

**A SERVICE TO UNITE US IN SPIRIT  
FOR SUNDAY APRIL 24, 2022  
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER  
(and a daily prayer)**

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

Pastor: Rev. Leslie Schenk

Accompanist: Lyle Anderson

Ministers: All the people of Plymouth Congregational UCC

Worship Help: LeBlancs (reader and greeter), Steve Landkamer & Sharon Larson and Kevin Voit (ushers), Bill Mollway (tech and audio support), Congregational Life Team and Donna Salzwedel (Social Hour hosts)



**The Community Gathers**

Lighting of the Candles

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome

Announcements

♪Prelude

**Gathering Prayer**

Pastor: *Along a forest path or walking down a city street*

All: **Christ is among us.**

Pastor: *Inside of sanctuaries or outside of church buildings*

All: **Christ is among us.**

Pastor: *Christ is among us, wherever we gather:*

All: **in heaven's realm, or around the table, or across the cyber universe.**

Pastor: *Christ is among us*

All: **and offers us peace. Alleluia! Amen!**

♪Opening Hymn No. 243 *Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven*

**Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise. Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise. Jesus on the cross as savior, for the worlds salvation bled. But the crucified redeemer, now is risen from the dead.**

**Now the iron bars are broken, Christ from death to life is born; glorious life and life immortal, on this holy Easter morn. Christ has triumphed and we conquer, by God's liberating deed; now the Christ with us abiding, to eternal life shall lead.**

**Christ is risen, we are risen; shed upon us heavenly grace. Rain and dew and gleams of glory, from the brightness of your face. That we with our hearts in heaven, here on earth may fruitful be, and by angel hands be gathered, and be yours eternally.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Glory to the God of joy. Alleluia to the savior, who came death's bonds to destroy. Alleluia to the spirit, fount of love and sanctity. Alleluia, alleluia! To the triune majesty.**

**Children's Message**

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

**Scripture Reading: John 20: 19-23**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

**Sermon** *Being Real*

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

♪ Hymn of Response No. 253 *Yours is the Glory, Resurrected One!*

**Yours is the glory resurrected one. Endless is the victory you o'er death have won. Angels clothed in radiance rolled the stone a way, conquered is the grave in which your body lay. Yours is the glory resurrected one. Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.**

**See it is Jesus, Jesus has appeared, do not doubt at all for nothing you will fear. Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, tell it without ceasing death has lost its sting. Yours is the glory resurrected one. Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.**

**Am I still frightened one whom I adore, Jesus lives again gives peace forever more. Jesus is my victory life and strength and head, Jesus is my glory nothing shall I dread. Yours is the glory resurrected one. Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.**

## **Joys & Concerns, Prayers of the People**

*Pastor: Let us pray...as Jesus 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.**

## ♪ **Sung Prayer Response: Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Jesus Christ, our burdens know,  
Praise Spirit through whom our hearts e'er grow,  
Praise Loving One who is our hope. Amen.**

## **Offering**

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

*Offerings can be placed in the basket by the door at the back of the sanctuary, for those attending in person.*

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

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

Pastor: *Holy God, Holy Light, as we sense your presence among us, may we continue to discern*

All: **ways to use our talents and treasures for the well-being of all.**

Pastor: *No matter the darkness or the light that surrounds us, you make your presence known,*

All: **calling us to use all our gifts to bless the world.**

Pastor: *May the gifts we share today and each day help form*

All: **a church of grace and a community of love. Amen.**

### **The Community Goes Forth**

♪ Sending Hymn *Go Now in Peace*

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.**

**God will go with you each hour of every day.**

**Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true.**

**Know God will guide you in all you do.**

**Go now in love, and show you believe.**

**Reach out to others so all the world can see.**

**God will be there, watching from above.**

**Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

### **Blessing and Sending Prayer**

Pastor: *We go forth with the living Christ.*

All: **We go forth, in faith and hope and joy!**

Pastor: *Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The blessings of God—Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer—be with you all!*

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

## ♪Postlude

*Elements of our worship service and thoughts to ponder for the week are adapted from resources of the Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ, made possible through our contributions to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM).*

### **Thoughts to ponder for the week:**

*The 33rd General Synod adopted a Resolution to Recognize the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024). As part of its implementation, Sermon and Weekly Seeds offers Reflection from Voices of People of African Descent related to the season or overall theme for additional consideration in sermon preparation and for individual and congregational study.*

“Now, that Jesus shows his crucifying wounds is about more than convincing the disciples in hiding behind the locked doors or even, Thomas that He is the very same Jesus that was crucified, and he was. Rather, the point of this matter is this: he showed them his wounds even before doubt was expressed. That he showed his wounds, therefore, was not so much to prove his identity as the crucified one, but instead to witness yet again to his solidarity with those who are wounded by the crucifying realities in our world. Make no mistake about it, that Jesus was crucified affirms his absolute identification with the Sandras, the Jackelins, the Nigels and all other persons who are wounded by crucifying realities of injustice in our world.” –The Very Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas – *He Showed Them His Wounds* Sermon given at Union Theological Seminary, May 2, 2019 found at <https://utsnyc.edu/he-showed-them-his-wounds/>

“The wound is the place where light enters you.” – Rumi

“When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving much advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a gentle and tender hand.” – Henri Nouwen

“Like the Good Samaritan, may we not be ashamed of touching the wounds of those who suffer, but try to heal them with concrete acts of love” – Pope Francis

### **Prayer for the Week**

God of the visible and invisible,  
We gaze upon roads ahead  
Knowing that you are ahead of us.

We seek your presence when the fog is heavy  
And our hearts are hurting.  
In the moments of haze,  
Clear the path before us.  
In the moments of clarity,  
Show your face to us.  
Allow us to hear your voice in the depths of night  
As we search for your presence and call. Amen.