

5th Sunday after Pentecost

July 2, 2023

**So Abraham called that place
“The Lord will provide”;
as it is said to this day, “On the mount
of the Lord it shall be provided.”**

Genesis 22:14, NRSV



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The Family of God Gathers

Prelude

“America the Beautiful”

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

Greetings

Call to Worship †

L: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord,

P: and proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

L: Your steadfast love endures forever.

P: Your faithfulness is as high as the heavens.

L: Happy are those who sing your praise

P: and extol your righteousness all the day.

Opening Hymn 526 Bulletin page 9

“We Are Marching in the Light of God”

Prayer of Confession †§

O Lord, you taught us to love you and our neighbor. You have made it plain that we show our love for you by the hospitality and justice we offer others. You show your love for us by inviting us to your table to feed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. But we have not walked in the light of your love.

Forgive us when we refuse to give water to the thirsty or deny your grace to those whom you love. Give us your spirit of generosity and compassion. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon †§

L: Siblings in Christ, be at peace, for you are free from guilt and shame so you may live into your vocation as followers of Jesus, in whose name 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 5 Bulletin page 10

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

The Service of the Word

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 22:1–14

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.” Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place “The Lord will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

Psalm 89:1–4, 15–18

L: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

P: **I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

L: You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: ‘I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.’”

P: **Happy are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your countenance; they exult in your name all day long, and extol your righteousness.**

L: For you are the glory of their strength; by your favor our horn is exalted.

P: **For our shield belongs to the Lord, our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

Gospel

Matthew 10:40–42

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

Sermon

Sermon Hymn 543 Verses 1, 3, 4, 6 Bulletin page 11

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

The Response to the Word

Offering “Inscription of Hope”

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 †§

Faithful God, we give you thanks that you have entrusted us with the gifts of hospitality and generosity, and that you have set us free to be generous givers. May our offerings this day draw us closer to you as we share them with others. Amen.

Communion

Hymn 347 Bulletin page 12

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

Prayer †

L: May the God of constant love be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

L: Come to the One who welcomes each and every one of us to this Table of grace.

P: **We bring our broken hearts so they might be made whole.**

L: Join hearts and minds with your fellow saints to praise the One who fills us with hope:

All: **When chaos ruled the universe, God of faithfulness, you called up creation and she tagged along at your side as your hospitality flowed forth: springs to refresh our wearied feet, sweet corn to fill our hunger, beds of pine needles on which to rest.**

L: We were formed by you so we might belong to you, but we let ourselves be held captive by the temptations of our unhealthy desires. Prophets came, seeking to call us back to you, yet we continued to obey our passions.

P: **Jesus came, offering us cups of living water with words of hope and grace.**

L: Compassionate God, you are the Voice behind the Word who comes in Jesus Christ. When temptation and worry try to lead us to the path of diminished life,

P: **Jesus comes with your pardon in his hands, setting us free so we may walk in the new light of your hope.**

L: Your compassionate welcome is extended to anyone, any time, any place as your Spirit is poured out on the gifts of the Table of life and on your people gathered for the feast.

P: **Your life, which is broken in love, becomes the wholeness which strengthens us to feed those for whom hunger is a constant companion.**

- L: Your grace, which is poured into us, becomes the hospitality by which we welcome itinerant immigrants into our communities and hearts;
- P: we open our arms to every child held captive by poverty.**
- L: Then, when your glory becomes our home, and we are gathered around your table,
- P: we will join in singing your praises through all eternity, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.**

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, for ever. Amen.

Distribution "Break the Bread of Belonging"

Lynn McFadyen

This table of friendship and love is open to all who desire an encounter with the living Christ. Please hold your bread in silent prayer until all are served, when we will eat together, symbolizing our unity as the body of Christ. Please drink the cup of salvation (grape juice on the outside rings, wine on the inside rings) as you are served, symbolizing our individual longing for Christ.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying to self that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Closing Hymn 498 Bulletin page 13

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

Benediction †§

- L: Friends in Christ, you have been given the spirit of freedom, offered to you through God's love.
- P: **We will freely share that love in the world, knowing that right relationship and holy living is its own reward.**
- L: May the One who creates, redeems, and sustains you from everlasting to everlasting grant you the grace of peace, holiness, and eternal life.
- P: **Amen!**

Postlude

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

- † *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: Sandy Moore

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 July is sponsored by Larry & Barb Kleist in honor of their wedding anniversary.

