



**Plymouth
Church**
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

2860 Coventry Road, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120
216.921.3510 • www.plymouthchurchugcc.org

Homecoming Sunday

Fourteenth Sunday
After Pentecost

September 11, 2022

"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

Please scroll down for Hymns

Our Approach to God

Preparation Music Welcome Day! (*Morning Songs*).....Gwyneth Walker
My Lord, What a Morning.....Negro Spiritual/arr. Robert Lau
James Riggs, organ
Liturgical items return to the space for another year of ministry.

Welcome

*Call to Worship

ONE: This is a day for new beginnings.

ALL: This is a new season of God's unfolding story.

This is a time for faithful response.

ONE: Let us lift our voices to ask questions, speak truth, and offer kindness.

ALL: We lift our voices with honesty, compassion, and praise.

*Hymn (Black) 70 God Is Here!*Abbot's Leigh*

Stanza 1—Choir only

Stanza 2—All singing the melody

Stanza 3—Choir only

Stanza 4—All singing the melody

Confession

ALL: Most loving God, we long to live according to your vision, but we miss the mark. We become bound by fear, or ambition, or short-sightedness. Instead of loving our neighbors, we are selective in our relationships, and limit our sense of responsibility for the greater good. Instead of resisting evil, we worry about being accepted. Forgive our inaction when you have encouraged us to embody courage and love. Amen.

Silent Reflection

Words of Assurance

*Hymn of Praise.....*Nettleton*

Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
Come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.

*Passing of the Peace

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: **And also with you.**

Children’s Message

Children in pre-school through 5th grade are invited to come forward for the Children’s Message before they depart for Sunday School.

Blessing for a new Season of Ministry

Commissioning prayer for service in worship and faith education.

Music When the Morning Stars Togetherarr. Hal H. Hopson
The Plymouth and Congregational Choirs

When the morning stars together their Creator’s glory sang, and the angel host all shouted till with joy the heavens rang, then your wisdom and your greatness their exultant music told all the beauty and the splendor which your mighty works unfold. When in synagogues and temple voices raised the psalmists’ song, offering the adoration which alone to you belongs, when the singers and the cymbals with the trumpet made accord, glory filled the house of worship, and all knew your presence, Lord. Voice and instrument in union through the ages spoke your praise, plainsong, tuneful hymns, and anthems told your faithful, gracious ways. Choir and orchestra and organ, each a sacred offering brought, while, inspired by your own Spirit, poet and composer wrought.

Lord, we bring our gift of music, touch our lips and fire our hearts, teach our minds and train our senses, fit us for these sacred arts. Then with skill and consecration we would serve you, Lord and give all our powers to glorify you, and in serving fully live.

(Albert F. Bayly based on 2 Chronicles 5:12-14)

The Proclamation of God’s Word

Reading from Scripture Luke 15:1-10

Sermon Get Found! Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster

***Hymn (Red) 327** Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us.....*Bradbury*

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

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.

Choral Response No more a stranger.....arr. Mack Wilberg

Living Out the Word of God

Announcements of Church Life

Call to Offering

Offertory Offertory.....Kevin McChesney
The Plymouth Ringers

***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**

God of generous grace, as you open your hands to us, our hands are open to you. Accept what we give—the fruits of our labor and our lives—that your name may be honored and your dominion grow in justice, peace and love. Amen.

***Hymn** (Black) 547 Amazing Grace *Amazing Grace*

***Commission and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** *Sine Nomine*

Go to the world! Go into every place.

Go live the word of God’s redeeming grace.

Go seek God’s presence in each time and space. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Voluntary Variations on *Morning Star*.....Margaret Vardell Sandresky
Sol Rizzato, organ

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God Is Here! As We Your People Meet

Fred Pratt Green, 1978, alt.

1 God is here! As we your peo-ple meet to of - fer praise and prayer,
 2 Here are sym-bols to re - mind us of our life - long need of grace;
 3 Here our chil-dren find a wel-come in the Shep - herd's flock and fold;
 4 Sov - ereign God, of earth and heav-en, in an age of change and doubt

May we find in full - er mea-sure what it is in Christ we share.
 Here are ta - ble, font, and pul-pit, here the cross has cen - tral place.
 Here as bread and wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.
 Keep us faith - ful to the gos-pel, help us work your pur - pose out.

Here, as in the world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Though he retired in 1969, this distinguished British poet has continued to write hymns. In addition to administering several circuits and local congregations, Fred Pratt Green published plays, translations, and poems. Emory University in Atlanta awarded him an honorary doctorate.

Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH 8.7.8.7.D
 Cyril V. Taylor, 194

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Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Attr. to Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

BRADBURY 8.7.8.7.D.
 William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us, Much we need thy ten - der care;
 2 We are thine; do thou be - friend us; Be the guard - ian of our way;
 3 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor; Ear - ly let us do thy will;

In thy pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, For our use thy folds pre - pare.
 Keep thy flock; from sin de - fend us; Seek us when we go a - stray.
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, With thy love our bos - oms fill.

Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, thine we are;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Hear thy chil - dren when they pray;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;

Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Hear thy chil - dren when they pray.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still. A - men.

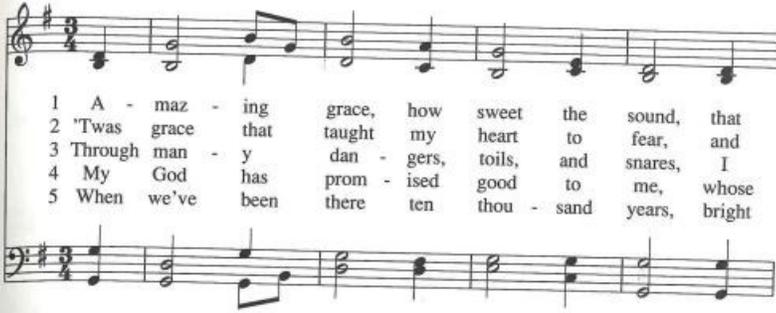
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Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

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St. 1-4, John Newton, 1779; alt.

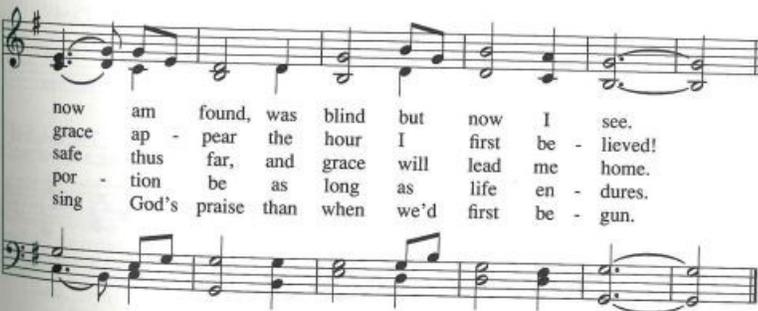
St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.
 (NEW BRITAIN)
 Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829
 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900