



*Love Casts Out Fear* | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster

**Fifth Sunday in Lent  
Sacrament of Communion  
New Member Sunday**

**April 6, 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** Psalm Prelude, Set II, No. 2 .....Herbert Howells  
George A. Sargeant, organ

## Welcome

**\*Call to Worship** (based on Psalm 141:1-2) Lalana Green

One: We call upon You, O God; come quickly to us.

**All: Give ear to our voices when we call to you.**

One: Let our prayers rise up like incense before you,

**All: And the lifting up of our heads and hands be an offering to you.**

**\*Hymn #204** (black hymnal)

“Take Up Your Cross,” the Savior Said..... *Deus tuorum militum*

## Prayer of Confession

Most Gracious and Merciful God,

In what we have done, and what we have failed to do, we have separated ourselves—both from you and from our neighbors. We have traded your vision of goodness for small tastes of comfort. Help us to restore our hearts from stone to living flesh, vulnerable and strong, that we may be stewards of your love in the world. 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

Give 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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Give Me a Clean Heart'. It consists of four staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, along with rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music concludes with a double bar line.

### \*Passing of the Peace

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you!

ALL: **And also with you!**

### Children's Message

*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.*

### Choral Anthem Love Bade Me Welcome ..... David Hurd Plymouth Chamber Singers

Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back, guilty of dust and sin.  
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack from my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning if I lack'd anything.

"A guest," I answer'd, "worthy to be here." Love said, 'You shall be he."  
"I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear, I cannot look on Thee."  
Love took my hand and smiling did reply, "Who made the eyes but I?"

"Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them: let my shame go where it doth deserve."  
"And know you not," says Love, 'Who bore the blame?' "My dear, then I will serve."  
"You must sit down," says Love, "and taste my meat." So I did sit and eat.

## **Reception of New Members**

Chelsea Swick-Higgins and Eric Higgins

### **Liturgy of Membership**

#### **\*Plymouth Church Covenant**

Nurtured by God's grace,  
Challenged by Christ's witness,  
Emboldened by the Holy Spirit,  
We are creating a true community,  
Each of us a diverse expression of One God.  
Acknowledging our role in God's mission  
Through our faith and amidst our doubts,  
We explore our call to live the Gospel.  
Opening our hearts to God's ongoing revelation,  
We steward our gifts in faithful discipleship.  
Leading lives of compassion, sharing and celebration,  
We join with God in building a world of peace, justice, and liberation.

#### **\*Welcome and Reception**

We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and challenges of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love, and be witnesses to our risen Savior.

### **Introduction of New Members**

# The Proclamation of God's Word

**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 5:38-42

**Sermon**

Love Casts Out Fear

Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster

*Generational Wisdom for Trying Times, part 5*

**\*Hymn #190** (black hymnal) Beneath the Cross of Jesus..... *St. Christopher*

**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

**Offertory** O Love..... Elaine Hagenberg  
Plymouth Choir, Alissa Wible, cello

O love, that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee;  
I give Thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

O Joy that seeks me through the pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain  
That morn shall tearless be.

**\*Doxology.....Old 100<sup>th</sup>**

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**

O God, we join the saints in praise to you. Receive our gifts, simple as they may be, but given from thankful hearts and hands. Amen.

## Sacrament of Holy Communion

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

**Words of Institution**

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

**Music at Communion** Pie Jesu from “Requiem” ..... Maurice Duruflé  
Lia Bendix, alto, Alissa Wible, cello

Merciful Jesus, grant them everlasting rest.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God our maker and redeemer, we sing for joy to you, for you provide for us. By faith, we experience your grace and the renewal of our relationship with you in Christ. Your life gives us life, and your love gives us love. Amen.

**\*Hymn #222** (black hymnal) My Song is Love Unknown ..... *Rhosymedre*

**\*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** Violin Sonata No. 1 in G Major, op. 78 III. Allegro molto moderato  
Lynna Bao, piano and Hanke Li, violin

*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.*



# "Take Up Your Cross," the Savior Said

Mark 8:34

Charles W. Everest, 1883; alt.

