



Who Says You Can't Go Home | Pastor Dillon Shipman

Fourth Sunday in Lent
One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

March 30, 2025

"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

WELCOME!

Here we believe that God is love;
and that love is for everyone.

God's extravagant love changes the world
and moves us to respond in gratitude.

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here,
and you are invited to shape this community with your God-given gifts.

Open and Affirming Statement

Plymouth Church is an Open and Affirming congregation. We celebrate and find strength in our diversity and view it as a way to understand the inclusiveness of God. We welcome people of any age, color, ability, sexual orientation or gender expression. We embrace those of varying theological and political beliefs, and differing ethnic, socio-economic, and educational backgrounds. Our congregation joyfully welcomes all to join in worship, ministry, fellowship, leadership, sacraments and blessings. With God's guidance, Jesus' example and the Spirit's inspiration, we commit ourselves to ongoing study, prayer, conversation and action, so that it may truly be said of Plymouth Church, "My house is a house of prayer for ALL people." (Isaiah 56:7)

Families with Children

Children of all ages are always welcome at Plymouth! We offer many programs and events throughout the year to foster faith development in children and fellowship among our families. We strive to make worship family-friendly and to provide support to families while attending church by offering Busy Bags, Children's Worship Bulletins, a comfort room with toys and a changing table, and a Children's Worship Space with quiet activities. Professionally-staffed childcare for kids 4 and under is available every Sunday from 9am-12pm on the second floor. Sunday School for kids Pre-K to 8th grade takes place during worship, except for on the first Sunday of the month when there is no Sunday School to encourage families to worship together and receive communion.

Large print bulletins and hearing enhancement devices are available.
Please ask an usher.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Our Approach to God

Music calls us to worship so we may listen for God speaking to us. When the service begins with preparation music, please silence your voices and devices.

**All are invited to rise in body or spirit*

Preparation Music Psalm Prelude, Set II, No. 1 Herbert Howells
George A. Sargeant

Welcome

***Call to Worship:** Mendle Adams

One: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

**All: For once we were lost and felt so far away;
now we have been found and welcomed home.**

One: Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

**All: We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope.
Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love!**

***Hymn #247** (black hymnal) My Shepherd Is the Living God..... *Consolation*

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, whenever being self-focused obscures the needs of others, forgive us. Whenever we forget who our neighbor is, forgive us. Whenever we choose to look the other way, forgive us. Whenever we forget to say, 'Well done!', forgive us. Whenever we forget to give thanks, forgive us. Whenever we stray from the path you have set before us, forgive us. For all those times we bring a tear to your eye, bring us back home into your forgiving arms and teach us once again your way of love. Amen.

Silent Reflection

Words of Assurance

ONE: Lift up your hearts!

ALL: We lift them up to God!

*Hymn of Praise (insert).....*Douroux*

Give Me a Clean Heart
Sung by the choir, then by all

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Give Me a Clean Heart'. It consists of four staves of music in G major and 3/8 time. The lyrics are: 'Givwe me a clean heart, so I may serve You, God, fix my heart so that I may be used by You, For I'm not wor - thy of all these bless - ings. Give me a clean heart, and I'll fol - low You.'

***Passing of the Peace**

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you!

ALL: **And also with you!**

Children in pre-school through 8th grade are invited to depart for Sunday School.

The Proclamation of God's Word

Choral Anthem As the Deer Tom Fettke
Sunday Choir

Scripture Reading Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Sermon Who Says You Can't Go Home Pastor Dillon Shipman

*Hymn #207 (black hymnal) Just As I Am..... *Woodworth*

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

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.

Prayer Response There's a Wideness in God's Mercy..... Calvin Hampton

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea.

There's a kindness in His justice that is more than liberty.

There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good.

There is mercy with the Savior, there is healing in His blood.

There is no place where Earth's sorrows are more felt than up in Heaven.

There is no place where Earth's failings have such kindly judgement given,

There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed.

There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind,

And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful, we should take Him at His word,

And our life would be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

Living Out the Word of God

Announcements of Church Life

Call to Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

Offertory Christ, Who Makes Us HolyG.P. Telemann

George A. Sargeant, organ

***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**

Holy God, we thank you for your boundless love, for seeking out the lost, and rejoicing with us when we are found. May these gifts, a reflection of your abundance in our lives, be a source of joy and a testament to your unwavering love. May they be used to share your grace, to bring hope to those in need, and welcome in our midst all who are looking for home. In your name we pray, Amen.

***Hymn #202 (black hymnal)**

O God, How We Have Wandered*Passion Chorale*

***Commission and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Ubi Caritas/Live in Charity*Taizé*

Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas Deus ibi est.
Live in charity and steadfast love, live in charity, God will dwell with you.

Voluntary Largo from Piano Sonata No. 2..... Grażyna Bacewicz
Lynna Bao, piano

Many in the congregation wish to remain seated for the Voluntary. If you choose to leave, please be aware of those still participating in this part of the service. The Voluntary is music for worship and we ask that all be respectful of one another's worship practices, including those participating via livestream. Following the Voluntary, you may greet the ministers.