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.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, July 2

Hunger offering

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Communion Worship

11:30 A.M. Pot luck

Monday and Tuesday, July 3–4

Office closed

Sunday, July 9

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
- The family of Andrea Strand, our housekeeper. Her daughter's family lost their home to fire June 19. She and her children are okay, but one pet was injured and another was lost. She says they are all emotionally exhausted.

Open house for Pete

Our friend Pete will be laid to rest in a private service at Lakeview Cemetery on Friday, July 7. The family are hosting an open house at 5084 Bonnie Vale Ct, Eau Claire 54701 (Pete's house) from 2 P.M. to 5 P.M. that day, and they have invited members of Pete's Plymouth family to attend.

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'

(We Are Marching in the Light of God)

Ps. 89:15

South African freedom song; transl. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos', si - ya -
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are

hamb' e - ku - kha-nyen' kwen-khos'. march-ing in the light of God. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
We are march-ing in the

nyen' kwen - khos', kha - nyen' kwen-khos', ham - ba, si - ya -
light of God. the light of God. We are march-ing, march-ing, we are

ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.
march-ing, march-ing, we are march-ing in the light of God.

Last time, end

This South African song and fourteen others were first recorded and published in 1980 by the Church of Sweden Mission and the singing group "Fjedur" after a visit they made to South Africa. The subsequent 1984 collection *Freedom Is Coming* brought the songs to a worldwide audience.

Tune: SIYAHAMBA Irr.
South African song

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

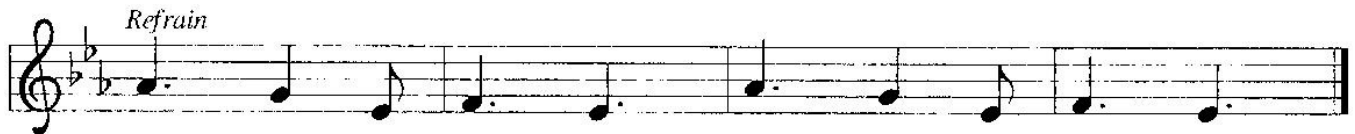
O Christ, Surround Me



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.

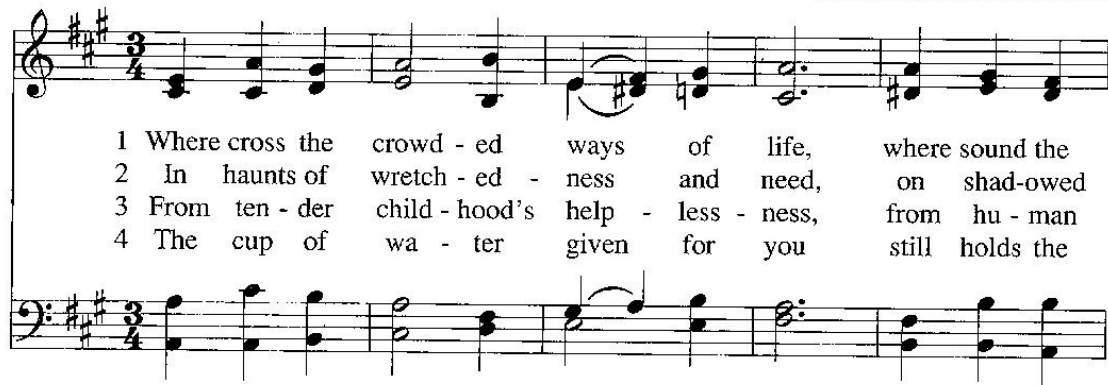
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Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

