

4th Sunday after Pentecost

June 25, 2023



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

The Family of God Gathers

Prelude

“Jesus Loves Me”

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

Greetings

Call to Worship †§

L: There is no hope like you, O God!

P: **Hope for those who cry out from the deserts of their lives.**

L: There is no grace like you, O God!

P: **Grace for those rejected, ignored, and cast aside by the world.**

L: There is no love like you, O God!

P: **Love for those who have known days of trouble and nights of loneliness.**

L: There is no one like you, O God!

P: **Let us show our gratitude to God through worship and our discipleship!**

Opening Hymn 73 Bulletin page 8

“Enter, Rejoice, and Come In”

Prayer of Confession †§

Hear our cries to you, O Lord: for our lack of compassion toward the poor, have mercy on us; for our continued destruction of air, water, soil, and creatures on Earth, have mercy on us; for our disbelief in your power to make us whole, have mercy on us; for making war, have mercy on us; for mistrusting your Word, have mercy on us. Forgive us and renew us. Guide us into ways that lead to peace. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon §**

L: Hear and trust the good news: God does not leave us alone. 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**

Centering Song Verse 2 Bulletin page 9

“God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

The Service of the Word

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 21:8–21

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.” The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Psalms 86:1–10, 16–17

L: Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

P: **Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you; save your servant who trusts in you.**

L: You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all day long.

P: Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

L: For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

P: Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication.

L: In the day of my trouble I call on you, for you will answer me.

P: There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.

L: All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

P: For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

L: Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your serving girl.

P: Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Gospel

Matthew 10:24–39

“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Sermon

Sermon Hymn 475 Bulletin pages 10–11

“God’s Eye Is on the Sparrow”

The Response to the Word

Offering “Glory, Glory Hallelujah”

John Moore

***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 ‡§**

For those thrown out by families, for those enduring the sting of hate or the pain of apathy, for those longing for connection with communities of love and hope, we offer our gifts, Loving God. Bless these to create a welcoming community of love and inclusion. 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 204** Bulletin page 12

“‘Take Up Your Cross,’ the Savior Said”

***Benediction ‡§**

L: As you leave this place, remember that you may be the only grace someone will meet this week.

P: **We go, to share God's graciousness with all.**

L: Remember you may be the only love someone will encounter this week.

P: **We go, to be the love of Jesus for all.**

L: Remember you may be the only peace someone will find this week.

P: **We go, to share the Spirit of hope and reconciliation with all.**

Postlude

“Trumpet March”

† *Feasting on the Word* Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 2 ©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 • Pianist: Lynn McFadyen • Liturgist: Linda Oliver

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.

Special flowers given by Cathy Christensen in honor of Allen's birthday.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, June 25

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Worship

Tuesday, June 27

10:00 A.M. Quilters

Sunday, July 2

Hunger offering

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Communion Worship

11:30 A.M. Pot luck

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.

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.

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

73

Louise Ruspini; alt.

Ps. 100

Unison C FM7 C C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C

1 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.
 2 O - pen your-self to the song. O - pen your-self to the song.
 3 O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one. O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one.
 4 Don't be a - fraid of some change. Don't be a - fraid of some change.
 5 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.

C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C F Em7 A7 Dm7sus4 Dm7 G7 C

To - day will be a joy - ful day; en-ter, re-joyce, and come in.

This song, based on Psalm 100, became popular in the 1970s in the United States. It works equally well with organ, piano, or guitar accompaniment.

Tune: ENTER, REJOICE 7.7.8.7.
 Louise Ruspini
 Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

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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God's Eye Is on the Sparrow

*Matt. 10:26-30; Luke 12:4-7**Civilla D. Martin, c. 1905; alt.**Stanzas, in unison*

1 Why should I feel dis-cour-aged, why should the shad-ows come,
 2 "Let not your heart be trou-bled," Christ's ten-der word I hear,
 3 When-ev-er I am tempt-ed, when-ev-er clouds a-rise,

Why should my heart be lone-ly and long for heaven and
 And rest-ing on God's good-ness, I lose my doubts and
 When song gives place to sigh-ing, when hope with-in me

home, When God is ev-er my por-tion? My
 fears; Though by the path . . . God leads me but
 dies, I then draw close to my Sav-ior, from

con-stant friend will be: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
 one step I may see: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
 care I am set free: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I

Civilla Martin, a native of Nova Scotia, assisted her husband in his evangelistic campaigns. Charles Gabriel was editor for Rodeheaver Publishing Company, Chicago, and one of the most popular gospel songwriters of the early 1900s.

