



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word
May 13, 2018
Seventh Sunday of Easter
10:00 am

THE GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE Sonata II: Ruhig Bewegt Paul Hindemith

*OPENING HYMN God Made from One Blood No. 427

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*by Katherine Hawker, adapted*) Barbara French

One: The Spirit of God calls from many places:
**All: Some of us come from busy homes with many people.
 Some of us live alone.
 We are part of one family.**

One: This week has been different for each of us:
**All: Some of us have had happy news to celebrate.
 Some of us have faced grief and tears.
 We are members of God's family.**

One: Still, we have all come to the same place:
**All: All of us seeking God's presence in our lives.
 All of us seeking God's presence with each other.
 Together we become God's family.**

WORDS OF WELCOME Craig French

LITANY OF CONFESSION

One: The story of Jesus' Ascension challenges us
 to seek the presence of the Risen Christ in the here and now—
 in our lives, our community, our world.

 When we "look up to heaven" only, for our answers,
 and so fail to see the Spirit at work in our midst,
All: Holy One, have mercy.

One: When we forget to repent of our wrongs and to forgive others theirs,
 and so fail to give witness to the Risen Christ,
All: Christ, have mercy.

One: When we doubt the power of the Spirit at work
 changing hearts and opening minds
 and so fail to work toward relationships of righteousness and peace,
All: Holy One, have mercy.

**Please rise if you are able*

SILENT PRAYER

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (based on Romans 8 and Psalm 139)

One: At every moment of life, from beginning to end,
God is with us,
watching over us, loving us, guiding us, protecting us.
There is nowhere we can go,
nothing we can do,
nothing that can happen to us
that can separate us from the love of God
made known in Christ Jesus.

All: If I go up to heaven, God is there.
If I go down to my grave, God will be there.
If I fly on the wings of dawn,
stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean,
God will be there to strengthen and support me.
Even the darkness cannot keep me from God,
for darkness and light are both the same to God.
God created my inmost being
and stitched me together in my mother’s womb.
For all these mysteries, I thank God—
for the wonder of myself,
for the marvelous wonder of all God’s works.
How well my soul knows it!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

*PRAISE SONG

A Repeating Alleluia

Calvin Hampton

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song 'A Repeating Alleluia'. Both staves are in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with lyrics 'A - le - lu - ia, _____ A - le - lu - ia, _____' written below. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics 'A - le - lu - ia, A - le - lu - - - ia.' and ends with a double bar line.

Used by permission

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Joe Steiner

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE	Acts 1:1-11	<i>New Living Translation</i>
ANTHEM	The Chosen Twelve	Christopher Tye
SERMON		
WITNESS TO FAITH		Sarah Whitton
*HYMN	O Christ, When You Ascended	<i>Insert</i>

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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.

There are several beloved versions of this prayer. In an effort to pray in unison while respecting the different versions that many of us have prayed since childhood, we will cycle through the different versions over the course of a year.

*We will pray using “debts”
through the end of summer.*

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Today and next week, we are receiving a special offering for the ongoing work of the United Church of Christ: The Strengthen the Church Offering. Checks made out to Plymouth and marked Strengthen the Church, or any offering put in the specially marked envelopes in the pews, will help the UCC fulfill its commitments to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. Offerings not so marked will go to do all that same work and more locally, here at Plymouth.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM	Ambassadors for Christ	Austin Lovelace
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*DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

**Let trumpets sound and voices sing!
Let all on earth their praises bring!
For Christ has conquered sin and death
and given life eternal breath. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN

Christ Is Alive

Insert

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

All Glory Be To God On High

Johann Sebastian Bach



☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☞

GREETERS: Luis Morales and Bob Watrous **LITURGIST:** Barbara French

USHERS: George Bain and Luckner Morange **ACOLYTE:** Hunter Carr

FLOWERS given in celebration of Luis Morales' birthday by his loving partner, Bob Watrous. Happy Birthday, my love! Enjoy your day.

COMMUNITY TIME: The men of Plymouth in celebration of all those who mother in our midst

OFFERING COUNTERS: Keith Jakway and Sarah Whitton

You can volunteer for many of these ministries via the Plymouth website www.plymouthsyr.org. Go to the "Get Involved" page and click on the link above the choir photo.

Hospitality Ministry – Please consider serving as a host for Community Time. There is a sign-up chart in the bell tower entrance. It's easy and we'll help you!

Flowers – Make our worship space even more beautiful for the glory of God and in honor of whatever you choose. A sign-up sheet is found in the bell tower entry. The cost is \$25, but plans for larger or multiple arrangements can always be made.

Accessibility: Individual listening headsets are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Please contact one of the ushers for help. An elevator and ramp are available. **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY.**

Welcoming Children in Worship: Children of all ages have a place in worship and in the life of the church. Nursery care is offered at 10:00 am for infants. Sound is piped into Memorial Hall next door to the Sanctuary for those who would welcome a space apart.

Worship Clipboards: Worship clipboards with age-appropriate bulletins and coloring paper are available in the back of the Sanctuary for our elementary aged children as a support to their attendance in worship. We hope you will find these clipboards a welcoming and supportive means of engaging your children during the worship service.

There is ample **free street parking** on the blocks around our church on Sundays, as well as in the lots behind the Catholic diocese building. For those able to walk a short distance, parking here will allow those with mobility impairments or small children to use the spots directly in front of the church.

