Plymouth United Church of Christ
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Pastor
Rev. Doug Van Doren

Director of Music
William Bokhout

Organist/Accompanist
Marilyn Pikaart

Sunday Sessions Director
Angela Wheeler

Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 18, 2018

CENTERING THOUGHT:

"God is weak and powerless in the world, and that is precisely the way, the only way, in which God is with us and helps us. Only the suffering God can help."

"A Christian is someone who shares the sufferings of God in the world." -Dietrich Bonhoeffer

PRELUDE *Take The Name of Jesus With You* -E. Broughton
When I Survey The Wondrous Cross -D. Wood

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *We gather in dialogue with each other, planning and sharing our response to God's call to discipleship.* (If you wish to make an announcement, please come forward and sit in the front pew to use a microphone.)

WE GATHER IN WORSHIP, our dialogue with God, the ground of being.

INTROIT *Nearer My God to Thee* -John Gardner

*CALL TO WORSHIP

They said, "My Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me."

Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb?

Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands… Your builders will outdo your destroyers. (Isaiah 49:14-17)

*HYMN *O Jesus Christ, Mat Grateful Hymns* 212

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION and Lord's Prayer using "debts and debtors."

*CONG'L GREETING Greet one another in the peace of Christ.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN
+ + + Children depart for Sunday Sessions

SERVICE OF PRAYER
Sharing of Joys and Concerns
Pastoral followed by Silent Prayer

ACT OF DEDICATION
Invitation
Offertory *Trail of Tears* -J. Utterbach
*Doxology *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* -Trad. AfricanAmerican
I'm gonna live so __ God can use me __ an-y-time, Lord __ and an-y-where. __. (Repeat)
*Prayer of Dedication

THE CROSS FOR TODAY
in word and music—in three movements

SCRIPTURE John 15:9-15 (CS p 109); Philippians 2:5-8 (CS p 197)

REFLECTION The Cross for Today - in social struggle
Rev. Van Doren

PSALM OF LAMENT Psalm 22:1-11 (The Message)
read by Brenda Moore

SOLO *How Many Tears* from *Martin Guerre*
-Claude-Michel Schönberg
Hollis Bokhout, soloist

REFLECTION The Cross Today - for the struggle within

SOLO *Pink Cloud* Stacie McCarthy, songwriter and soloist
Chandler Michalsky, guitar; Ashlea Sooy, piano

REFLECTION The Cross for Today - lament turns into a psalm of hope

SOLO *Somewhere* from *West Side Story*
-Leonard Bernstein/Steven Sondheim
Cody Dykstra, soloist

PRAYER

*HYMN *Lift High the Cross* 198

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Gregorian March* -JA. Guilmant