

JUNE 9, 2024
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Plymouth Congregational
United Church of Christ
2401 Atwood Avenue, Madison WI**

Ministers: All the people of Plymouth UCC
Pastor: Rev. Leslie Schenk
Accompanist: Lyle Anderson

Worship Help: Carol Faynik (reader), Ted Peterson (usher), Ann Lacy (greeter), Bill Mollway/Kat Klafka (tech and audio support), volunteers (Social Hour hosts)



The Community Gathers

Lighting of the Candles
Ringing of the Bell
Welcome
Announcements, Joys & Concerns

♪ **Prelude** *Psalm 15*, by Anthoni van Noordt

Gathering Prayer

Pastor: Holy One—help us to stop for a moment—stop our busyness, our impatience, our worrying, our striving—and help us to just pause to breathe in your goodness. With each breath, tune us more deeply into you, Gracious God.

Together, as we are comfortable and safely able, let us take in three deep, slow, prayerful breaths: one (inhale/exhale), two (inhale/exhale), three (inhale/exhale).

Help us, wondrous God, to filter out the noise of the world, and to listen for its heartbeat, its essence, its needs calling to us.

All: **Help us to hear your call for our lives and our community, O Source of our Being, and guide us in our response to you.**

♪ **Hymn of Praise No. 407** *How Firm a Foundation*

**How firm a foundation for you has been laid,
By God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!
What more can God say than to you has been said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**“Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
For I am your God, I will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand
Upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand.”**

**“When through the deep waters I call you to go,
The rivers of woe shall not over you flow;
For I will be with you; your troubles to bless,
Delivering you from your deepest distress.”**

**“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
My grace all-sufficient shall be your supply;
The flame shall not hurt you; for I have designed
Your soul to make pure just as gold is refined.”**

**“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake!”**

The Community Shares God’s Word

Scripture Readings:

Luke 8:19-21; Luke 11:27-28

Then his mother and his brothers came to Jesus, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. And he was told, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you.” But he said to them, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.”

While Jesus was saying this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!” But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!”

Revelation 3:20-22

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you, and you with me. To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

Sermon *Listening to a Still Speaking God* (Rev. Christopher Grundy)

The Community Responds to God's Word

Hymn of Response No. 492 *I Would Be True*

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
I would be pure, for there are those who care;
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare,
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.

I would be friend of all, the foe, the friendless;
I would be giving, and forget the gift;
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and live,
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and live.

I would be prayerful through each busy moment;
I would be constantly in touch with God;
I would be tuned to sense God's slightest whisper;
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod,
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray...as Jesus taught us to pray to you, saying:

All: Our Creator, 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.

Sung Prayer Response *Hear Our Prayer O God* (sing twice)

**Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

Offering

Thank you for your offerings for Plymouth Church. Through your generosity, we are sharing God's Love and doing God's work in the world, transforming lives for the better.

Thank you for your donations for Jane's Pocket special offering, which this quarter is dedicated to the Community Immigration Law Center, helping our immigrant neighbors receive legal counsel on immigration-related issues.

The Community Goes Forth

♪ **Sending Hymn** *Whatever is True* (Moran/Grundy; see insert)

Whatever is true,
Whatever is kind,
Whatever is noble,
Keep this in mind.
Know you are held.
God's love keeps you close.
No matter what,
Know you are loved
Wherever you go.
Open your heart,
Open your eyes!
Love for a stranger,
Love for a neighbor,
Seeking the Christ!
(repeat)

Chorus:

**Open your heart, Open your eyes!
Love for a stranger, love for a neighbor, seeking the Christ!**

Blessing and Sending Prayer

Pastor: God's presence is with us

All: **here in this special place, and out in the sacred world.**

Pastor: God is still speaking to us

All: **and we are still listening!**

Pastor: God's light is with us

All: **in us and among us and bathing us in radiant hope.**

Pastor: May you be blessed by God—Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

All: **Our worship has ended, our service begins, as we take God's light out into the world with us! Amen!**

♪ **Postlude** *Aria*, BuxWV 246, by Dietrich Buxtehude

Parts of today's worship service were adapted from a worship kit by Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy and Rev. Andra Moran for the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting 2024. All materials are used with permission of the authors.

Christopher Grundy is a performing songwriter, author, professor, and ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. You can find his music on all major streaming platforms and www.convergencecamp.com. You can learn more about

his music at www.christophergrundy.com. Christopher currently serves as Academic Dean and Professor of Preaching and Worship at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis. He is the author of “Recovering Communion in a Violent World: Resilience, Resistance, and Risk” (see www.belovedcommunion.org) and co-author of “The Work of the People: What We Do in Worship and Why.”

Andra Moran lives in Nashville, Tennessee where she works as a songwriter, singer, author, worship pastor and freelance touring musician in a variety of settings. Her music can be found in congregational resources including songbooks, hymnals and online curriculum. In addition to her work in concert and commissioned music, Andra is a consultant in worship design, modern liturgical music and ministry in churches and conferences across the country. She cofounded the Convergence Music Project (2016) with Bryan Sirchio, Christopher Grundy, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan and Brian McLaren. Andra coauthored “Brim: Creative Overflow in Worship Design” with Suzanne Castle in 2013, and continues to offer worship materials and retreats through BrimProject.com. Currently, Andra serves on the staff of Woodmont Christian Church in Nashville as the Creative Director and worship pastor.

Whatever is True

(Phil. 4:8)

By **Andra Moran and Christopher Grundy**
with **The Bridge Congregational**
Songwriter Workshop

♩. = 54

Verse:

Gsus2 A sus/E A D Dsus D G

What-ev-er is true, what-ev-er is

6 D A G D G Bm A

kind, what-ev-er is no-ble, keep this in mind. Know you are held. God's love keeps you close. —

Chorus:

11 G Em A D Dsus D

— No mat-ter what, know you are loved where-ev-er you go. O-pen your

17 G Em D Bm G A

heart, o-pen your eyes! Love for a strang-er, love for a neigh-bor, seek-ing the

Chorus:

23 1. D Dsus 2. D Dsus D G Em D Bm

Christ! Christ! O-pen your heart, o-pen your eyes! Love for a

30 G A D Dsus D

strang-er, love for a neigh - bor — seek-ing the Christ! —