



On the Road to Damascus | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster

**Third Sunday of Easter**  
**Celebrating Leslie Szalay's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Plymouth Church!**  
**Sacrament of Communion**  
**May 4, 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.

## **Sacrament of Communion**

At Plymouth Church, we celebrate the sacrament of communion on the first Sunday of the month. We believe that the communion table is the largest table in the world, and everyone is welcome. We practice an open table, where the only requirement to share in the sacramental meal is a hunger for the gifts offered by Jesus Christ. All ages are welcome to receive the sacrament, and parents/guardians are welcome to discern their children's participation. It is not necessary to be a member of this congregation or to be a baptized Christian to participate. Communion is served with grape juice, and gluten-free bread is available. Those who do not wish to receive communion may still come forward to receive a blessing from the minister, or to remain in your seat.

## **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 8<sup>th</sup> 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

Trio No. 1 in B Major, Movements 1 & 2.....Johannes Brahms  
Lynna Bao, piano, Timothy Pinkerton, violin, and Spencer Adler, cello

### Welcome

#### \*Call to Worship

Marisue Besse

One: In love, God has drawn us together as the beloved community.

**All: God strengthens our spirits and empowers us to be bold with love.**

One: God meets us on the paths we travel to enlighten our lives.

**All: God fills our hearts with gladness as we sing and pray together.**

#### \*Hymn #243 (black hymnal)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven.....*Weisse flaggen*

### Prayer of Confession

O God of mercy, we confess that we have not always been faithful to your purposes. We are trapped in sin by habit and inertia, by selfish aims and short-sighted convenience. Heal our brokenness, O God, and bring together the fragments of our scattered existence to make us whole. Amen.

### Silent Reflection

#### Words of Assurance

ONE: Lift up your hearts!

**ALL: We lift them up to God!**

**\*Hymn of Praise** ..... *Hymn to Joy*

You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,  
Well- spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!  
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to you;  
Teach us how to love each other, by that love our joy renew.

**\*Passing of the Peace**

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

**Honoring Leslie Szalay's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Plymouth Church May 1, 2015 - 2025

*Children of all ages are invited to come to the chancel before returning to their pews for communion Sunday. Sunday School will resume next Sunday.*

**The Proclamation of God's Word**

**Solo** I Know that My Redeemer Liveth (from "Messiah").....G.F. Handel

Diane Julin Menges, soprano

I know that my redeemer liveth,  
And that he shall stand at the latter day, upon the earth.  
And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.  
For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

**Scripture Reading**

Acts 9:1-8

**Sermon** On the Road to Damascus

Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster

**\*Hymn #241** (black hymnal)

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day..... *Puer nobis nascitur*

**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** A Repeating Alleluia ..... Calvin Hampton  
Alleluia.

**Living Out the Word of God**

**Announcements of Church Life**

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory** Jesus Shall Reign ..... Eric H. Thiman  
Plymouth Choir

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Doth its successive journeys run,  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue  
Dwell on his love with sweetest song,  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns.  
The prisoners leap to lose their chains,  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring  
Peculiar honors to our King.  
Angels descend with songs again,  
And earth repeat the loud amen.

**\*Doxology**.....*Lasst uns erfreuen*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

To You, O God, we dedicate the work of our hands and the earnings of our time and efforts. Bless our offerings to bear fruit in the world, to your glory. Amen.

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Invitation to the Lord’s Table**

**Words of Institution**

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

**Music at Communion** Elevation ..... Marcel Dupré  
George A. Sargeant, organ

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

O God, you nourish our bodies and strengthen our souls. May all that is broken be made whole, and may your Spirit work among us to bring new life. Amen.

