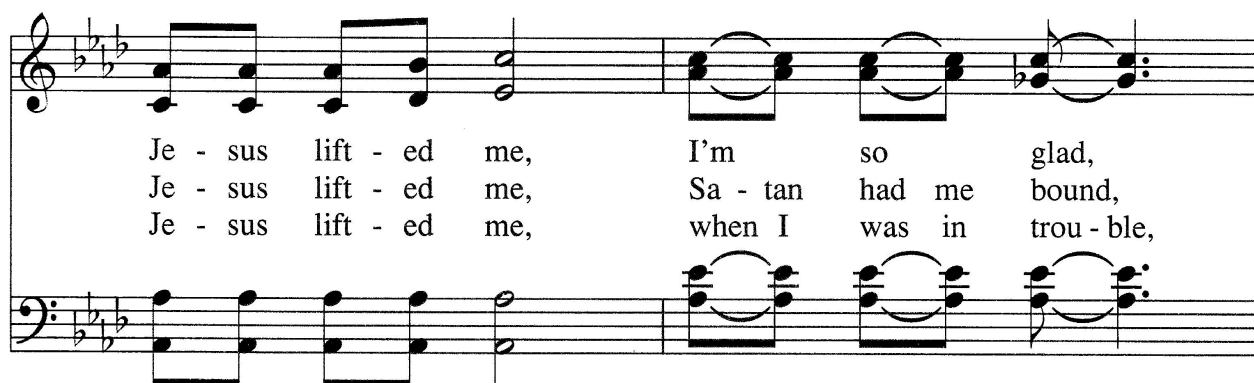
I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me

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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

Spiritual Care Package

Question for Reflection

How is God's presence experienced in a Christian's life?

Household Prayer: Morning

Holy Presence, let me be with you today. Awaken my senses to the wonders of your creation, and fill me with compassion for every person I meet. Protect me from those who would hurt me; make me watchful so that I do not harm anyone. Fill my inward being with the love of Christ, and inasmuch as it is possible, let others know your presence through me. In this way let me glorify you, Holy One, Holy Three. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Maker of day and night, creator of sun, moon, and all planets and stars, thank you for your protection during the hours I have passed in your light. Guard me, I pray, through the coming dark. As I settle into sleep, recall to my mind each blessing you gave me while I was awake so that I can rejoice in your goodness. Grant me peace, rest, and renewal as I close my eyes in your presence. Watch over me while I am helpless in the world. If it is your will to speak to me in dreams while my mind is quieted and still, grant that I may be attentive to your Word and guided by your Spirit when I awake to a new day. Let me arise and join my voice with all the faithful in giving you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ, the Light. Amen.

God is still speaking,