



Sixth Sunday *of* Easter

May 5, 2024

We believe all people are created in the image of God, and we embrace Jesus' call to love one another. We commit ourselves to the ongoing work of being an Open and Affirming congregation. We strive, with God's grace, to welcome all persons into our community. We celebrate our differences, including age, race, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status, mental and physical ability, and spiritual tradition. We invite all to share fully the life, leadership, ministry, and sacraments of this church. Trusting in the Holy Spirit, we journey together in faith.

Open & Affirming Covenant of The Plymouth Church in Framingham

Sunday, May 5, 2024
Sixth Sunday of Easter & Fourth Sunday of Confirmation

Tolling of the Bells

Prelude *My Lord What a Mornin'* Thygerson

Call to Worship *Isaiah 25:6-9*

*Opening Hymn *Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven*

Welcome & Announcements

Unison Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we set our lives before you for your righteous judgment. Let your love reveal to us our sin and disconnection. For prioritizing our safety and comfort, we apologize. For the suffering we ignore, we turn back. For the aid we did not lend, we confess. Forgive us, that we might be – without shame or guilt – delivered into the work of your gospel again.

Passing of the Peace

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

Acts 8:26-40

Blessing

Sermon "Spiritual and religious"

Choir Anthem *Kyrie* Faure

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Andantino* Elgar

* As the Spirit guides you, we encourage you to rise in body or spirit.

Doxology

Each week, we sing and sign an inclusive Doxology (ASL).

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God for all that love has done.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

Blessing

Holy Communion

This morning, the bread is allergen free, so that we may all partake together. A Deacon will signal your pew when to come forward to receive the bread and cup. Bring both back to the pew with you, so that we may eat together. We would be happy to bring the elements to you; just let the Deacon know as they come by.

Invitation

Opening Prayer

Responsive Consecration

Instructions

Communion Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together

(Pilgrim Hymnal, 288)

Closing Prayer

*Closing Hymn

Lord, I Want to be a Christian

*Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude

Postlude in F

Thiman



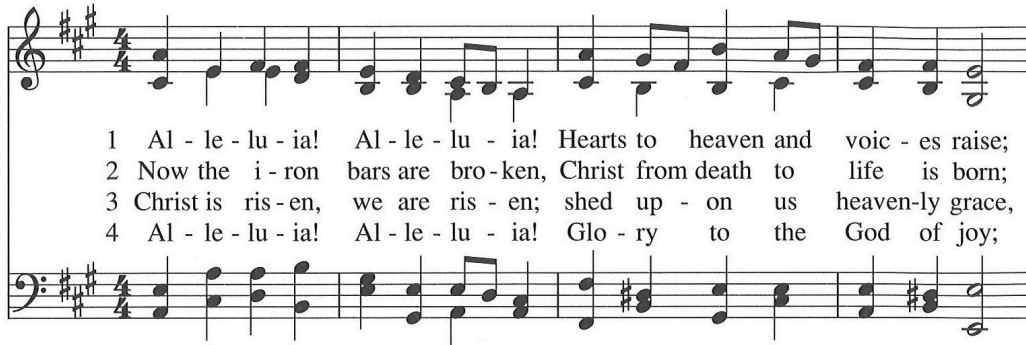
Following the Closing Hymn, we encourage the congregation to remain risen, in body or spirit, to receive the Benediction, which is both blessing and commission. You may sit for the Choral Response and Postlude in quiet contemplation.

All are invited to the Parish Hall for coffee, tea, and snacks. We understand it can be difficult to step into a room of strangers. We hope, with every cup and cookie, we can deepen our connections and learn a little more about each other each week.