**\*Hymn #195** (red hymnal) All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name..... *Coronation*

**\*Commission and Benediction**

**\*Congregational Response** Halle, Halle, Hallelujah.....*Caribbean Traditional*

Refrain:

Halle, halle, hallelujah! (sung 3 times)  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!  
I am the resurrection, live in me (sung 3 times)  
Hallelujah, hallelujah! (repeat refrain)

**Voluntary** Trio No. 1 in B Major, Movements 3 & 4.....Johannes Brahms  
Lynna Bao, piano, Timothy Pinkerton, violin, and Spencer Adler, cello

*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.*

## Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

243

*Christopher Wordsworth, 1872; alt.**Matt. 28:5-8; Rom. 5:21; 6:4-11; 1 Cor. 15:20-22*

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise;  
 2 Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born;  
 3 Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en; shed up - on us heav - en - ly grace,  
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to the God of joy;

Sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, sing to God a hymn of praise.  
 Glo - rious life, and life im - mor - tal on this ho - ly Eas - ter morn;  
 Rain and dew, and gleams of glo - ry from the bright - ness of your face;  
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior who came death's bonds to de - stroy;

Je - sus on the cross as Sav - ior for the world's sal - va - tion bled;  
 Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer by God's lib - er - at - ing deed;  
 That we, with our hearts in heav - en, here on earth may fruit - ful be,  
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty;

But the cru - ci - fied Re - deem - er now is ris - en from the dead!  
 Now the Christ with us a - bid - ing to e - ter - nal life shall lead.  
 And by an - gel hands be gath - ered, and be yours e - ter - nal - ly.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! To the Tri - une Maj - es - ty.

*Christopher Wordsworth, gifted nephew of poet William Wordsworth, served the Church of England successively as canon at Westminster, parish priest in Berkshire, and, finally, bishop of Lincoln. This Easter hymn is one of his most enduring.*

Tune: WEISSE FLAGGEN 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Tochter Zion, Cologne, 1741  
 Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL



# Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day

241

Latin, c. 5th century

Luke 24:36-37

Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.

1 Joy dawned a - gain on Eas - ter Day, the sun shone  
2 O Je - sus, Sav - ior, Gen - tle One, come take our  
3 O Sov - ereign One, with us a - bide in this our

out with bright ar - ray; For when the A - pos - tles  
hearts to be your own, That we may give you  
joy - ful Eas - ter - tide; From ev - ery weap - on

hid in fear, the Ris - en Christ to them ap - peared.  
all our days the will - ing trib - ute of our praise.  
death can wield, your own re - deemed for - ev - er shield.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

*This anonymous Latin hymn of uncertain date is one of the two earliest hymns assigned to a special season. From that beginning grew a full list of medieval Latin hymns assigned to specific times and seasons.*

Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR L.M.  
German carol, 15th century  
Adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609  
Harm. George R. Woodward, 1910

## All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

First Tune

Edward Perronet, 1726-1792  
 Alt. by John Rippon, 1751-1836

CORONATION C.M.  
 Oliver Holden, 1765-1844

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;  
 2 Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of our God, Who from his al - tar call;  
 3 Ye seed of Is - ra - el's chosen race, Ye ran - somed of the fall,  
 4 Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, On this ter - res - trial ball,  
 5 O that, with yon - der sa - cred throng, We at his feet may fall;

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown him Lord of all.  
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all.  
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all.  
 To him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, And crown him Lord of all.  
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown him Lord of all.  
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all.  
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all.  
 To him all maj - es - ty as - cribe; And crown him Lord of all.  
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown him Lord of all. A - men.

## MUSIC NOTES

Johannes Brahms' *Trio No. 1 in B major, Op. 8* was completed in January 1854, when the composer was only twenty years old, published in November 1854 and premiered in October 1855 in Danzig. Brahms produced a revised version of the work in summer 1889 that shows significant alterations so that it may even be regarded as a distinct (fourth) piano trio. This *New Edition (Neue Ausgabe)*, as he called it, was premiered in January 1890 in Budapest and published in February 1891. It is scored for piano, violin and cello, and it is the only work of Brahms to exist today in two published versions, although it is almost always the revised version that is performed today. The work is homotonal, with two movements in the key of B major and two in B minor.

G.F. Handel's *Messiah* is an oratorio composed in 1741. The text was compiled from the King James Bible and the Coverdale Psalter by Charles Jennens. It was first performed in Dublin on April 13, 1742 and received its London premiere a year later. After an initially modest public reception, the oratorio gained in popularity, eventually becoming one of the best-known and most frequently performed choral works in Western music. *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth* is a soprano aria that immediately follows the famous *Hallelujah* chorus.

