

**APRIL 28, 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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

Ministers: All the people of Plymouth UCC
Pastor: Rev. Leslie Schenk
Accompanist: Delores Hedeman

Worship Help: Marianne Mollway (reader and greeter), Sharon Larson and Steve Landkamer (usher), Chancel Choir, Marleen Lippert (Choir Director), Bill Mollway/Kat Klafka (tech and audio support), Church School teachers Ann Lacy and assistant, volunteers (Social Hour hosts)



The Community Gathers

Lighting of the Candles
Ringing of the Bell
Welcome

♪Prelude

Gathering Prayer

Pastor: Amazing God, open our hearts and minds and souls to your blessing presence.
All: **Help us to hear your good news.**

Pastor: We seek to live as people who truly know God.
All: **Guide us by your word.**

Pastor: We seek to be nourished body and soul.
All: **Feed us that which truly refreshes.**

Pastor: We turn to you, O God, in love. Our hearts are lifted up
All: **in joy and hope!**

Children's Message

♪Hymn of Praise No. 32 *God of the Sparrow God of the Whale*

**God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say awe? How does the creature say praise?**

**God of the earthquake God of the storm God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry woe? How does the creature cry save?**

**God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave
How does the creature say grace? How does the creature say thanks?**

**God of the hungry God of the sick God of the prodigal
How does the creature say care? How does the creature say life?**

**God of the neighbor God of the foe God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say love? How does the creature say peace?**

**God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart
How do your children say joy? How do your children say home?**

The Community Shares God's Word

Scripture Readings: John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.



Sermon *What needs pruning?*

The Community Responds to God's Word

Hymn of Response No. 163 *Many are the Lightbeams*

**Many are the lightbeams from the one light.
Our one light is Jesus.
Many are the lightbeams from the one light;
We are one in Christ.**

**Many are the branches of the one tree.
Our one tree is Jesus.
Many are the branches of the one tree;
We are one in Christ.**

**Many are the gifts given, love is all one.
Love's the gift of Jesus.
Many are the gifts given, love is all one;
We are one in Christ.**

**Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one;
Servant spirit of Jesus.
Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one;
We are one in Christ.**

**Many are the members, the body is one;
Members all of Jesus.
Many are the members, the body is one;
We are one in Christ.**

Announcements, Joys & Concerns Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray...as Jesus taught us to pray to you, saying:

All: Our Creator, 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 for Plymouth Church. Through your generosity, we are sharing God's Love and doing God's work in the world, transforming lives for the better.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Pastor: We give, gracious God, because we are grateful. Your love sustains us through trial and temptation. We are also thankful for others who guide us and show us the way,

All: parents and teachers and friends and loved ones.

Pastor: May any pruning we undergo in response to your Word help us to bear fruit to feed the world's needs. We give of our resources and of ourselves,

All: so that the blessings we receive may multiply and flourish

Pastor: We give love and light, loving One,

All: that all may know you better. Amen.

The Community Goes Forth

♪ **Sending Hymn No. 76** *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

**Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
The people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended
The fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
To work for God's realm and to answer the call.**

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
The tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
Embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us,
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.**

Blessing and Sending Prayer

Pastor: Follow Christ into the world
All: **for the good news is greatly needed.**

Pastor: Go with courage and trust
All: **for divine inspiration blesses us.**

Pastor: Go with joy and hope
All: **for God's light is in us and shines forth from us.**

Pastor: Go with love and grace
All: **for God guides us in the way of love.**

Pastor: May you be blessed by God—Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.
All: **Our worship has ended, our service begins, as we take God's light out into the world with us!**

Pastor: Until we meet again, may you be filled with curiosity, wonder, and openness to God's tender leading.
All: **Amen and amen!**

♪ **Postlude**