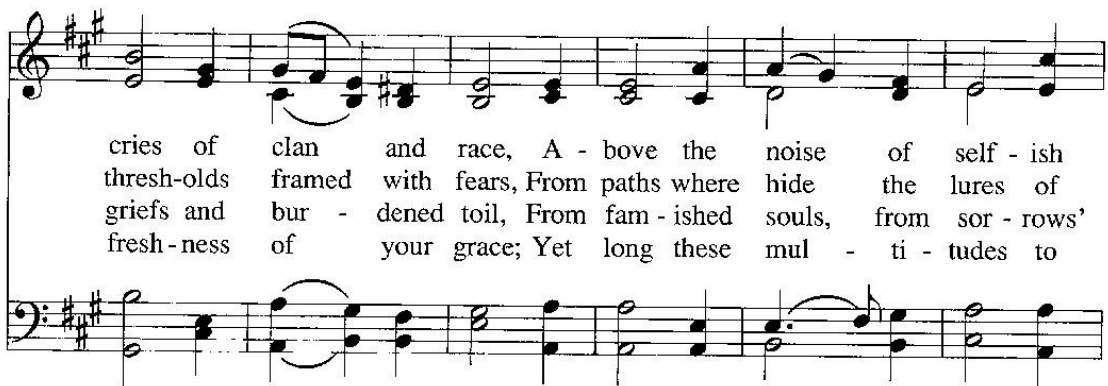
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Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.

Luke 19:41; Matt. 10:42; Rev. 22:20



1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad-owed
 3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man
 4 The cup of wa - ter given for you still holds the



cries of clan and race, A - bove the noise of self - ish
 thresh-olds framed with fears, From paths where hide the lures of
 griefs and bur - dened toil, From fam - ished souls, from sor - rows'
 fresh-ness of your grace; Yet long these mul - ti - tudes to



strife, O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.
 greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
 stress, we know your heart does not re - coil.
 view the deep com - pas - sion of your face.

5 O Sav-ior, from
 the moun-tain-side,
 Make haste to heal
 these hearts of pain;
 A-mong these rest-less
 throngs a-bide,
 O tread the cit-y's streets a-gain:

6 Till all shall learn
 com-pas-sion's might,
 And fol-low where
 your feet have trod,
 Till glo-rious from
 your realm of light,
 Shall come the cit-y of our God.

This hymn was written for the 1905 Methodist Hymnal by Frank Mason North, a Methodist minister who was deeply committed to the role of the church in urban life. North later served as president of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America.

Tune: GERMANY (GARDINER) L.M.
 William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

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Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Luke 10:1-9

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.

C F G Dm G C G

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,

C F G Dm7 C G C

bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!

Refrain (first time *p*, second time *f*)

C C7 F Dm G C F C

Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round; loaves a-bound!

This hymn came into being when composer Doreen Potter asked poet Fred Kaan to write a text for her adaptation of a Jamaican folk melody. It was first used at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi (1975), and in Vancouver (1983).

Tune: LINSTAD L.M. with refrain
 Jamaican folk song
 Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975

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Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

John 13:1-20; Gal. 5:13-14

Tom Colvin, 1969; rev. 1994

Refrain
Unison

F C7

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

F Gm/Bb C7 F *Last time, end*

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

F Dm7 Gm C C7/E

1 Knelt at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their
 2 Neigh-bors are rich and poor, var - ied in col - or and
 3 These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
 4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, show - ing our faith by our
 5 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

F Dm Dm7/C Gm/Bb C7 F *to Refrain*

feet, Je - su, you act - ed as ser - vant to them.
 race, neigh-bors are near and far a - way.
 love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
 deeds, serv - ing the neigh-bors we have from you.
 feet, this is the way we should live with you.

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Spiritual Care Package

Questions for Reflection

What is God asking me to return? Why? What might be the outcome?

Household Prayer: Morning

I rise this day in the power of your Holy Spirit, O God. I lift up my hands, my heart, and my songs to praise you, O Christ. Be for me today, my Savior, the guardian in my weakness, a friend on my journey, and my aim for all I seek to do. May all who speak to me say, “Peace”; may all to whom I speak hear, “Love.” Give visions of Christ in pined beauty around tables of meeting, along paths of dappling shadows, and in the faces of loved ones and strangers. Whether the day is bright or gloomy, be my light. Then, when the night begins to fall, bid me home—be my home, that I may find my rest in you, O Three in One. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Be my light, O Creator of light, as evening comes to my home and to me. Let me see your name written in sparkling stars, glowing planets, dancing cosmic wind. Let me hear you pass gently in the cool of the night’s breeze, on the wings of the night-flying creatures. And if there are to be storms this night, so that I shall not see the sky, and a gale howls with fearful threats, let me still put my trust in you, rest in you. Or, because there is a need in the world, rise up as you give me strength to bear witness with heart and hands to the world’s true light, in whose name I pray. Amen.

God is still speaking,