

**A SERVICE TO UNITE US IN SPIRIT
FOR JANUARY 22, 2023
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

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



*Ministers: All the people of Plymouth Congregational UCC
Pastor: Rev. Leslie Schenk
Accompanist: Darek Hartwig*

*Worship Help: Axel Reinders (reader), Kevin Voit, Axel Reinders, Eli Reinders (ushers),
Carol Walker (greeter), Marleen Lippert (choir director), Bill Mollway/Kat Klafka (tech and
audio support), Donna Salzwedel and volunteers (Social Hour hosts)*

The Community Gathers & Lighting of the Candles

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

♪ **Prelude** *"Draw Near / Be Strong in the Lord"* - a music medley, based on music by
Theron Kirk & Tom Fettke

Gathering Prayer

Pastor: Come, all who have known difficult times—you are welcome here.

All: **Here there is rest and renewal for all, and our hearts are glad.**

Pastor: Come, all who have been hurt—you are welcome here.

All: **Here there is peace and acceptance for all, and our hearts are glad.**

Pastor: Come, all who rejoice and give thanks—you are welcome here.

All: **Here there is blessing for all, and our hearts are glad. God is our light and our salvation!**

Message for Young Christians

♪Opening Hymn No. 28 *For the Beauty of the Earth*
**For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never ties, and for every heart renewed,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

The Community Shares God's Word

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and

his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Sermon

The Community Responds to God's Word

♪Hymn of Response No. 172 *Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult*

**Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;
Day by day that voice still calls us, saying, "Christian, follow me."**

**As of old, Saint Andrew heard it by the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.**

**Jesus calls us from the worship of the treasures we adore,
From each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."**

**In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
Jesus calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."**

**Jesus calls us! By your mercies, Savior, may we hear your call,
Give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.**

Announcements; Joys and Concerns; Prayers of the People

Pastor: Let us 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 offerings; through your generosity, we are doing God's work in the world.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Pastor: Ever gracious God,

All: we give you thanks for your love and grace and every blessing.

Pastor: We give

All: **as a response to all we have received.**

Pastor: Let these gifts follow Christ's lead out into the world, touching the lives of people who live in poverty and despair. O God, use these gifts to heal divisions. Show us how to be instruments of peace. Ready us to follow Jesus, in word and deed.

All: **To these purposes, we dedicate this offering and our whole lives. Amen.**

The Community Goes Forth

♪ Sending Hymn No. 173 *You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore*

**You have come down to the lakeshore
seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
but only asking for me to follow.**

**Refrain: O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
Now with you I will seek other seas.**

**You know full well my possessions.
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
Just these my fishnets and will for working. (Refrain)**

**You need my hands, my exhaustion,
Working love for the rest of the weary
A love that's willing to go on loving. (Refrain)**

**You who have fished other waters;
You, the longing of souls that are yearning:
As loving Friend, you have come to call me. (Refrain)**

Blessing and Sending Prayer

Pastor: Go in hope, that the world will hear in your words the voice of God and experience love. Go in joy, for the transforming work of the Spirit has made you new. Go in peace and share the good news of Jesus Christ! Amen.

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

♪ Postlude *"Festival Piece No 1"* by Dagfinn Moe