*Tune: SPARROW Irr.
 Charles H. Gabriel, 1905*

know God watch-es me; God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
 know God watch-es me; God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
 know God watch-es me; God's eye is on the spar-row, and I

Refrain, in harmony

know God watch-es me. I sing be - cause I'm
 know God watch-es me. I sing be - cause I'm
 know God watch-es me. I sing be - cause I'm

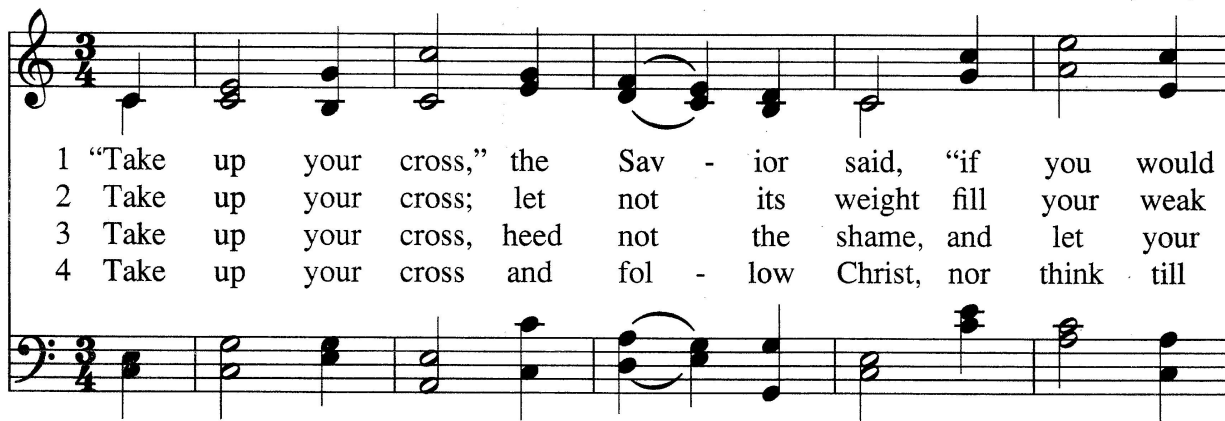
hap - py, I sing be - cause I'm free, God's
 I'm hap - py, I'm free,

eye is on the spar - row, and I know God watch-es me.

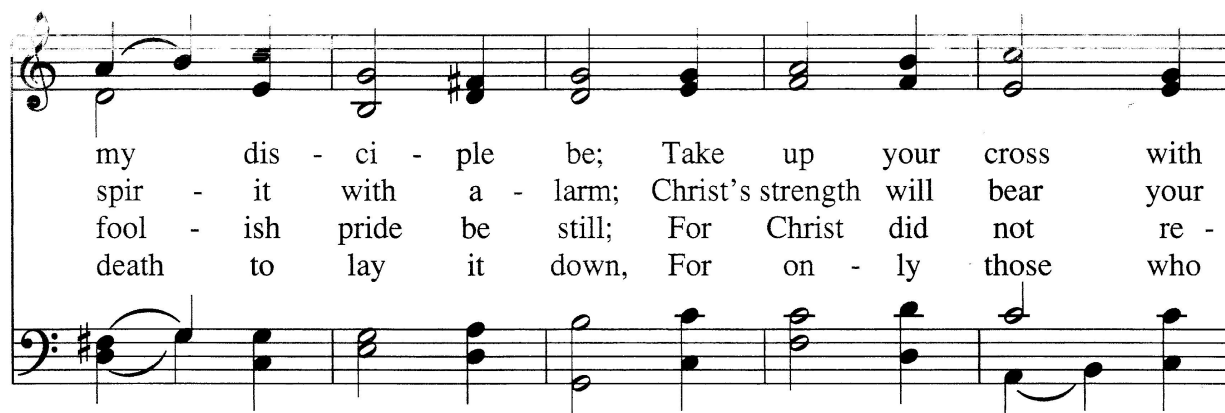
"Take Up Your Cross," the Savior Said

Mark 8:34

Charles W. Everest, 1883; alt.



1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said, "if you would
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak
 3 Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and let your
 4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ, nor think till



my dis - ci - ple be; Take up your cross with
 spir - it with a - larm; Christ's strength will bear your
 fool - ish pride be still; For Christ did not re -
 death to lay it down, For on - ly those who



will - ing heart and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
 spir - it up and brace your heart, sup - port your arm.
 fuse to die up - on a cross on Cal - vary's hill.
 bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

Charles Everest, after graduating from Trinity College, Hartford, was rector of a parish in Hamden, Connecticut, for thirty-one years. This sermon in verse is from his collection of hymns titled *Visions of Death and Other Poems*.

Tune: DEUS TUORUM MILITUM L.M.
 Grenoble Antiphoner, 175?

Spiritual Care Package

Questions for Reflection

What does the story of Sarah and Hagar (Gen. 21:8–21) say about God? What does the story suggest about how we might treat one another more justly?

Household Prayer: Morning

O God, I praise you as I arise this morning. You are the giver of all life and you provide for what you have made. Be with my spirit this day and teach me to be thankful for all that you offer. Move me to be generous with others, sharing not only goods, but also time, patience, and kindness. You know what will happen today. Guide me so that I do what pleases you. Be near to me and help me to trust your love. I pray for all the world today, for what I do has effects far beyond what I can know or understand. By your Holy Spirit, let me speak peace, let me do peace, let me be peace, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Creator of heaven and earth, light and darkness, day and night, I thank you for the day just past that you have given me in your mercy. I pray for your forgiveness for those things I did that were displeasing to you and for those missed opportunities to show my love for you. Let me rest tonight, trusting in the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ. Restore my mind and body as I sleep so that when I awake I will have the strength to serve you and your children well. O beloved God, let me rise to a new day giving you thanks and praise, in the name of Jesus Christ the Savior. Amen.

God is still speaking,