My Shepherd Is the Living God

Ps. 23; John 10:11, 27-30

Composite from Thomas Sternhold, 1549, and Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

The musical score is written in 6/8 time and consists of four systems. Each system includes a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 My shep-herd is the liv - ing God, I there-fore noth-ing need;
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

In pas - tures fair, near pleas - ant streams you set - tle me to feed.
 A word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

You bring my wan-dering spir - it back when I for-sake your ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers come and go—

And lead me for your mer - cy's sake in paths of truth and grace.
 My cup with bless-ings o - ver-flows, your oil a - noints my head.
 No more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Isaac Watts, London's leading Congregational minister, wrote more than 600 hymns. His paraphrase of Psalm 23 has been altered here by combining a few phrases from Thomas Sternhold, a sixteenth-century English hymnwriter who also wrote metrical psalm texts.

Tune: CONSOLATION C.M.D.
 Southern Harmony, 1835
 Harm. Erik Routley, 1976
 Alternate tune: CRIMOND (Each stanza
 above becomes two stanzas.)

Just as I Am

207

Charlotte Elliott, 1836; alt.

John 6:37; Eph. 2:14

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that your
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a
3 Just as I am, you will re - ceive, will wel - come,
4 Just as I am, your love un - known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, And that you called in -
con - flict, many a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with -
par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause your prom - ise
ev - ery bar - rier down; Now to be yours, and

vit - ing me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
yours a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

This text appeared in Charlotte Elliott's Invalid's Hymn Book, published in England in 1836. Disabled at age thirty, she continued a career of writing and editing. This hymn has been translated into many languages.

Tune: WOODWORTH L.M.
William B. Bradbury, 1849

O God, How We Have Wandered

202

Kevin Nichols, 1980; alt.

Luke 15:11-32; 2 Cor. 5:16-20

1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
 3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

In fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
 By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.
 Com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.

But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic - ing bring,
 Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.
 In glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

The tune for this contemporary text appears five times in J. S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion, and first appeared as a hymn setting in the early 1800s. It has an ecumenical history reaching back many centuries. Originally it was a German love song.

Tune: PASSION CHORALE 7.6.7.6.D.
 (HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN)
 Melody by Hans Leo Hassler, 1601
 Harm. J. S. Bach, 1729
 For another harmonization, see 179

MUSIC NOTES

Each Sunday during the season of Lent, the organ prelude will be one of twentieth-century British composer Herbert Howells' six Psalm Preludes. The first three date from the World War I years and the remainder from the late 1930s as World War II approached. They are musical meditations on verses from the Psalms, and with the exception of the last, follow a pattern of a quiet beginning, a gradual buildup to a sustained climax, and finally a fading away to near-nothingness. The first set is less stylistically mature than the second; Howell's distinct harmonic language, though hinted at, had yet to fully flower. Set I, No. 3 takes as its inspiration Psalm 130, verse 1: "Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord."

Tom Fettke is a composer, arranger and producer of music and recordings for the church and school. He holds degrees from Oakland City College and California State University at Hayward. For a number of years, he taught vocal music in California's public school systems. He was a church choir director and minister of music in churches large and small for over 30 years. His published works and recordings number in the hundreds. *As the Deer*, his setting of Martin Nystrom's paraphrase of Psalm 42, is among the best known and most frequently performed.

Grażyna Bacewicz was one of the first Polish female performers and composers to achieve international recognition. She performed her first concert at the age of seven alongside her brothers, and she wrote her first piece at around thirteen years old. In 1928, she began studying at the Warsaw Conservatory, where she studied violin with Józef Jarzębski and composition with Kazimierz Sikorski; she also studied piano with Józef Turczyński for two semesters. After graduating in 1932, she attended composition classes led by Nadia Boulanger at the École Normale de Musique. After completing her studies, Bacewicz continued her musical career as both a composer and performer, appearing as a soloist and acting as a jury member for competitions. She served as the concertmaster of the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, directed by Grzegorz Fitelberg, from 1936-1938. Her Piano Sonata No. 2 was premiered in 1953.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

Ushers: Team 2

Greeter: Lucas Hershberger

Coffee Hour: Pastor Dillon Shipman, welcoming his partner, Cody Cook, to Ohio

This Week at Plymouth

Fossil Fuel – Steve Kaufman will be sharing “Ernest Becker and the Denial of Death”, exploring Terror Management Theory and one of Becker’s fundamental questions: can we escape from evil? Join us this Wednesday, April 2, at 8:30 am in Candy Circle Room.

Lenten Dinners – Join us on Wednesdays 6-7:30 pm throughout Lent for a shared Lenten Dinner. We will share a meal and then share a “Faith Talks” program. The suggested donation is \$10/person or \$25/family. A sign-up sheet is in the Welcome Center for you to mark which weeks you plan to attend. A minimum of 25 reservations will make each week possible, so please sign up by the Sunday before.

