



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2024

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216.921.3510 • www.plymouthchurchucc.org

*“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** Passacaglia..... Dietrich Buxtehude

**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship: A Paraphrase of Psalm 95** Kendalle Cobb

- ONE: Come, let us sing to God.
- ALL: Worship our Rock with a joyful noise!**
- ONE: For God is truly great,
- ALL: a great ruler above all gods.**
- ONE: No place is beyond the reach of God’s hands,
- ALL: depths of the earth or mountain heights.**
- ONE: Sea, dry land—they all belong to God,
- ALL: all of creation, shaped with a divine hand and a loving purpose.**
- ONE: Even the empty and silent places, beyond human hope,
- ALL: God’s hand is there, waiting to be touched.**
- ONE: So let us come and worship,
- ALL: bow down before God, our Creator!**

**\*Hymn #1** (black hymnal) Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise ..... *St. Denio*

**Prayer of Confession**

Almighty and most merciful God,  
we come before you in recognition of our humanity  
and all its attendant limitations.  
We know what you would have us do, but we too often forget.  
One minute we are serving you  
and in the next we find ourselves serving little idols we have set up for ourselves.  
We know you receive us as we are, O God,  
and in faith we ask your forgiveness  
for all of the time we spend separating ourselves from you.  
Help us bend our wills toward your own,  
that we may serve you in all that we say and think and feel and do. Amen.

*Please scroll down for Hymns*

**Silent Reflection**

**Words of Assurance**

ONE: Lift up your hearts!

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

**\*Hymn of Praise** .....*Beecher*

Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast.

Let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised rest.

Take away our love of sinning: Alpha and Omega be.

End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

**\*Passing of the Peace**

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

*Children in pre-school through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to depart for Sunday School.*

**The Proclamation of God’s Word**

**Choral Anthem**                      **Blest Are They**.....*David Haas*

The Sunday Choir; Wayne Hall, guitar

Blest are they, the poor in spirit. Theirs is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they, full of sorrow. They shall be consoled.

Rejoice, and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!

Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they, the lowly ones. They shall inherit the earth.

Blest are they, who hunger and thirst. They shall have their fill

Blest are they, who show mercy. Mercy shall be theirs.

Blest are they, the pure of heart. They shall see God!

Blest are they, who seek peace. They are the children of God.

Blest are they who suffer in faith. The glory of God is theirs.

Blest are you, who suffer hate all because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom of God. Shine for all to see.

**Scripture Reading**                      1 Corinthians 8:1-13

**Sermon**                                      Everything is God’s                      Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster

**\*Hymn #393** (black hymnal) **Blessed Be the Tie That Binds** .....*Dennis*

**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**    Listen, Lord .....*Iona Community*

*Please scroll down for Hymns*

## Living Out the Word of God

### Announcements of Church Life

### Call to Offering

**Offertory** Deep River ..... *Negro Spiritual, arr. Mark Hayes*  
Diane Julin Menges, soloist

Deep River, my home is over Jordan. Deep river, I want to cross over into campground. Oh don't you want to go to that gospel feast? That promised land where all is peace.

**\*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**

Almighty God, all good gifts come from you. As we gratefully receive your generosity, we are moved to reflect your generosity as well. What you have given, we give in turn, dedicated to the works of your church in the world. Amen.

**\*Hymn #15** (red hymnal) Praise to the Lord, the Almighty .....*Lobe Den Herren*

### **\*Commission and Benediction**

### **\*Congregational Response**

Rejoice, and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!  
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

**Voluntary** Fugue à la Gigue ..... Dietrich Buxtehude

*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.*

*Please scroll down for Hymns*

# Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;  
4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;  
in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;  
your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,  
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,  
All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.  
your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.  
in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free Church of Scotland and later moderator of the Assembly, wrote poetry as a retreat from work and to say what could not be fully expressed in the pulpit.

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.  
Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839

# Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

393

*John Fawcett, 1782; alt.*

*Gal. 3:28; 6:2; Col. 3:13-15*

1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
2 Be - fore our God we come and pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,  
4 When we are called to part it gives us in - ward pain,

The shar - ing of a com - mon life is like to that a - bove.  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
And of - ten for each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

*An English Baptist minister, John Fawcett published a number of poetic works. His entire ministry was spent at a church near Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, where he wrote most of his hymns to follow his sermons.*

Tune: DENNIS S.M.  
Melody by Johann G. Nægeli (c. 1768-1836)  
Adapt. Lowell Mason, 1845

*Please scroll down for Hymns*

## Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Joachim Neander, 1650-1680

Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.

"Stralsund Gesangbuch," 1665

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a-tion!  
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign-eth,  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de-fend thee;  
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a-dore him!

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal-va-tion!  
 Shel-ters thee un-der his wings, yea, so gen-tly sus-tain-eth!  
 Sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy here dai-ly at-tend thee.  
 All that hath life and breath, come now with prais-es be-fore him.

All ye who hear, Now to his tem-ple draw near;  
 Hast thou not seen How thy de-sires e'er have been  
 Pon-der a-new What the Al-might-y can do,  
 Let the A-men Sound from his peo-ple a-gain:

Join me in glad ad-o-ra-tion!  
 Grant-ed in what he or-dain-eth?  
 If with his love he be-friend thee.  
 Glad-ly for aye we a-dore him. A-men.