



March 19, 2023 • 11 a.m.
Fourth Sunday in Lent — Mental Health Sunday

PRELUDE

FANFARE

Healey Willan
(1959)

SERENE ALLELUIAS FROM A SOUL
LONGING FOR HEAVEN
(from *The Ascension* suite)

Olivier Messiaen
(1934)

☞ Please rise in body, mind, or spirit, as you are able, for every hymn. ☞

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

CHRIST COMES AMONG US
(see next page)

“Jesus ist kommen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Anne Seltz

One: God sent forth the Spirit of love and life, filling the earth with beauty and abundance.

***All:* We celebrate the blessings of a creation and beloved community filled with good things.**

One: God of all people and all places orders the creation and embraces all of us within the divine home.

***All:* We embrace the gift of radical love and belonging for all God’s children.**

One: We come to the beloved community rejoicing and committed to tearing down walls of isolation and separation within God’s family.

***All:* We affirm our covenant to be a haven of safety and hospitality for all.**

☞ Please be seated. ☞

CHRIST COMES AMONG US

Johann L.K. Allendorf, 1693-1773;
Tr. by Oliver Rupprecht and Mark Sedio

JESUS IST KOMMEN 11.10.11.10.11.11.
Melody from Cöthen, c. 1733



1 Christ comes a - mong us, the Source of cre - a - tion,
2 Christ comes a - mong us, pro - claim - ing the king - dom,
3 Christ comes a - mong us, the whole earth re - joic - es!



Al - pha, O - me - ga, Be - gin - ning and End;
Feed - ing the hun - gry, up - lift - ing the poor;
Wel - come, Em - man - u - el, heav'n's ra - dian - t One!



God's work in - car - nate, a light to the na - tions,
Break - ing op - pres - sion and prom - is - ing free - dom:
Sing out the sto - ry, raise high your glad voic - es!



O great Re - deem - er, you come as our friend!
Whole - ness and heal - ing and hope ev - er - more.
Now has the reign of the Sav - ior be - gun.



Heav - en and earth, O pro - claim this great won - der:
You are the Morn - ing Star, all Ho - ly Wis - dom;
Ris - en, a - scend - ed, in tri - umph vic - to - rious;



Christ comes a - mong us, the Source of cre - a - tion.
Christ comes a - mong us, pro - claim - ing the king - dom.
Christ comes a - mong us, the whole earth re - joic - es!

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

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.

PEACE CANDLE RESPONSE A PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

*Ian Kellam
(2005)*

O Christ, the Healer, we have come
To pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored,
When reached by love that never ends?

From every ailment flesh endures
Our bodies clamor to be freed;
Yet in our hearts we would confess
That wholeness is our deepest need.

How strong, O Lord, are our desires,
How weak our knowledge of ourselves!
Release in us those healing truths
Unconscious pride resists or shelves.

In conflicts that destroy our health
We diagnose the world's disease;
Our common life declares our ills:
Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

Grant that we all, made one in faith,
In your community may find
The wholeness that, enriching us,
Shall reach the whole of humankind.

—Fred Pratt Green, 1967

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

DeWayne L. Davis

SHARING GRACE

ANTHEMJESU, DULCIS MEMORIA
(sung in Latin)*Pierre Villette
(1994)*

Jesus, the very thought of thee, With sweetness fills my breast; But sweeter far thy face to see, And in thy presence rest.	No voice can sing, no heart can frame, Nor can the memory find A sweeter sound than thy blest name, O Savior of mankind.
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Jesus, our only joy be thou,
As thou our prize wilt be;
Jesus, be thou our glory now,
And through eternity. Amen.

*—12th-century Latin text***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.

SERMON

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

Seth Patterson

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.**

OFFERTORY

DOMINUS DEUS, AGNUS DEI
(from *Gloria*)

Francis Poulenc
(1959)

Kathryn Rupp, *soprano*, and Choir

Lord God of heaven, God Almighty who takest away the sins of
the world have mercy on us.

Thou who takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.

∞ Please rise in body, mind, or spirit, as you are able. ∞

DOXOLOGY

"Dix"

**Praise to God, immortal praise, for the love that crowns our days!
Bounteous source of every joy, let thy praise our tongues employ;
Singing thus through all our days: Praise to God, immortal praise! Amen.**

∞ Please be seated. ∞

PASTORAL PRAYER

RECESSIONAL HYMN DIVERSE IN CULTURE, NATION, RACE
(see next page)

"*Tallis' Canon*"

COVENANT BENECTION

**We covenant with you, O God, and one with another, and do bind
ourselves in your presence to walk together in all your ways, according
as you are pleased to reveal yourself to us in your blessed word of truth.**

—based on the Salem Covenant of 1629

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

POSTLUDE

FINALE
(from *Organ Sonata No. 1 in D minor*)

Alexandre Guilmant
(1874)

