

*Plymouth Congregational Church*  
*United Church of Christ*



*February 21, 2021*  
*First Sunday of Lent*

*With welcoming hearts*  
*Plymouth seeks to share the transforming love of Christ*  
*through*  
*Faith-filled worship, prayer, and study*  
*Hope-filled service and outreach*  
*Love-filled fellowship*

Plymouth Congregational Church  
Worship Service  
Sunday, February 21, 2021  
10:00 a.m.  
First Sunday of Lent

**PRELUDE**

*African Suite*

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**HYMN**

*Lord I Want To Be A Christian*

African-American Spiritual

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Lord is gracious and merciful.

***When we struggle to be faithful, the Lord is steadfast.***

When we stray from God's pathways, the Lord calls us to return.

***Let us worship the Lord in humility and truth!***

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

***God of Everlasting Promise, you care for all of your creation. You create us in your image. In Christ, you reveal your love. Through your Holy Spirit, you call us into sacred fellowship and service. Pour your Spirit upon us as we worship. Inspire us that we might reveal your image in our living. Create us as one body. May we remember your rainbow in the clouds and renew our vows to live as your covenant people. We pray in the name of your Beloved One, who taught us to pray saying,***

***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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.***

**FIRST READING**

Genesis 9:8-17

<sup>8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." <sup>12</sup>God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I

will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup> God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

## CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Rev. Moira McGuinn

## ANTHEM

*Ain’t A That Good News*

African-American Spiritual

## SECOND READING

Mark 1:9-15

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” <sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,<sup>15</sup> and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

## SERMON

*“Breathing Easier”*

Rev. Al Bunis

**SERMON RESPONSE** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* Tune: OLD HUNDRETH

## CALL TO PRAYER

The Lord be with you,  
*and also with you.*

Let us pray: O Lord, show your mercy upon us,  
*and grant us your salvation.*

O God, make clean our hearts within us,  
*and may your Holy Spirit live within us.*

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## PRAYER RESPONSE

*Breath on Me, Breath of God*

Tune: TRENTHAM

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 25

*To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.*

*Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths.  
Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior.*

*To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.*

*Good and upright is the Lord, thus He shows sinners the way.  
He guides the humble to justice and teaches the humble His way.*

***To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.***

*All the paths of the Lord are constancy and kindness.  
Toward those who keep His covenant and decrees,  
The friendship of the Lord is with all those who fear Him,  
And His covenant, for their instruction.*

***To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.***

**OFFERTORY**                      *I Want Jesus To Walk With Me*                      Traditional Spiritual

**BENEDICTION**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE**                      *The Kingdom of God*                      Taize

**POSTLUDE**                      *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*                      arr. Lyndell Leatherman

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**Participating in today's service:**

- Rev. Al Bunis, *Senior Pastor*
- Rev. Moira McGuinn, *Associate Pastor*
- Gerry Brenes, *Director of Music*
- Christopher Toth, *Organist*
- Leo Torres, *Soloist*

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**YouTube:** Find us on YouTube and Subscribe by searching "Plymouth Church"