🎵 Music Notes for May 13, 2018 🎵

The **prelude** is the second movement of Paul Hindemith's (1895-1963) Second Sonata for organ. Hindemith often used harmonies built on intervals in fourths, rather than the thirds which were typical of all European music from about 1600-1900.

Our **anthem** is by Christopher Tye (c.1505-before 1573) who was, amongst other things, music teacher to Edward VI. The piece comes from a fourteen-movement work entitled *The Acts of the Apostles*. However, our version today uses a modern text by Jaroslav Vajda:

*The chosen twelve, now lacking one, met to replace their loss;
In prayer they sought the will of him whose throne replaced the cross.
To prove his care for every need, he made their number whole,
So all who take each step with him will reach their glorious goal.*

*O spirit of the risen Christ, o Savior, Victor, Friend,
O smiling Father, ever our beginning and our end,
Unite our song of worship with your angel choirs, that when
We reach your presence we may join their glorious Amen.*

Austin Lovelace (1919-2010) was a prolific composer of church music who saw more than 800 of his pieces published. He was music director at Wellshire United Methodist Church in Denver:

*Christ has changed the world's direction! Christ can change the human heart:
Agents of the new creation mend the people torn apart;
So are we charged to be go-betweens for unity.*

*Peace will be our way of thinking; common wealth and common state.
Gone the wounds, the words and weapons that conspire to hurt and hate,
And no power shall devour earth or air where peace might flower.*

*Debts and doubts will be forgiven, cancelled in the name of God,
Olive trees again be planted there where soldier's boots have trod,
Hunger fed, terror fled, justice shining in its stead.*

*What have we as commendation, sent to speak, as speak we must?
Love will be our global language, hands an enemy can trust,
Faith to faith, race with race, all shall find a meeting place.*

*Envoys of a high commission, gifts of hope we find to share,
Christ the Spirit reconciling, Christ our internet of care.
'Though we stall, fail or fall, shall we now refuse God's call?*

The **postlude** is a simple chorale to which Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) has added flourishes at the end of each phrase.

✎ About Plymouth ✎

Plymouth was founded in 1853 by a group of Syracuseans who wanted to create a Christian abolitionist bulwark in the city. Since then, we have fought against slavery, poverty, and war; for immigrants', natives', workers', LGBT, and women's rights; and sought to be agents of mercy in a hurting world. We believe in beauty, laughter, the struggle for peace with justice, taking risks for God, and the Way of Jesus Christ.

Our faith is over 2,000 years old; our thinking is not!

We are Open and Affirming We believe God calls us to welcome all people and their gifts regardless of gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, physical ability, socioeconomic status, or religious background.

We are Just Peace We covenant to live actively within the holy longing that weds justice with the quest for peace – within us, between us, in community, and across the globe. We covenant to affirm the sacredness of all life and to honor and preserve creation.

We are Sanctuary We provide a space of physical, emotional, and spiritual safety for immigrants without documents, and specifically pledge to the principles of the national New Sanctuary Movement.

We are Progressive Christians We try to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our brother and savior. We believe God speaks new meanings for new days, and that She does so not only in the church and the ancient words of the Bible, but through the insights of science, the arts, the revelations of other religions, and the best strivings of the human spirit. We believe God has granted us a purpose, and that life is too short for long-faced religion. Join us!

Rev. Craig French, Bridge Pastor
Dr. Joseph Downing, Director of Music
Kim Looney, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries
Kathy Ferro, Church Administrator
Mark Johnson, Sexton

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1. O Christ, when you as - cend - ed you took your right - ful
 2. We look at earth - ly rul - ers and see what they com -
 3. We're tempt - ed, Lord, to leave you in sto - ries nice - ly
 4. It's of - ten quite a chal - lenge to fol - low in your
 5. One day, O Lord, we'll know you, as we are ful - ly

throne; your time on earth had end - ed, yet
 mand: we note their years of pow - er, the
 told; some - times we don't be - lieve you and
 way; we're eas - i - ly dis - tract - ed! It's
 known; one day this world of sin - ners will

we weren't left a - lone. You reign o'er earth and
 bor - ders of their land. Yet, Lord, you are not
 say your ways are old. Some - times we feel so
 hard, Lord, to o - bey. Some - times we give you
 bow be - fore your throne. One day, God's whole cre -

heav - en; your Spir - it guides our way. Your
 bound - ed by things like time and space; your
 lone - ly and live in doubt and fear. But
 Sun - days, an ho - ur, may - be two. But
 a - tion will sing and praise your name; on

prayers up - hold your peo - ple; you lead your church each day.
 reign is nev - er - end - ing, you rule in ev - ery place.
 your as - cen - sion means, Lord, you're pres - ent with us here.
 your as - cen - sion means, Lord, all life be - longs to you.
 earth as now in heav - en, we'll cel - e - brate your reign.

Christ Is Alive

1. Christ is a - live! Let Chris-tians sing. His cross stands
2. Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3. Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -
4. In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
5. Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the
moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the
scorn, or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet
this and ev - ery age, till earth and all cre -

prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.
here and now and dwell in ev - ery place and time.
midst of life, our Sav - ior in the God-head reigns.
loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.
a - tion ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1968, alt.
MUSIC: *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789

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