

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

9:30 a.m.



A Just Peace Church
An Open and Affirming Congregation
A God is Still Speaking Congregation 9

Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

GATHERING

Welcome

Prelude

The beginning of the prelude is an invitation to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

Call to Worship

One: Our Lenten journey continues. Often the road has been stony and hard. Sometimes we have stumbled and even fallen.

All: But God has been our friend and our guide. We have no cause to be alarmed. God is faithful to us, even when we are faithless.

One: Today we rejoice in God's faithful love, and together ask for strength and signs of hope and life.

All: And again, we are drawn together to celebrate the life that is ours as beloved children of God. Thanks be to God!

Hymn

"Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good"

Blk#6

Sing praise to God, our highest good, profound respect expressing.

God gives us health, life, livelihood, with every needed blessing.

**To God, who wondrous works performs,
creating life and calming storms,
to God give praise and glory!**

Prayer of the Day

One: When we cannot do it, God can! Anything and everything - our messes, the hurts we inflict on others, the way we stand around when we could be helping - God can renew, reshape, restore us. That is how much God loves us, this is why God calls to us to come and open ourselves to healing and wholeness in this time of prayer together, saying:

All: Patient and ever-faithful God, we come to you this morning confessing that we can be a grumpy and unsatisfied people. When things are not perfect in our eyes, we murmur and complain, and grumble and doubt. We lose hope in the people

around us and, even worse, we lose hope in you. We challenge instead of accept. We put you to the test rather than trust your caring love. Forgive our doubts and complaining. Forgive our loss of hope. Let your healing, life-giving waters pour over us. Restore our souls. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Our hope and assurance rest in God's unfailing love, compassion and mercy.

All: May God keep us in grace, lead us to greater faith and trust, and bring us in peace to the joy of abundant life.

Response

"Give Me a Clean Heart"

Blk#188

**"Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.
God, fix my heart so that I may serve you.
For I am not worthy of all the blessings.
Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you."**

Sign of Peace

One: Jesus has taught the way of life to us, the church, and we now have the responsibility of bringing life to the world around us through the ministries of our church.

All: We commit ourselves anew to being agents of reconciliation and love as we work for a just and peace-filled world.

HEARING THE WORD

Hebrew Lesson Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Epistle Lesson Ephesians 2:1-10

One: Here ends our morning readings. May God grant us strength and courage to live our faith boldly.

All: Amen.

Message

"Art That Changes the World"

Hymn "O Savior, Let Me Walk with You" Blk#503
**O Savior, let me walk with you in earthly paths of service true;
Tell me your secret, help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

You will be invited to offer your prayer aloud or in the silence of your heart.

The Lord's Prayer

**All: 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.**

SENDING

Hymn "God our Author and Creator" Blk#530
**God our Author and Creator, in whose life we find our own,
make our daily witness greater by our lives make your love known.
Help us show how love embraces
those whom fear and greed downtrod;
in all yearning hearts and faces let us see a child of God.**

Benediction

Postlude

*The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us
into the world where our true service begins.*

