



Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

January 29, 2023

2860 Coventry Road, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120
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"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

Scroll Down for Hymns

Preparation Music Blessed Jesus, We Are Here.....Johann Sebastian Bach

James Riggs, organ

*"Open thou our ears and heart, help us by the Spirit's pleading; hear the cry thy people raises,
hear and bless our prayers and praises."*

Welcome

*Call to Worship

ONE: Come, all who are poor in spirit;
come, all who mourn for the acts of violence in this nation's streets and places of
gathering for work, and school, and celebration.

**ALL: Come, all who seek to be merciful;
come, all who seek to be pure in heart;
come, all who can be peacemakers.**

ONE: For those who mourn will be comforted.

ALL: Those who are peacemakers will be called children of God.

ONE: Let come together—the weak, the powerless, the foolish.

**ALL: Let us center ourselves in God's Spirit, and bring to God our prayers of sadness,
remembrance, and resolve.**

***Hymn** To a place of celebration.....*Beach Spring*

To a place of celebration filled with laughter, dancing, joy,
Came such violent devastation — one man's efforts to destroy.
God, we grieve for loved ones taken; we lament, "What can we do?"
Now, we're feeling lost and shaken; heal our nation! Make us new!

Weapons kill — and so does silence; hear our prayer as we confess:
We have given in to violence, we have bowed to hopelessness.
God, we've lost our sense of vision of a world where there will be
Plowshares made from violent weapons, justice in society.

Give our leaders strength for action, give them minds to mend our flaws,
Give them courage and compassion, and the will to change our laws.

May we work for legislation that will curb guns' awful toll.
God, renew our dedication to a world that's just and whole.

Give us love to change our vision; give us love to cast out fear.
Give us love to speak with wisdom — love to work for justice here.
Give us love to welcome difference — love no hatred can destroy.
Only love can stop the violence; only love will bring back joy.

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Confession

O merciful God, forgive us for our spiritual arrogance,
for our false independence,
for our misspent energy,
and for our greed for more of the things that do not satisfy.
Forgive our half-hearted commitment,
And our reluctance to act with conviction and faith.
Forgive us, for it is too often that we don't know what we are doing. Amen.

Silent Reflection

Words of Assurance

***Hymn of Praise**.....*Lasst Uns Erfreuen*

Now we who are of tender heart, forgiving others, take our part,
Sing your praises, alleluia! To you we lift our pain and care,
Receive the burdens that we bear, singing praises, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

***Passing of the Peace**

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you.
ALL: And also with you.

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

The Proclamation of God's Word

Reading from Scripture

Matthew 5:1-12

Music Where the Soul Never Dies William M. Golden

Plymouth Folk Revival

To Canaan's land I'm on my way, where the soul never dies. My darkest night will turn to day, where the soul never dies.
Dear friends there'll be no sad farewells, there'll be no tear-dimmed eyes where all is peace and joy and love and the soul of man never dies. The rose is blooming there for me, where the soul never dies. And I will spend eternity, where the soul never dies. The love light beams across the foam, where the soul (of man) never dies. It shines and lights the way to home, where the soul (of man) never dies.

Sermon

Words to Live By

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster

***Hymn (Black) 521** In Solitude.....*Land of Rest*

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

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.

Response A Universal Blessing Alice Parker

The Plymouth Choir

May love so dwell in our hearts, may compassion so flow from our hands, may peace so encompass our lives that justice and mercy abound in this world. Sing love, sing compassion, sing peace. (Alice Parker)

Living Out the Word of God

Announcements of Church Life

Call to Offering

Offertory Simple Gifts.....Shaker Melody/arr Patricia Sanders Cota
The Plymouth Ringers Ensemble

***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**

Gracious God, receive the gifts that we offer and shape them into acts of blessing. Receive the commitment of our lives to love and service, and guide us in the way of Jesus. By your power, make of us instruments of your peace. Amen.

***Hymn (Black) 436** God of Grace and God of Glory.....*Cwm Rhondda*

***Commission and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** We’ll Follow the Light..... *Elderkin*

We’ll follow the light, beautiful light, come where the dew-drops of mercy are bright, shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the light of the world.

Voluntary Verbum supernum..... Nicolas de Grigny

Sol Rizzato, organ

“O saving one, Who expandest the door of Heaven, Hostile wars press. Give strength; bear aid.”

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.