1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said, "if you would  
2 Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak  
3 Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and let your  
4 Take up your cross - and fol - low Christ, nor think till

LENT

my dis - ci - ple be; Take up your cross with  
spir - it with a - larm; Christ's strength will bear your  
fool - ish pride be still; For Christ did not re -  
death to lay it down, For on - ly those who

will ing heart and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."  
spir - it up and brace your heart, sup - port your arm.  
fuse to die up - on a cross on Cal - vary's hill.  
bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown."

Charles Everest, after graduating from Trinity College, Hartford, was rector of a parish in Hamden, Connecticut, for thirty-one years. This sermon in verse is from his collection of hymns titled *Visions of Death and Other Poems*.

Tune: DEUS TUORUM MILITUM L.M.  
Grenoble Antiphoner, 1753

LENT

190

## Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Isa. 32:2; Gal. 6:14

Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1872; alt.

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I glad - ly take my stand,  
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus with - in my mind I see  
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land;  
the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me;  
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of Christ's face;

A home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
And from my griev - ing heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess—  
Con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.  
the won - ders of Christ's glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

*Elizabeth Clephane was known during her short lifetime for her charitable work in her hometown of Melrose, Scotland. After her death, this hymn was compiled from several stanzas of a longer poem that had appeared in a popular Scottish religious magazine.*

Tune: ST. CHRISTOPHER 7.6.8.6.8.6.8.6.  
Frederick C. Maker, 1881

# My Song Is Love Unknown

222

Samuel Crossman, 1664; alt.

2 Cor. 5:15-19; Heb. 5:7-10

1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,  
 2 God left the rich - est throne sal - va - tion to be - stow;  
 3 Some - times they threw down palms and sweet - est prais - es sang.  
 4 What has my Sov - ereign done? What makes this rage and spite?  
 5 I sing my plain be - lief, one song my heart out - pours:

Love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.  
 But Christ as flesh and bone the world re - fused to know.  
 Ho - san - nas and glad psalms through streets and mar - kets rang.  
 Christ gave new strength to run, re - stored the gift of sight.  
 Nev - er was pain nor grief, nev - er was love like yours.

O who am I, that for my sake my God should take frail  
 But, O my Friend, my Friend in - deed, who at my need did  
 Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, for blood and death they  
 Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and  
 This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could

flesh and die? My God should take frail flesh and die?  
 life ex - pend; who at my need did life ex - pend.  
 thirst and cry; for blood and death they thirst and cry.  
 'gainst Christ rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst Christ rise.  
 glad - ly spend; I all my days could glad - ly spend.

*First published in 1664 by Samuel Crossman, one of the first writers of English hymns, this hymn of praise for Christ's love was not appreciated until 200 years later. The tune was named for the parish in northeastern Wales where the composer served as vicar.*

Tune: RHOSYMEDRE 6.6.6.6.8.8.8.  
 John D. Edwards, c. 1840

## 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 II, No. 2 takes as its inspiration Psalm 139, verse 12: "Yea, the darkness is no darkness with Thee, but the night is as clear as the day. The darkness and light to Thee are both alike."

African-American organist and composer David Hurd was Professor of Sacred Music and Director of Chapel Music at General Theological Seminary in New York for 39 years. He has held positions at numerous churches in New York City including Trinity Church, Wall Street and Church of St. Mary the Virgin. His setting of *Love Bade Welcome*, a poem by English Elizabethan-era mystic George Herbert, dates from 1991.

The text of *O Love* was written by Scottish minister George Matheson in 1882. When he lost his sight at the age of nineteen, his fiancé called off their engagement and his sister cared for him as he endured new challenges. Years later, on the eve of his sister's wedding, he faced the painful reminder of his own heartache and loss as he penned the words to this hymn. Elaine Hagenberg gives the words a fresh melody that uses hopeful ascending lines representing renewed faith. Though lingering dissonances remind us of past heartache, the beautiful promise remains: "morn shall tearless be."

20<sup>th</sup>-century French organist and composer Maurice Duruflé spent much of his career as organist of the Church of St-Étienne-du-Mont in Paris. He was famously quite self-critical of his own compositions and as such had a very limited output. He penned his *Requiem* in 1947. The *Pie Jesu* for alto solo, organ, and optional cello is the fifth movement.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Today

**Ushers:** Team 3

**Greeter:** Ros Gauchat

**Coffee Hour:** Evangelism & Growth Department – Welcome New Members!

**Flowers:** Lalana Green, in memory of Bob Green

**Green Team Meeting** – The Green Team will meet at 9:15 am in the library to discuss plans for the Memorial Garden. Anyone is welcome to join!

