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Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Worship on the Lawn

August 25, 2024

"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

Our Approach to God

When the service begins, please silence your voices and devices.

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

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

ONE: We have come together from many places, with different backgrounds, and with different questions in our minds and hearts.

ALL: We are gathered as one body to worship God.

ONE: We have come together from many emotional places, bringing burdens and blessings and everything in between.

ALL: We come as we are and bring all that we have to worship.

ONE: We look to God for strength, in order to answer God's call to be brave enough to risk mistakes.

ALL: We are ready to worship and to be brave in such a time as this.

ONE: Let us worship God together. Amen.

***Hymn** How Great Thou Art..... *G. Boberg, adapted by Plymouth Folk Revival*

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hands hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander, and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;
[Refrain]

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing he bled and died to take away my sin;
[Refrain]

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!"
[Refrain]

Prayer of Confession

O God, who hears the cries of the vulnerable, we confess our complicity in nurturing injustices of the status quo through silence, in action, and even a lack of curiosity. So often, we turn a blind eye to the pain of those who suffer. We are grateful for the uplifting and inclusive ministry of Jesus, so we ask you to stir in us new courage for the sake of all people. Amen.

Silent Reflection

Words of Assurance

ONE: Lift up your hearts!

ALL: We lift them up to God!

***Hymn of Praise** How Can I Keep from Singing *R. Lowry, arranged by PFR*

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.

I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since Love is lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

***Passing of the Peace**

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you!

ALL: And also with you!

The Proclamation of God's Word

Scripture Reading

Esther 4:1-17

Meditation Music If I Were Free..... *T. Edmondson*

Soloist: Diane Julin Menges

If I were free to speak my mind, I'd tell a tale to all mankind of how the flowers do bloom and fade of how we've fought and how we've paid. This weary world has had its fill of words of war on every hill the time has come for peaceful days and peaceful men of peaceful ways. If I were free to speak my mind, I'd tell a tale to all mankind of how the flowers do bloom and fade of how we've fought and how we've paid. When all mankind has ceased to fight I'll raise my head in thanks each night for this rich Earth and all it means for golden days and peaceful dreams. If I were free to speak my mind, I'd tell a tale to all mankind of how the flowers do bloom and fade of how we've fought and how we've paid.

Sermon

Be Curious: Bravery & Risk

Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster

***Hymn** How Can I Keep from Singing

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.

It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since Love is lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

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.

Congregational Response How Can I Keep from Singing

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Living Out the Word of God

Announcements of Church Life

***Hymn** Down by the Riverside *Negro Spiritual, arranged by Plymouth Folk Revival*
Gonna lay down my sword and shield, down by the riverside, down by the riverside, down by
the riverside; Gonna lay down my sword and shield, down by the riverside, ain't gonna study
war no more.

I ain't gonna study war no more, ain't gonna study war no more,
ain't gonna study war no more.

Ain't gonna study war no more, ain't gonna study war no more,
ain't gonna study war no more.

Gonna lay down my burden, down by the riverside, down by the riverside, down by the
riverside; gonna lay down my burden, down by the riverside, ain't gonna study war no more.

Gonna try on my starry crown, down by the riverside, down by the riverside, down by the
riverside; gonna try on my starry crown, down by the riverside, ain't gonna study war no more.

*Commission and Benediction

*Congregational Response

Gonna walk down that road of peace, down by the riverside, down by the riverside, down by
the riverside; gonna walk down that road of peace, down by the riverside, ain't gonna study
war no more.