LITURGIST: Bill Gregor

USHER: Jerry Hoffman, Becky Mickaus

FELLOWSHIP: Carol Tanis

NURSERY: Laura & Cloe Van Oss

SUNDAY SESSIONS: Melissa Anderson, Lisa Cook

Mission Statement

We are an inclusive and welcoming community that practices Jesus' radical love and affirmation. In worshipful response to God's transformative work in our lives, we pursue the liberation of all people from injustice and oppression.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 28

Friday, March 29

Sunday, March 31

Wednesday, April 3

Friday, April 5

Maundy Thursday Service 7pm

Stations of Peter 1pm-7pm

Easter Egg Hunt 11:15AM

Grief & Loss Support Group 5PM

Drinks & Deconstruction 7PM



Want to stay connected to what is happening here at Plymouth?

Subscribe to our weekly email by using the QR code or contact the office at secretary@plymouthchurchgr.org

Pastor: Rev. Jo Bahr Director of Music: William Bokhout Accompanist: Dr. Caleb Wenzel Sunday Sessions Director: Kris Locker

Plymouth United Church of Christ www.plymouthchurchgr.org 616-455-4260



Palm Sunday Sunday, March 24, 2024

CENTERING THOUGHT

When Palm Sunday occasions come, let us embrace them with enthusiasm. It is a time for the adult within us to listen to the child and celebrate with joy and thanksgiving. But we need to also hear the mature adult within us. If ever we leap to the hasty conclusion that Christian love will automatically bring favor and honor, listen to the adult voice within. The cross remains a far more potent symbol of genuine loving than do palm branches.

- Rev. Bruce Prewer

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Gregor

4th Sunday Band

Sing songs of loudest praise!

Hosanna!

Sing songs that are unashamed.

Hosanna!

Sing songs without being afraid.

Hosanna!

Sing for the God of tomorrow and today.

Hosanna!

Let us worship the One worthy to be praised.

* OPENING HYMN All Glory, Laud, and Honor NCH 216

* CALL TO CONFESSION

The Gospel of John tells us that crowds gathered to praise Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, singing and shouting with confidence. After describing the crowd, however, the Gospel writer zooms in on the disciples and tells us that while the crowds shouted praise at Jesus, the disciples were confused. The text says, "the disciples did not understand what was happening" (John 12:16).

A lot of our lives may look like this: either we understand God's presence in our lives and want to shout it from the rooftop—or we're standing on the side of the parade missing our chance to sing.

That is why we need the prayer of confession. Because life happens fast, and without a doubt, we have stood where the disciples stood. So let us pray, for we don't want to miss our chance to sing:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we want to run into the streets and sing your praise! We want to be bold and unashamed of this good-news Gospel. However, too often we find ourselves standing against the wall. Too often we stay quiet. Too often we let others carry the song. Forgive us for the moments when we could lead the parade but instead find ourselves standing on the sidelines. Show us which songs are ours to sing. Show us which parades are ours to lead, and then give us the courage and conviction to do both. With hope and honesty we pray, amen.

* PASSING THE PEACE

TIME FOR ALL AGES We Are All One Family Rev. Ron Cook

POEM "Courage" Bill Gregor

Rev. Sarah Speed

SONG OF RESPONSE Filled with Excitement NCH 214

SCRIPTURE John 12:12-16 Bill Gregor

SERMON "Everyone Loves a Parade, Don't They?" Rev. Ron Cook

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Pastoral Prayer Jesus' Prayer

MOMENT OF GENEROSITY

Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN Jesus Comes Today

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE 4th Sunday Band

* Indicates those who are able are asked to stand.

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Jesus comes today!

Jesus comes today!
Prepare to meet your God!
No Presidential cavalcade
encircles him with might;
the shepherds kiss a worker's child
who loves till all are reconciled:
Prepare to meet your God!

Jesus comes today!
Prepare to meet your God!
No massed Convention roars its praise to hail the new messiah;
love has no powers to lay aside, so crowds will have him crucified:
Prepare to meet your God!

Jesus comes today!
Prepare to meet your God!
No Primaries can pave his way
to be the people's choice;
he chooses us, and calls our name,
and life can never be the same:
Prepare to meet your God!

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