

**A "VIRTUAL" SERVICE TO UNITE US IN SPIRIT  
FOR SUNDAY OCTOBER 17, 2021  
(TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST)  
(and a daily prayer)**

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***Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ  
2401 Atwood Avenue, Madison WI***



## **The Community Gathers**

Lighting of the Candle

Welcome

Announcements, Joys & Concerns

♪ Prelude

## **Gathering Prayer**

*Pastor: We gather together, and are blessed in the gathering*

**All: For God's Spirit moves in and among us.**

*Pastor: For the sake of God's world, we seek to be our best,*

**All: leading with open minds, loving hearts, and helping hands.**

*Pastor: Strengthened and renewed by our time together with God, we know we can serve through*

**All: care for our Earth and work for peace and justice for all.**

*Pastor: God bless our gathering.*

**All: God bless our holy work in God's name.**

♪ Hymn of Praise No 12 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

**I Sing the Mighty Power of God, that made the mountains rise, that spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies, I sing the wisdom that ordained, the sun to rule the day; the moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of our God, that filled the earth with food; God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good, Oh, how your wonders are displayed, where e'er I turn my eye; if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!**

**On earth there's not a plant or flower, but makes your glory known, the clouds arise and spread their showers, by order from your throne, all life is but a gift from you, and ever in your care; wherever people gather you, O God are present there.**

### **The Community Shares God's Word**

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 10:35–45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

## **Sermon**

### **The Community Responds to God’s Word**

Hymn of Response No. 539 *Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant? (verses 1, 3-4, 6)*

**Won’t you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace, to let you be my servant too.**

**I will hold the Christ light for you, in the shadow of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I’ll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow, till we’ve seen this journey through.**

**Won’t you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace, to let you be my servant too.**

## **Prayers of The People**

*Pastor: Let us turn our hearts and minds again to God in prayer... pray as he taught us to pray to you, saying:*

**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, for ever. Amen.**

## Offering

*Thank you for your electronic offerings, or for mailing in your offerings for the ministry and mission of this congregation. Through your generosity, we are doing God's work in the world.*

Thank you for your donations to Neighbors in Need, the special offering of the UCC that helps at-risk communities and people, and this year will also be used to help Afghan refugees.

*Thank you for all you are doing to help keep all in community safe, including getting vaccinated (if safe for you), wearing of face masks, physically distancing, and hand washing.*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Pastor: *We are truly grateful, O God, for the blessings we have received, for your help in our ministry and mission,*

All: **and that our minds and hearts are open to the great possibilities we have not yet imagined.**

Pastor: *May our efforts be multiplied by your grace, O God, so that there may be more than enough for all:*

All: **more comfort in sorrow, more relief from pain,**

Pastor: *more mercy to overcome shame, more sense of presence than loneliness, more strength to overcome our weakness,*

All: **anxiety and fear overcome by joy and enthusiasm and hope.**

Pastor: *And most of all, help us to overcome hatred*

All: **with love for all. Amen.**

## The Community Goes Forth

♪ Sending Hymn No. 565 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending (verses 1-2, 4)*  
God whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store. Nature's

wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross grave's shattered door. Gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise. Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for serving, that your will on earth be done. All at peace in health and freedom, races joined the Church made one. Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone. Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Lend your joy to all our giving, let it light our pilgrim way. From the night of anxious keeping, loose us into generous day. Then when years on earth are over, and we've lived our human span. God fulfill beyond our dreaming, all our stewardship began.

### **Benediction and Sending Prayer**

Pastor: *Love to you, from God our Creator.*

All: **With great gladness, we love God with all our heart, soul, and mind.**

Pastor: *Peace to you, from the one who shows us all that we can be.*

All: **Peace we joyfully receive, and joyfully offer to all.**

Pastor: *Grace to you, from the Spirit who is in you, truly.*

All: **We will let our spirits shine, moving in and among our neighbors, sharing God's love with all.**

Pastor: *Our worship has ended,*

All: **Our service begins, as we take God's light out into the world with us!**

### **♪ Postlude**

*Pastor: Rev. Leslie Schenk*

*Accompanist: Wilder Deitz*

*Ministers: All the people of Plymouth Congregational UCC*

### **Thoughts to Ponder**

"So many people are hanging by the thinnest of threads. You could be that thread." –

John Pavlovitz

“We are closer to God when we are asking questions than when we think we have all the answers.” — Abraham Joshua Heschel

"An awake heart is like a sky that pours light." – Hafiz

**And a daily (morning) prayer to center yourself for this week**

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know.

Be still.

Be.

Namaste and Amen