



Plant Gardens | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster

Second Sunday in Lent
Sacrament of Baptism
March 16, 2025

"My house is a house of prayer for all people." (Isaiah 56:7)
Plymouth is A Just Peace Church and An Open and Affirming Congregation

WELCOME!

Here we believe that God is love;
and that love is for everyone.

God's extravagant love changes the world
and moves us to respond in gratitude.

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here,
and you are invited to shape this community with your God-given gifts.

Open and Affirming Statement

Plymouth Church is an Open and Affirming congregation. We celebrate and find strength in our diversity and view it as a way to understand the inclusiveness of God. We welcome people of any age, color, ability, sexual orientation or gender expression. We embrace those of varying theological and political beliefs, and differing ethnic, socio-economic, and educational backgrounds. Our congregation joyfully welcomes all to join in worship, ministry, fellowship, leadership, sacraments and blessings. With God's guidance, Jesus' example and the Spirit's inspiration, we commit ourselves to ongoing study, prayer, conversation and action, so that it may truly be said of Plymouth Church, "My house is a house of prayer for ALL people." (Isaiah 56:7)

Families with Children

Children of all ages are always welcome at Plymouth! We offer many programs and events throughout the year to foster faith development in children and fellowship among our families. We strive to make worship family-friendly and to provide support to families while attending church by offering Busy Bags, Children's Worship Bulletins, a comfort room with toys and a changing table, and a Children's Worship Space with quiet activities. Professionally-staffed childcare for kids 4 and under is available every Sunday from 9am-12pm on the second floor. Sunday School for kids Pre-K to 8th grade takes place during worship, except for on the first Sunday of the month when there is no Sunday School to encourage families to worship together and receive communion.

Large print bulletins and hearing enhancement devices are available.
Please ask an usher.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Our Approach to God

Music calls us to worship so we may listen for God speaking to us. When the service begins with preparation music, please silence your voices and devices.

**All are invited to rise in body or spirit*

Preparation Music Psalm Prelude, Set I, No. 2 Herbert Howells
George A. Sargeant, organ

Welcome

***Call to Worship:** Sally Fahrenholz

One: Here, in this place, God welcomes all the dreamers and doubters.

All: Here, worriers and wanderers can call on God by name.

One: Here, in this time, we remember all the ways God has blessed us.

All: Here, in this hour, we are reminded that God is with us, always!

One: Here are gathered those daring enough to step out of comfort into the unknown.

All: Here, in this space, we find the courage to live into God's vision.

***Hymn #212** (black hymnal)

O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns be Rising *Charterhouse*

Prayer of Confession

O God of mercy, we confess that we trade what is good for what is comfortable.

We find easier to act on anger than to act with hope. We find it easier to demonize instead of seeking to understand across differences. It is more comfortable to name the failings of others than to face our own.

Forgive us, and shape within us more courage for what is good. Amen.

Silent Reflection

Words of Assurance

ONE: Lift up your hearts!

ALL: We lift them up to God!

***Hymn of Praise** *Faithfulness*

Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,
Your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.
Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed your hand has provided,
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

***Passing of the Peace**

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you!

ALL: **And also with you!**

The Sacrament of Baptism

Luca Vincent D’Orazio

Born April 30, 2024

Call to Celebrate New Life

Baptismal Vows

Vows of the Congregation

One: Will you, the members of this church family, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to this child about to be baptized, and to his parents?

All: We promise our love, support, and care.

One: Family of God, we now celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

All: There is one body and one spirit. There is one hope in God’s call to us. There is one baptism, one God, creator of us all.

Prayer

Baptism

Congregational Response

We thank you, God, for Luca. Bless him and keep him now and forever. Amen.

Children in pre-school through 8th grade are invited to depart for Sunday School.

The Proclamation of God's Word

Choral Anthem There is a Balm in Gilead William L. Dawson
Plymouth Choir, Diane Julin Menges, soprano

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. (Refrain)

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all." (Refrain)

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Sermon

Plant Gardens

Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster

Generational Wisdom for Trying Times, part 2

***Hymn #449** (black hymnal) Softly and Tenderly..... *Softly and Tenderly*

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

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.