Eric H. Thiman was an English composer, conductor and organist. Most of his church music was written for the non-conformist churches which he served, but he also wrote anthems and canticles for Church of England choirs. One such work is his setting of *Jesus Shall Reign*, which takes the familiar hymn text and pairs it with an original melody.

*Elevation* by French organist and composer Marcel Dupré is a very early and obscure work, lost for many years before being rediscovered and published in the May 1985 issue of *The American Organist* magazine in honor of the one hundredth anniversary of his birth. It is written for the Roman Catholic Communion liturgy at the time the consecrated host is lifted, when the organist customarily improvises a brief voluntary.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Today

**Ushers:** Team 2

**Greeter:** Pam Beck & Ros Gauchat

**Coffee Hour:** C&Y Department

**Organ Recital** – Today 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.

**Youth Group** – All youth 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to meet in the Krumbine Room tonight from 5-7 pm for a youth group Cinco de Mayo celebration as we explore the meaning and history behind the day.

## Upcoming Events

**Plymouth Workday** – On Saturday, May 17, from 9 am – 1 pm, volunteer to help out with projects around the Plymouth property. Then, share a lunch from Barrio with the other volunteers! Sign up in the Welcome Center!

**Save the Date: Church Picnic!** – The annual church picnic will take place right after worship, from 11:00-12:30, on Sunday, June 1st. More details for the event can be found in the May Perspective. We hope you can attend!

**Cleveland Pride** – Cleveland Pride March and Festival will take place on Saturday, June 7. Join Plymouth members to march and/or volunteer at the UCC festival booth. The 1-mile-long march starts at 11 AM and will take about 30 minutes to complete. Information on staging area and meet time for marchers will be communicated closer to the event. Volunteers from Plymouth and Pilgrim UCC churches will also host a table featuring carnival games and information about Plymouth, which will be manned by volunteers from 11 AM to 5 PM. All are welcome to participate. To join and receive more details, sign up in the welcome area or contact Lucas Hershberger at [lucas.hershb@gmail.com](mailto:lucas.hershb@gmail.com).

## **Community Life**

**Class of 2025** – We will recognize our graduating seniors, both high school and college, during worship on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please let Pastor Dillon know if you are a member of Plymouth graduating this year so you can be included in the events of the day. Please submit your information by Sunday, May 25.

**Plymouth Church T-Shirts** – E&G created 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 [bonfire.com](http://bonfire.com) and search “Plymouth Church”.

**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](mailto:mwooster@plymouthchurchucc.org) (this is confidential) with your needs.

## **Plymouth Family**

**Happy Birthday to:** Grace Williams, Elise Lozier, Kylie Berndt, Carrie Garr, Heather Smith, Ramona Wiles, and Helen Mercer

## This Week's Calendar

### Sunday, May 4

9:30 am Coffee House @ Candy Circle Room  
10:30 am Worship @ Sanct  
11:00 am HCC Worship @ Chapel  
11:30 am Coffee Hour @ FH  
4:00 pm George Sargeant Recital @ Sanct  
5:00 pm Youth Group @ KR

### Monday, May 5

5:30 pm Bible Study @ Zoom

### Tuesday, May 6

Election Polling Location  
7:00 pm C&Y Meeting @ Zoom  
7:00 pm Worship Department Meeting @ Zoom

### Wednesday, May 7

1:00 pm Book Group @ 102  
8:00 pm AA Meeting @ KR

### Thursday, May 8

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

### Friday, May 9

1:00 pm Women's AA Meeting @ Parlor

### Saturday, May 10

8:30 am Scouts Pinewood Derby @ FH

### Sunday, May 11

9:30 am Coffee House @ Candy Circle Room  
10:30 am Worship @ Sanct  
11:00 am HCC Worship @ Chapel  
11:30 am Coffee Hour @ FH



### Give Online

Use this QR Code to give online. If you would like to make recurring online gifts, please use your REALM login. If you don't have an account, please email

[kkundrat@plymouthchurchucc.org](mailto: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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