## This Week at Plymouth

**Cleveland Food Bank** – A group of volunteers from Plymouth will be volunteering at the Cleveland Food Bank and would love to have you join! We will be volunteering at 13815 Coit Road on Tuesday, April 8 and Wednesday, April 16 from 6-8pm. We packed up almost 5 tons of food in January, and the need is still desperate. We will meet afterward at a local restaurant for refreshment. Please let Paul Qua know of your interest or if you have any questions at 216-544-7501.

**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.

**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 [bonfire.com](http://bonfire.com) and search “Plymouth Church”. If you need assistance ordering, please contact Beth Karr at [BethKarr@aol.com](mailto:BethKarr@aol.com) or (216) 973-8919 by this Friday, April 12.

## Upcoming Events

**Lunch Club** – Join us on Wednesday, April 16 at 12:30pm in Fellowship Hall. We will share a homemade lunch and fellowship, as well as a time of prayer during Holy Week. After lunch, we will engage with scripture, song, and mediations as we contemplate the journey that Jesus took – and that we all take – during these most sacred of days in our Christian faith. The suggested donation for lunch is \$10. RSVP by Sunday, April 13.

**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. Sign up for dinner in the Welcome Center by April 13. Worship will begin with communion and then move to the ancient service of Tenebrae, meaning shadows.

**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.

**Jr. Easter Egg Hunt** – Children 10 and under are invited to join us at 10 am on the church front lawn for our annual Jr. Easter Egg Hunt. To register, please sign up in the Welcome Center or contact Leslie at [lszalay@plymouthchurchucc.org](mailto:lszalay@plymouthchurchucc.org).

**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!

## In the Community

**Racial Equity Buddies Event** – Saturday, April 19, book discussion, *My Grandmother's Hands, Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies*, by Resmaa Menakem, via Zoom, 10:30—noon. Our hosts are Akua Saunders and Barry Stees. RSVP to [racialequitybuddies@gmail.com](mailto:racialequitybuddies@gmail.com).

## **Community Life**

**Memorial Forest** – It’s not too late! We are still accepting donations for the Memorial Forest. Donation forms are in the Welcome Center, and donations can be made in the offering plate or through Realm under “Green Team”. The project will start this spring.

**Easter Flowers** – Flowers gracing the chapel on Easter Sunday enhances our Easter joy. To donate, use the form found in the Welcome Center and return the form and donation marked “Easter Flowers” to the offering plate or on Realm. The deadline to donate is next Sunday, April 13.

**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:** Ella Salmon, Jim Chaney, Jan Wilkins, and Sarah Hall

## This Week's Calendar

### Sunday, April 6

9:15 am Green Team Meeting @ Library  
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

### Monday, April 7

5:30 pm Bible Study @ Zoom

### Tuesday, April 8

6:00 pm Cleveland Food Bank Volunteering

### Wednesday, April 9

1:00 pm Meditative Arts Group @ Atrium  
6:00 pm Lenten Dinner @ FH

### Thursday, April 10

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

### Friday, April 11

1:00 pm Women's AA Meeting @ Parlor

### Saturday, April 12

9:00 am Scouts Pancake Breakfast @ FH  
3:00 pm Dick Ogle Memorial @ Sanct

### Sunday, April 13

#### Palm Sunday

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  
12:00 pm B&G Meeting @ Library  
12:00 pm K/1 OWL @ 201  
5:00 pm Youth Group @ KR



### 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.



# *Holy Week Schedule*

**Sunday, April 13**

**Palm Sunday**

Worship at 10:30 in Sanctuary

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**Thursday, April 17**

**Maundy Thursday**

Dinner at 6:15

Worship at 7:30 in Sanctuary

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**Friday, April 18**

**Good Friday**

Worship at noon at St. Paul's Episcopal  
2747 Fairmount Blvd, Cleveland Heights

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**Sunday, April 20**

**Easter Sunday**

Egg Hunt at 10:00

Worship at 10:30 in Sanctuary





## 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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