Prayer Response

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy Calvin Hampton

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea.

There's a kindness in His justice that is more than liberty.

There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good.

There is mercy with the Savior, there is healing in His blood.

There is no place where Earth's sorrows are more felt than up in Heaven.

There is no place where Earth's failings have such kindly judgement given,

There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed.

There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind,

And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful, we should take Him at His word,

And our life would be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

Living Out the Word of God

Announcements of Church Life

Mission Moment

The Green Team

Call to Offering

Offertory Wade in the WaterAfrican-American Spiritual
Plymouth Folk Revival

Wade in the water, wade in the water children,

Wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water.

Jordan's river is deep and wide, meet my friends on the other side.

Jordan's river is chilly and cold, chills the body but not the soul.

Who's that yonder dressed in red? Must be the children that Moses led.

Who's that yonder dressed in white? Must be the children of the Israelites.

God's gonna trouble the water.

***Doxology**.....*Old 100th*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Generous God, we trust in your blessing upon all that we give. Use these gifts within this community to kindle the fire of your love. Amen.

***Hymn #157** (red hymnal) In the Cross of Christ I Glory.....*Rathbun*

***Commission and Benediction**

***Congregational Response***Taizé*

Bless the Lord, my Soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

Voluntary Jesus, Priceless Treasure, BWV 610 J.S. Bach
George A. Sargeant

Many in the congregation wish to remain seated for the Voluntary. If you choose to leave, please be aware of those still participating in this part of the service. The Voluntary is music for worship and we ask that all be respectful of one another's worship practices, including those participating via livestream. Following the Voluntary, you may greet the ministers.

LENT

212

O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns

Matt. 23:37-39; Luke 13:34-35

Bradford Gray Webster, 1954; alt.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano accompaniment is written in grand staff notation (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are as follows:

1 O Je-sus Christ, may grate-ful hymns be ris-ing, in ev-ery
2 Grant us new cour-age, nev-er proud, but hum-ble, strong in your
3 Show us your Spir-it, brood-ing o'er each cit-y, as you once

cit-y for your love and care; In-spire our wor-ship, grant the
strength to ven-ture and to dare; To lift the fall-en, guide the
wept a-bove Je-ru-sa-lem, Seek-ing to gath-er all in

glad sur-pris-ing that your blessed Spir-it rous-es ev-ery-where.
ones who stum-ble, seek out the lone-ly and God's mer-cy share.
love and pit-y, and heal-ing those who touch your gar-ment's hem.

This text, written for a Convocation of Urban Life in America, was chosen by The Hymn Society for publication in Five New Hymns on the City, Bradford Webster, a Methodist minister, served churches in his native New York state for forty years.

Tune: CHARTERHOUSE 11.10.11.10.
David Evans, 1927

Softly and Tenderly

Will L. Thompson, 1880; alt.

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing, pass - ing from
 4 O for the won - der - ful love Je - sus prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me; See at the por - tals Christ wait - ing and
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not God's
 you and from me; Shad - ows are gath - er - ing, death - beds are
 you and for me; Though we have sinned Je - sus of - fers us

Refrain

watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me? Come home, come
 com - ing, com - ing for you and for me. Come home,
 par - don, par - don for you and for me.

home, All who are wea - ry, come home;
 come home,

Will Thompson established publishing firms in Chicago and East Liverpool, Ohio, the community to which he left a legacy of song. Dwight L. Moody once remarked that he would rather have written "Softly and Tenderly" than anything he had ever done.

Tune: SOFTLY AND TENDERLY
 11.7.11.7. with refrain
Will L. Thompson, 1880

Ear-nest-ly, ten-der-ly Je-sus is call-ing— call-ing, "O sin-ner, come home!"