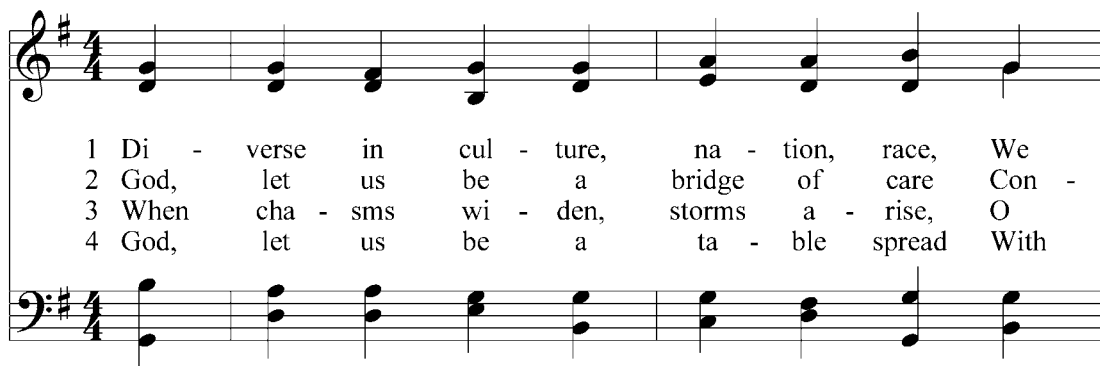


DIVERSE IN CULTURE, NATION, RACE

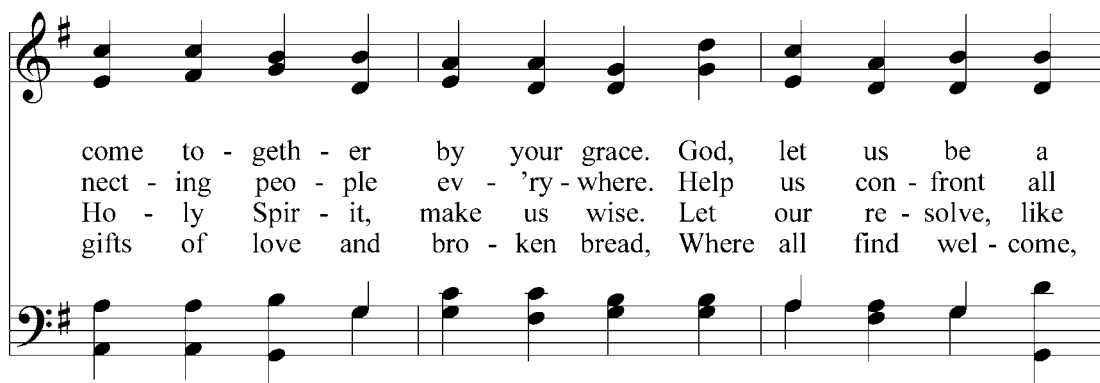
Ruth Duck, b.1947

TALLIS' CANON L.M.

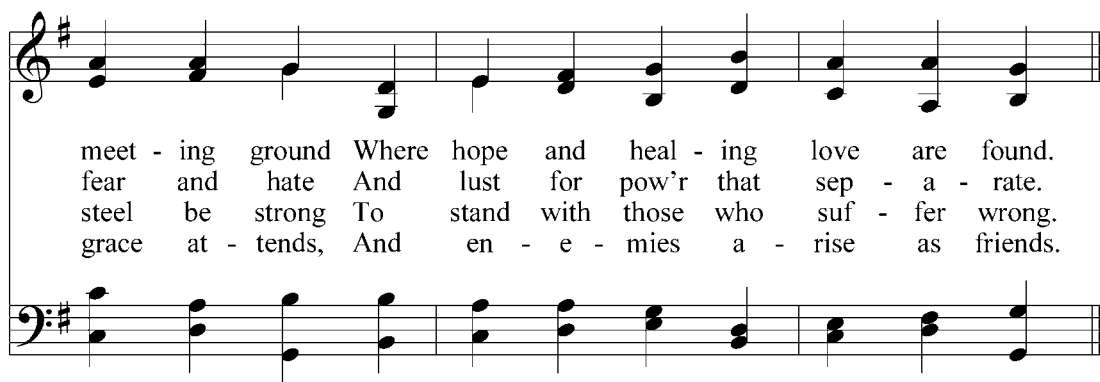
Thomas Tallis, c.1510-1583



1 Di - verse in cul - ture, na - tion, race, We
2 God, let us be a bridge of care Con -
3 When cha - sms wi - den, storms a - rise, O
4 God, let us be a ta - ble spread With



come to - geth - er by your grace. God, let us be a
nect - ing peo - ple ev - 'ry - where. Help us con - front all
Ho - ly Spir - it, make us wise. Let our re - solve, like
gifts of love and bro - ken bread, Where all find wel - come,



meet - ing ground Where hope and heal - ing love are found.
fear and hate And lust for pow'r that sep - a - rate.
steel be strong To stand with those who suf - fer wrong.
grace at - tends, And en - e - mies a - rise as friends.

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.

TODAY'S MUSIC: *We hear four French composers today—Guilmant, Messiaen, Poulenc, and Villetta—all of them prominent in composing sacred music. The Peace Candle response was composed by Ian Kellam, a beloved friend of Plymouth Church whose hymns are often sung here.*

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, *AV Production Manager*; Chris Bohnhoff, *Digital Ministry Specialist*

PLYMOUTH CHOIR: Philip Brunelle, *director*; **SOLO QUINTET:** Maria Jette & Kathryn Rupp, *soprano*; Lisa Drew, *alto*; Dan Dressen, *tenor*; and James Bohn, *bass*

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: If you know of someone who would like a visit from a minister, please contact Rev. Beth Hoffman Faeth (612/871-7400).