



Plymouth Church
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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

**Annual Meeting
Celebration of 50+ Year Members**

**Twenty Fourth Sunday
After Pentecost
November 12, 2023**

“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

Music calls us to worship so we may listen for God speaking to us.

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

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

Preparation Music Herr wie du willst.....Georg Böhm
Thomas Clark-Jones Organ

Welcome

***Call to Worship** Luke Grube

ONE: God is merciful and generous: slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

ALL: O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise!

ONE: May the Spirit of God inspire us to faithfulness, mercy, and steadfast love.

ALL: Glory to God, and love and praise be ever given by all saints in every age, the church in earth and heaven.

***Hymn #42** (black hymnal) O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing.....Azmon

Prayer of Confession

O God, you are giver of grace, but we have preferred measures of status. You are giver of wisdom, yet we have found it easier to follow foolishness. You are giver of love, yet we have been afraid of what it might cost us to give love, or to receive it. In your love and power, set us free from the bonds of status, foolishness, and fear. Amen.

Silent Reflection

Words of Assurance

ONE: Lift up your hearts!

ALL: We lift them up to God!

***Hymn of Praise**Nettleton

O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!

Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.

Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I’ve known:

Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.

Please scroll down for Hymns

***Passing of the Peace**

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Children in pre-school through 5th grade are invited to depart for Sunday School.

The Proclamation of God’s Word

Choral Anthem Keep Your LampsNegro Spiritual, arr. André Thomas

The Sunday Choir; Cindy Hill, djembe

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

Children don’t get weary till your work is done.

Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

Scripture Reading Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon Keep the Light On! Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster

Sermon Series: The Surprising Wisdom of Jesus, part 4

A Just Peace Declaration Adopted by Plymouth Church, November 13, 2016

The Plymouth Church declares itself A Just Peace Church. We believe this declaration of our commitment to the nonviolent life and teachings of Jesus Christ is critical in a world beset by violence in every form and at every level.

As a Just Peace church, we aim to live the gospel intentionally, embracing as our model Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus sought to relieve the suffering of his people, both their physical suffering as a healer and also the grinding suffering from an unjust political system. Resisting the violence of his time, he insisted on an inclusive community. Through him, we have been offered true union: within ourselves, with our neighbor, with outsiders, with our enemies, with nature, and - through all of these - with the Divine.

As a Just Peace church, we affirm that we are all children of our Creator and manifest this belief by intentionally pursuing equitable and just outcomes in addressing social, economic, political and ecological ills.

As a Just Peace church, we commit ourselves to proactive peacemaking in our community. It is a positive vision of peace, not just the absence of war. It is a call to do as Jesus did.

As a Just Peace church, we strive to build upon Plymouth’s legacy of partnership and service. This involves grounding our vision in the Sermon on the Mount and our actions in the life of Jesus. We will commit to efforts that relieve suffering, change unjust and harmful economic and political structures, remove the underlying causes of violence, and promote the power of nonviolent action to our community.

***Hymn #283 (Black hymnal)** Spirit of the Living God *Iverson*

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.

Choral Response Come and Fill Our Hearts.....*Taizé*

Call to Offering

Offertory Laudamus TeVivaldi

Lia Bendix and Diane Julin Menges, soloists
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you!

***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 new life, we offer our gifts and our lives to your service. May your Spirit be at work, among us and within us, to move your creation closer to the vision that you hold before us. Amen.

***Hymn #18** (black hymnal) Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer*Cwm Rhondda*

***Commission and Benediction**

***Congregational Response**.....*Tallis Canon*

Go with us Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

The Annual Meeting of Plymouth Church

In accordance with the Plymouth Church Constitution, the Annual Meeting is to be held the second Sunday of November, at which time the annual written reports of all committees shall be presented, officers shall be elected (for terms starting January 1), and such other business shall be transacted.

A quorum of 75 people must sign in and be present for the meeting.
Please sign in on one of the clipboards.

Living Out the Word of God

Announcements of Church Life

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O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

42

Charles Wesley, 1740; alt.

1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Sav - ior and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 Je - sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease
4 Glo - ry to God, and love and praise be ev - er, ev - er given

The glo - ries ev - er ech - o - ing the tri - umphs of God's grace!
To spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
Is mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!
By all the saints in ev - ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

The hymn is a cento from a longer poem of eighteen stanzas written by Charles Wesley on the first anniversary of his conversion. The present form of the hymn is one edited by John Wesley for The Wesleyan Hymn Book, 1780.

Tune: AZMON C.M.
Carl G. Gläser, 1828
Adapt. in L. Mason's Modern Psalmody, 1839
Alternate tune: RICHMOND

Please scroll down for Hymns

Spirit of the Living God

283

Daniel Iverson, 1926

Acts 11:15; 2 Cor. 3:1-6; Gal. 5:25

Musical notation for the first system of the hymn. It consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;". Chords are indicated above the treble staff: F, Gm, D, Gm, F, Dm, C, F.

Musical notation for the second system of the hymn. It consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.". Chords are indicated above the treble staff: F, Gm, D, Gm, F, Bb/C, C7, F.

Musical notation for the third system of the hymn. It consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are: "Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.". Chords are indicated above the treble staff: Bb, F, G7, C.

Musical notation for the fourth system of the hymn. It consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.". Chords are indicated above the treble staff: F, Gm, D, Gm, F, Dm, C7, F.

Presbyterian minister Daniel Iverson was inspired to write this chorus one evening while attending revival services led by the George T. Stephans Evangelistic Party in Orlando, Florida, in 1926. It became widely popular at similar meetings before it was published several years later.

Tune: IVERSON 7.5.7.5.8.7.5.
Daniel Iverson, 1926

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

Exod. 13:21; 16:4; 17:6; Ps. 105:39-44; Rev. 22:1-2

William Williams, 1745

St. 1, transl. Peter Williams, 1771; alt.

St. 2-3, transl. William Williams, 1772; alt.

1 Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing
 3 When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are might - y;
 wa - ters flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with your power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on heav - en's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
 ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er sing to you, I will ev - er sing to you.

John Hughes, a railroad official by trade, composed this tune for the 1907 anniversary of Capel Rhondda, Pontypridd, Wales. Cwm Rhondda refers to the "low valley" area surrounding the urban district of Rhondda in southern Wales.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

John Hughes, 1907

Alternate setting: ZION