Plymouth Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

April 6, 2025
10 a.m.
Fifth Sunday in 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

Order of Worship

PRELUDE *Adagio, from Oboe Concerto in D minor* Allesandro Marcello

WORDS OF WELCOME

INTROIT *When Morning Gilds the Skies* LAUDES DOMINI/ARR. BY ROBERT HEATH

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord makes a way for us in the wilderness.
The newness of God is springing forth!
Let us give honor and thanksgiving to the Lord.
Let us worship and declare God's praise!

BRINGING THE LIGHT

***HYMN 92** *Crown Him with Many Crowns (v. 1-2)* DIADEMATA

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Servant Savior, you perfume our lives with your extravagant grace. As we worship, open our eyes to the costly gift you have given for all people. Receive our love and service as fragrant offerings in gratitude for your selfless love. Hear us in the name of Jesus, 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, for ever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 43:16-21

16 Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, 17 who
brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are
extinguished, quenched like a wick: 18 Do not remember the former things, or consider
the things of old. 19 I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive
it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. 20 The wild animals will
honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the
desert, to give drink to my chosen people, 21 the people whom I formed for myself so that
they might declare my praise.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Rev. Hollie Schmidt

****Please stand if able***

ANTHEM *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* Lowell Mason/Arr. by Gilbert Martin

SECOND LESSON John 12:1-8

1Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had
raised from the dead. 2There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was
one of those at the table with him. 3Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure
nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the
fragrance of the perfume. 4But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about
to betray him), said, 5"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the
money given to the poor?" 6(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but
because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into
it.) 7Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my
burial. 8You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

SERMON *"Balancing Act"* Rev. Al Bunis

***SERMON RESPONSE** *Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated* HENDON

Take my life and let it be consecrated,
Lord, to thee; take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of thy love, at the impulse of thy love.

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 *May the Words of My Mouth* Robert Heath

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart
be acceptable unto you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

OFFERTORY *Create in Me a Clean Heart* Robert Heath

***PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

***DOXOLOGY** OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***HYMN 92** *Crown Him with Many Crowns (v. 3-4)* DIADEMATA

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE *Toccata in G minor* J.S. Bach

Participating in today's service:
Rev. Al Bunis, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Moira McGuinn, *Associate Pastor*
Rev. Hollie Schmidt, *Associate Pastor*
Andrea Burt, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Dr. Vindhya Khare, *Director of Music*
Edgar Sanfeliz Botta, *Organist*
Amanda Crider, *Soloist*
Plymouth Chancel Choir

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH