



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

March 19, 2023 • 9 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Lent — Mental Health Sunday

GATHERING MUSIC

GRIEVED SOUL

Laura Caviani

*Grieved Soul is loosely based on a spiritual by the same name, circa 1859.
Here are the lyrics to reflect upon while the trio performs:*

Come, my soul, and let us try for a little season
Every burden to lay by, come and let us reason.
What is this that casts thee down?
Who are those that grieve thee?
Speak and let the worst be known;
Speaking may relieve thee.

OPENING SONG

COME AND FIND THE QUIET CENTER
(see next page)

"Beach Spring"

WELCOME

DeWayne L. Davis

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

Trish O'Brien & Scott Beaumont

SUNG RESPONSE

RETURN TO GOD
(see page after next)

Marty Haugen

Come and Find the Quiet Center

F Gm F Dm Bb C Bb F

1 Come and find the qui - et cen - ter in the crowd - ed life we lead,
 2 Si - lence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
 3 In the Spir - it let us trav - el, o - pen to each oth - er's pain,

F Gm F Dm Bb C7 Bb F

find the room for hope to en - ter, find the frame where we are freed:
 God it is who speaks and names us, knows our be - ing, touch - es base,
 let our loves and fears un - rav - el, cel - e - brate the space we gain:

F C Dm F Bb

clear the cha - os and the clut - ter, clear our eyes, that we can see
 mak - ing space with - in our think - ing, lift - ing shades to show the sun,
 there's a place for deep - est dream - ing, there's a time for heart to care,

C Dm Bb F Gm Am Bb F

all the things that real - ly mat - ter, be at peace, and sim - ply be.
 rais - ing cour - age when we're shrink - ing, find - ing scope for faith be - gun.
 in the Spir - it's live - ly schem - ing there is al - ways room to spare!

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-)

MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White (1800-1879), *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; arr. Ronald A. Nelson (1927-)

BEACH SPRING

8.7.8.7.D.

Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Company.

Music Arr. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (Admin. Augsburg Fortress)

Return to God

Refrain

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and
mer - cy; come seek the ten - der faith - ful - ness of

1. God. 2. God. Last time

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THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Seth Patterson

Renée Kathleen Scholtz, child of Marie Scholtz and Paul Scholtz

THE BAPTISMAL PROMISE OF THE CONGREGATION *(seated)*

Sarah Lehman

With great gladness, we the members of the church join with you in the spirit-filled covenant that you are making today on behalf of your child. As those who are yoked with Renée in the universal company of God's people, we rejoice in the hope and love that she represents. We unite with you to nurture and pray for your child's spiritual growth, that the grace into which Renée was born, and which is signified by this sacrament, may manifest itself in your child always.

BAPTISMAL BLESSING

PASSING OF THE PEACE

READINGS

MARK 14:3–9

OPENING PRAYER

Rachael Keefe

A jar cracked open,
the scent of unexpected extravagance
flooded the room.

Judgment filled the space
between perception and understanding,
as a woman knelt at your feet
drying her tears.

She had come –
 unbidden
 unwelcome
 unwanted
 unclean –

in the house of Pharisee or Leper.

All who watched her found her wanting
 missing
how she cleansed and anointed
 You.

But You saw more
than money wasted
and a life dismissed.

How often do we focus on the jar –
caught up in the expectations of the usual,
failing to notice the human
 being
broken open in our midst?

You welcomed her,
accepted her gifts
and found the others wanting.

Your followers today would respond
just as the original twelve,
though You have taught us to see more clearly.

Crack open these clay jars
that you have paid so dearly for.
Open us to the possibilities of extravagance
in the unexpected encounter
with Pharisees
Lepers
Prostitutes
all of today's
unbidden
unwelcome
unwanted
unclean.

MESSAGE

THE HUMAN BEING IN OUR MIDST Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe

Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe is the author of The Lifesaving Church: Faith Communities and Suicide Prevention (Chalice Press, 2018), the pastor of Living Table United Church of Christ in Minneapolis, MN, and an adjunct faculty member of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. She's a favored conference presenter on topics related to the church and mental health, particularly suicide and congregations, and mental health in the LGBTQIA+ community.

Keefe has graduate degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary and Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School and is currently finishing a graduate certificate program in spiritual direction at St. Catherine University. She lives in West St. Paul with her wife and their dog Morgan and cat Sophie. She is also a painter and a poet. More information is on her website, beachtheology.com.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

One: In deep humility and gratitude to God, who shepherds and comforts us,
let us bring our offerings to God.

All: In thanks and gratitude, we offer these gifts to you.

OFFERING

HOLD ON *Adele Adkins and Dean Josiah Cover*
Chapel Singers *arr. by Mark Bremer*
Mary Laymon, *director*

Hold on, you are still strong.

Oh what have I done, yet again?

Have I not learned anything?

I don't want to live in chaos,

It's like a ride that I want to get off.

It's hard to hold onto who I am

When I'm stumbling in the dark for a hand.

I am so tired of battling with myself,

With no chance to win.

Hold on, let time be patient.

You are still strong. Let pain be gracious.

Love will soon come.

Just hold on.

Sometimes loneliness is the only rest we get.

And the emptiness actually lets us forget.

Sometimes forgiveness is easiest in secret.

Just hold on, let time be patient. . . .

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Tender, loving God, 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 for ever. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

WON'T YOU LET ME BE YOUR SERVANT?
(see next page)

"Servant Song"

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29

1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
Richard Gillard, 1977
Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

BLESSING

As the postlude is played, you are welcome to leave the sanctuary or stay and enjoy the music.

POSTLUDE

NEVER TURN BACK NO MORE African American Spiritual



PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES that we are on the sacred traditional territory of the Dakota people. It is an honor to live, pray, seek justice, and create community alongside Dakota, Ojibwe, and other Indigenous people in the Twin Cities.

CHANCEL FLOWERS are given with gratitude and in celebration of the 46th birthday of Emily Chandmuni Bains Seltz.

ACCESSIBILITY: Plymouth is equipped with a hearing loop in our Sanctuary for those with compatible hearing aids. Sit in the long pews on the ground floor. To receive the audio, hearing aids need a telecoil, also known as a "T coil," which needs to be activated similar to Bluetooth. Ask your audiologist for more information.

Wireless FM listening devices are available for use throughout the Sanctuary and balcony. Ask an usher or the staff at the tech desk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS are available on the church website.

WORSHIP STAFF: DeWayne L. Davis, *Lead Minister*; Beth Hoffman Faeth, *Minister for Congregational Life*; Seth Patterson, *Minister for Justice & the Arts*; Philip Brunelle, *Organist and Choirmaster*; Marie Scholtz, *Associate Music Director & First Service Music Coordinator*; Laura Caviani, *First Service Trio Director*; Cody Bourdot, *A/V Production Manager*; Chris Bohnhoff, *Digital Ministry Specialist*

JAZZ TRIO: Laura Caviana, *piano*; Chris Bates, *bass*; Dave Schmalenberger, *drums*

TRIO ARRANGEMENTS: Laura Caviani

CHAPEL SINGERS: Mary Laymon, *director*

CHURCH REGISTER

RECENTLY BEREAVED

Sam Skemp & Mari Bennett, death of Sam's mother, Mary Jo Skemp (February 26, 2023); Quin Tashiro Skemp, death of grandmother
Kevin & Rachel Walker, death of brother-in-law Tony S. Rohs (March 13, 2023); Leif and Sanna Walker, death of uncle

UPCOMING MEMORIAL

In-person attendance is welcome, or you may watch via livestream (links will be available at <https://www.plymouth.org/about/bulletin-publications/>).

A service for Anita Makar will be held Sunday, March 26, 2023, at 3 p.m.

HOME AND HOSPITAL VISITS: Plymouth's ministers call upon members of the church in their homes, in hospitals or care and rehabilitation centers. If you know of someone who would like a visit from a minister, please contact Rev. Beth Hoffman Faeth (612/871-7400).