157

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

John Bowring, 1792-1872

RATHBUN 8.7.8.7.

Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tower-ing o'er the wrecks of time;
 2 When the woes of life o'er-take me, Hopes de-ceive, and fears an-noy,
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam-ing Light and love up-on my way,
 4 Bane and bless-ing, pain and pleas-ure, By the cross are sanc-ti-fied;
 5 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tower-ing o'er the wrecks of time;

All the light of sa - cred sto - ry Gath-ers round its head sub-lime.
 Nev-er shall the cross for-sake me: Lo! it glows with peace and joy.
 From the cross the ra-diance stream-ing Adds more lus-ter to the day.
 Peace is there that knows no meas-ure, Joys that through all time a-bide.
 All the light of sa - cred sto - ry Gath-ers round its head sub-lime. A-men.

MUSIC NOTES

Each Sunday during the season of Lent, the organ prelude will be one of twentieth-century British composer Herbert Howells' six Psalm Preludes. The first three date from the World War I years and the remainder from the late 1930s as World War II approached. They are musical meditations on verses from the Psalms, and with the exception of the last, follow a pattern of a quiet beginning, a gradual buildup to a sustained climax, and finally a fading away to near-nothingness. The first set is less stylistically mature than the second; Howell's distinct harmonic language, though hinted at, had yet to fully flower. Set I, No. 2 takes as its inspiration Psalm 37, verse 11: "But the meek shall inherit the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity."

William Dawson was an African-American composer, choir director, and professor. As a teacher, he was famed for his tenure at the Tuskegee Institute from 1931–1956. During this period, he developed the Tuskegee Institute Choir into an internationally renowned ensemble. As a composer, his best-known works are arrangements and variations on spirituals such as "There Is a Balm in Gilead." They are widely published in the United States and are regularly performed by school, college and community choral ensembles.

J.S. Bach's *Jesu, meine Freude* (*Jesus, Priceless Treasure*) comes from the Lenten section of "Das Orgelbüchlein" ("A Little Organ Book"), a set of 45 brief chorale preludes meant as instruction pieces for beginner organists and likely composed while he was in prison. In 1717, he wished to leave the service of his royal employer, the Duke of Weimar, in order to accept a similar position in the court of the Prince of Anhalt-Cöthen. The Duke was none too pleased about this, and when Bach pressed the issue, the Duke had him imprisoned for a month before agreeing to let him go.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

Ushers: Team 5

Greeter: Mary & Doug Powell

Coffee Hour: Michael Schiavoni

Piano Concert – Join us this evening at 4 pm for a special concert by Plymouth’s organ scholar, Lynna Bao. The piano recital will be held in the Sanctuary.

This Week at Plymouth

Lunch Club – Join us on Wednesday, March 19, for food, fellowship, and learning. We will enjoy Chicken and Black Bean Enchiladas, Salad, Chips and Guac, and Lemon Bars before hearing a presentation from Plymouth’s Green Team on exciting new initiatives that they will be introducing to our congregations, including a Memorial Forest! The suggested donation for lunch is \$10. Please sign up by Sunday, March 16 in the Welcome Center or RSVP to Pastor Dillon by email.

Fossil Fuel – Don Grauer will present about Ulysses S Grant, including his origins, military career, two-term presidency, and accomplishments that should place him in high historical esteem. Join us Wednesday, March 19, at 8:30 am.

Lenten Dinners – Join us on Wednesdays 6-7:30 pm throughout Lent for a shared Lenten Dinner. We will share a meal and then share a “Faith Talks” program. The suggested donation is \$10/person or \$25/family. A sign-up sheet is in the Welcome Center for you to mark which weeks you plan to attend. A minimum of 25 reservations will make each week possible, so please sign up by the Sunday before.

Upcoming Events

Pilgrimage Coffee Hour – Sunday, March 23, members from the Pilgrimage to the Southern Border will be sharing photos and stories from their trip during coffee hour. Don’t miss it!

One Great Hour of Sharing - The theme for the 2025 One Great Hour of Sharing is **Be the Light**. The United Church of Christ invites you to join this meaningful Lenten offering, which supports disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development ministries through Love of Neighbor. We will be collecting this offering March 30.

Community Life

Lenten Devotional – We have purchased Lenten Devotionals from the UCC for your use during the Lenten season. Digital copies are available in This Week at Plymouth email and printed copies are available in the Welcome Center.

Plymouth Church T-Shirts – Want to show your Plymouth Church pride? We have a new T-shirt available for purchase to spread the word about Plymouth! The Evangelism & Growth Committee created these shirts for everyone in the church to wear at events like Pride, volunteering or anywhere you choose. The shirts come in a variety of background colors and sizes. They are \$22.52 plus the cost of shipping. To order, go to <https://www.bonfire.com> and search “Plymouth Church”. If you need assistance ordering a shirt, please contact Beth Karr at BethKarr@aol.com or (216) 973-8919 by April 12.

Pastoral Care - If you have a Pastoral Care need or have an emergency, please contact Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster at 330-714-9471.

Little Free Pantry - Shelf stable food is available 24/7 from our Little Free Pantry, located in the north end of the parking lot, near the Children's Garden.

Financial Assistance - Do you need help paying a bill, rent, or buying food and other essentials? Through the loving support of this community, funds are available. If you are in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to email Rev. Matt Wooster at mwooster@plymouthchurchucc.org (this is confidential) with your needs.

Plymouth Family

Happy Anniversary to: Toby & Judy Perry and Lucas Hershberger & Victoria Wojton

Happy Birthday to: James Van Sweringen, Joanna Cullinan, Alex Jillson, Elena Eberhard, Sue Coverdale, Amy Grube, Ruth Anna Carlson, and Cora Eastridge

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, March 16

9:30 am Coffee House @ Candy Circle Room
10:30 am Worship @ Sanct
11:00 am HCC Worship @ Chapel
11:30 am Coffee Hour @ FH
12:00 pm K/1 OWL @ 201
12:00 pm B&G Meeting @ 102
12:00 pm Library Resource Team @ Library
4:00 pm Lynna Bao Concert @ Sanct

Monday, March 17

9:00 am Hunger Center Volunteering
5:30 pm Bible Study @ Zoom

Tuesday, March 18

6:30 pm Finance Meeting @ Library

Wednesday, March 19

8:30 am Fossil Fuel @ Candy Circle Room
9:00 am Hunger Center Volunteering
12:30 pm Lunch Club @ FH
6:00 pm Cleveland Food Bank Volunteering
6:00 pm Lenten Dinner @ FH

Thursday, March 20

6:30 Plymouth Ringers @ Bell Room
7:00 pm Boy Scouts Meeting @ FH
7:30 pm Plymouth Choir @ Choir Room

Friday, March 21

1:00 pm Mary Ann Davis Memorial @ Sanct
2:00 pm Memorial Reception @ Parlor

Saturday, March 22

No events scheduled

Sunday, March 23

9:30 am Coffee House @ Candy Circle Room
10:30 am Worship @ Sanct
11:00 am HCC Worship @ Chapel
11:30 am Coffee Hour @ FH
5:00 pm Youth Group @ KR



Give Online

Use this QR Code to give online. If you would like to make recurring online gifts, please use your REALM login. If you don't have an account, please email

kkundrat@plymouthchurchucc.org to request access.

Ministers of Plymouth Church

The Congregation of Plymouth Church

Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster

Designated Associate Minister, Pastor Dillon Shipman

Director of Music & the Arts, George Sargeant

Director of Children & Family Ministries, Leslie Szalay

Facility Manager, Paul Holter

Office & Communications Administrator, Brenna Threatt

Finance Manager, Kathryn Kundrat

Church Sexton, Derrick Williams

Organ Scholar, Lynna Bao



2860 Coventry Road
Shaker Heights, OH 44120

216.921.3510 | office@plymouthchurchucc.org