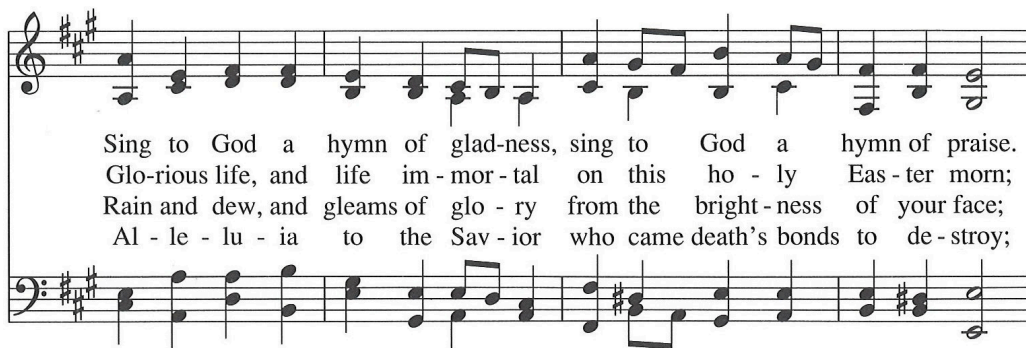
* As the Spirit guides you, we encourage you to rise in body or spirit.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

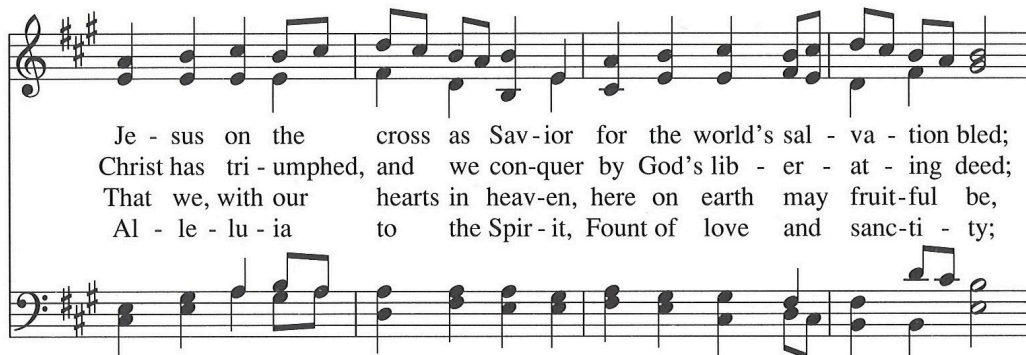
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*Christopher Wordsworth, 1872; alt.**Matt. 28:5-8; Rom. 5:21; 6:4-11; 1 Cor. 15:20-22*


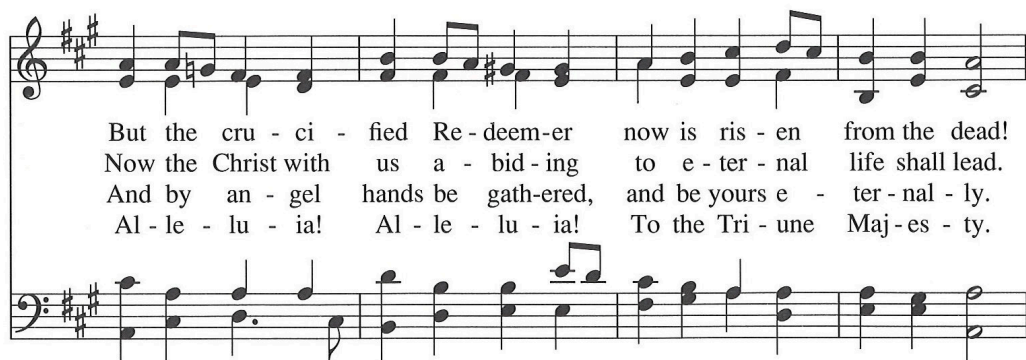
1 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise;
 2 Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born;
 3 Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en; shed up - on us heav - en - ly grace,
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to the God of joy;



Sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
 Glo - rious life, and life im - mor - tal on this ho - ly Eas - ter morn;
 Rain and dew, and gleams of glo - ry from the bright - ness of your face;
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior who came death's bonds to de - stroy;



Je - sus on the cross as Sav - ior for the world's sal - va - tion bled;
 Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer by God's lib - er - at - ing deed;
 That we, with our hearts in heav - en, here on earth may fruit - ful be,
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty;



But the cru - ci - fied Re - deem - er now is ris - en from the dead!
 Now the Christ with us a - bid - ing to e - ter - nal life shall lead.
 And by an - gel hands be gath - ered, and be yours e - ter - nal - ly.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! To the Tri - une Maj - es - ty.