In the Community

Racial Equity Buddies Event – Saturday, April 5, 10 am - 1 pm, at North Church, 4515 Superior Ave., REB is co-sponsoring a community forum entitled "Reclaiming the Legacy, Strategies and Actions of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther, King, Jr.". The date is significant: Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968. This program promises to be a powerful community gathering honoring Dr. King through music, discussion, and action. The program offers a continental breakfast, includes live gospel/spirituals, a panel on Dr. King’s unfinished work, interactive breakout sessions, and a closing drum circle to inspire collective action. RSVP to racialequitybuddies@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Maundy Thursday Service and Dinner – On April 17, we will share a community meal at 6:15 pm before joining in worship and remembrance at 7:30 pm. Dinner will be oven fried chicken, couscous salad, fruit, and dessert. Sign up in the Welcome Center by April 13. Worship will begin with communion and then move to the ancient service of Tenebrae, meaning shadows. During this service, the lights of the sanctuary are gradually extinguished as we remember the events of the night.

Good Friday Service – St. Paul's Episcopal will be hosting an ecumenical Good Friday service on Friday, April 18 from 12-3 pm at 2747 Fairmount Blvd, Cleveland Heights. Worship will be divided into seven approximately 25 minutes sections, each focusing on one of the final statements of Jesus in the gospels. Worshippers are welcome to come and go during the service as schedules allow.

Organ Recital – On Sunday, May 4, at 4 p.m., Director of Music and the Arts George Sargeant will present his first recital at Plymouth. The program will feature organ music for the Easter season. A reception in the Parlor will follow. Save the date!

Community Life

Church Library – A small team of members is leading an initiative to reintroduce and generate new interest in the church library, including updating the cataloging system, developing a Banned Books section, and accepting donations. Visit the Women's History Month display and pick up a copy of the library history!

Theatre Performances – Support our community members! Anna Graves & Angela Zawada are performing in Matilda: The Musical with Happy Ending Lyric Players April 4-6, and David Turner is performing in Beautiful, A Carole King Musical with Near West Theatre now – April 13. Tickets are available on the venues' websites.

Plymouth Church T-Shirts – E&G created new t-shirts to spread the word about Plymouth at events like Pride, volunteering, or anywhere you choose. The shirts come in a variety of background colors and sizes and are \$22.52 plus shipping. To order, go to <https://www.bonfire.com> and search "Plymouth Church". If you need assistance ordering, please contact Beth Karr at BethKarr@aol.com or (216) 973-8919 by April 12.

Pastoral Care – If you have a Pastoral Care need or have an emergency, please contact Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster at 330-714-9471.

Little Free Pantry – Shelf stable food is available 24/7 from our Little Free Pantry, located in the north end of the parking lot, near the Children's Garden.

Financial Assistance – Do you need help paying a bill, rent, or buying food and other essentials? Through the loving support of this community, funds are available. If you are in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to email Rev. Matt Wooster at mwooster@plymouthchurchucc.org (this is confidential) with your needs.

Plymouth Family

Happy Birthday to: Joyce Butze, Paul Qua, Matt Wooster, Stephanie Haines, Dave Reavis, Kyle Szalay, Ken Rogers, Don Grauer, and Roma Blunt

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, March 30

9:30 am Coffee House @ Candy Circle Room
10:30 am Worship @ Sanct
10:45 am Coffee & Christ @ 204
11:00 am HCC Worship @ Chapel
11:30 am Coffee Hour @ FH
12:00 pm K/1 OWL @ 201

Monday, March 31

No events scheduled

Tuesday, April 1

No events scheduled

Wednesday, April 2

8:30 am Fossil Fuel @ Candy Circle
1:00 pm Book Group @ 102
6:00 pm Lenten Dinner @ FH

Thursday, April 3

6:30 Plymouth Ringers @ Bell Room
7:00 pm Scouts Meeting @ FH
7:30 pm Plymouth Choir @ Choir Room

Friday, April 4

1:00 pm Women's AA Meeting @ Parlor

Saturday, April 5

No events scheduled

Sunday, April 6

9:30 am Coffee House @ Candy Circle Room
10:00 am New Member Sunday @ Parlor
10:30 am Worship @ Sanct
11:00 am HCC Worship @ Chapel
11:30 am Coffee Hour @ FH
12:00 pm Shipman Pastoral Relations @ Library
12:00 pm K/1 OWL @ 201



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kkundrat@plymouthchurchucc.org to request access.

Ministers of Plymouth Church

The Congregation of Plymouth Church

Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster

Designated Associate Minister, Pastor Dillon Shipman

Director of Music & the Arts, George Sargeant

Director of Children & Family Ministries, Leslie Szalay

Facility Manager, Paul Holter

Office & Communications Administrator, Brenna Threatt

Finance Manager, Kathryn Kundrat

Church Sexton, Derrick Williams

Organ Scholar, Lynna Bao



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