Christopher Wordsworth, gifted nephew of poet William Wordsworth, served the Church of England successively as canon at Westminster, parish priest in Berkshire, and, finally, bishop of Lincoln. This Easter hymn is one of his most enduring.

Tune: WEISSE FLAGGEN 8.7.8.7.D.
 Tochter Zion, Cologne, 1741
 Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

Lord, I Want To Be a Christian

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African-American spiritual

Deut. 6:5-6; 10:12-16

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart,
3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Refrain

In my heart, in my heart,
In my heart, in my heart,
in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Many of the enslaved of antebellum America did not want to become Christians because they did not want to adopt the religion of their captors. But this spiritual attests that the Christian faith was an internal strength and aim for many.

Tune: I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN
8.6.8.3. with refrain
African-American spiritual
Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

Prayer Project 2024



Some of you may remember that a number of years ago I put together "Prayer Resources" binders that I placed in the meeting rooms around church. These binders are filled with many different prayers suitable for use during church meetings or other events. This project was inspired by the many times I've seen everyone in the room stare at their hands when there was a call for prayer to start or to close a meeting. These prayers are intended to help break that awkward moment and to help each of us ask God to be present in our meetings.

I've uploaded many of the prayers, along with some new ones, onto our Google Drive for ease of access. (The link appears at the bottom of your Wednesday Email.) Most of these prayers were submitted by members of the congregation, and I'd love for you to provide new ones that have special meaning for you. Save the link to your Internet Favorites, and beautiful prayers will always be just a click away!

Christ's Peace,

Al Rapoza

Bulletin Reminders

Each week, after worship, Rev. Morisse is available for conversation in the Parish Hall.

DAILY EMAILS

Based on the strong response to the Lenten Devotional, beginning Monday, we will email a Daily Prayer Monday through Saturday. (For a prayer on Sundays, come to church!) Where Lent offered podcasts and exercise, this ongoing offering will be simpler: a text, a thought, and a prayer. If you are already signed up for Living Lent Daily, you're on the list. *New subscribers can find the signup in the Wednesday Email.*

NOMINATING SEASON IS HERE

It's "Nominating Season," and we're looking for enthusiastic and engaged individuals to join our Coordinating and Standing Committees. We have coordinating openings on Care, as well as positions on Deacons, Stewardship, and Property Management. There are also potential positions as Clerk and Assistant Treasurer. We also encourage you to contact one of the current committee members to find out more about what they do and their current priorities. Please let us know your interest by the end of April. The new slate of Committee members will be presented and voted on at Annual Meeting, May 19. Contact **Sue Tonkiss** or **Leigh Remington**, if you're interested or want more information.

PERENNIAL PLANT SALE, MAY 18

The Plymouth Church Annual Perennial Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, **May 18**, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in front of the church. The Plant Sale seeks volunteers for setup and staffing. All gardeners, interested novices, and anyone willing to help is welcome. Please join the fun! Volunteers should contact **Ellen Rivoir** or **Leona Dalton**.

PRE-LOVED CLOTHING SALE, MAY 17/18

The Pre-Loved Clothing Sale will take place on Friday evening, **May 17**, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, **May 18**, from 9:00a.m. to 2:00 p.m. As always, we need lots of volunteers to help sort and set up the sale. For questions and to offer your help, please contact Mattie Schadt at 774.217.3477.

BOSTON PRIDE FOR THE PEOPLE PARADE Saturday, June 8

Join your friends and family at the 'Boston Pride for the People' Parade, in downtown Boston. More details to follow. Any questions, please speak with **Robert Clark**, **Kathy Copson**, or **Laraine Snooks**. We hope to see you there!

The Plymouth Church in Framingham

STAFF DIRECTORY

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
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| SENIOR PASTOR | REV. GREGORY MORISSE |
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| PLYMOUTH HOUSE DIRECTOR | JENN GUNNELL |
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Our Core Values

- Community
- Intergenerational Life
- Service and Social Action
- Worship and Spiritual Life
- Welcome and Hospitality

Our Bedrock Beliefs

- We believe we are called to be kind, love justice, and walk humbly with God.
- We believe that God is present with us always in times of trial and rejoicing.
- We embrace Jesus' call to love and serve one another.
- We believe that God hears and answers our prayers.
- We believe in the fullness of God's grace (unmerited favor).