

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 19, 2023

For once you were darkness,
but now in the Lord you are light.
Live as children of light.

Ephesians 5:8

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Tolling of the Bell

Prelude

Blessed Spring

Biery

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy!

Welcome and Announcements

Unison Prayer of Confession

Holy Spirit, settle down here among us. In this age of individualism, we are too content to go it alone. We are seduced by this idea that we do not need our neighbors. Draw us back into the church and our covenant of faith. In this age of convenience, we are tempted to reject all that is uncomfortable and anyone that disagrees with us. Teach us again the wisdom of opening our doors and our hearts. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Kyrie Eleison

The image shows a musical score for the Kyrie Eleison. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in G major, 4/4 time, and the lyrics are "Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e -". The piano accompaniment is in the same key and time, with a simple harmonic accompaniment. The second system continues the vocal line with "le - i - son." and includes a "Hum" section. The piano accompaniment also continues, with a long note under "Hum".

Music: Jacques Berthier
© 1998, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Passing of the Peace

One: "The Peace of Christ be with you."

All: And also with you!

Kindness in Action

Alison Simons, Jackson Augusto

John 9:13-34

Blessing

Choir Anthem

None Other Lamb

Burroughs

Children's Time

Sermon

For my Conservative Friends: I Love You and Need You

Hymn

Amazing Grace (verses 1, 2)

Prayers of the People

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

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

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

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Sarabande in C Minor

Bach

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, & Spirit one. Amen.

Closing Hymn

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude

Day of Peace (based on Jerusalem)

Callahan

Following the Benediction, the congregation is encouraged to enjoy the entire Postlude.



Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Reginald Heber, 1783-1826

NICAEA 11.12.12.10.
John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee;
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 Though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see;
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y;
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 On - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y;

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 Which wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 Per - fect in power, in love, and pur - i - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty! A - men.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

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St. 1-4, John Newton, 1779; alt.

St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found, was blind but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.
(NEW BRITAIN)
Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829
Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

*Jer. 8:18-22; 46:11; Acts 10:34-43**African-American spiritual; alt.**Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e - ad, to make the wound-ed whole,

there is a balm in Gil-e - ad, to heal the sin - sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,
 2 Don't ev - er feel dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend,
 3 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,

to Refrain

But then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 who, if you ask for knowl-edge, will nev - er fail to lend.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus, who died to save us all.

This is one of the most moving of the African-American spirituals because it illustrates the way in which the enslaved tried to encourage those who were feeling especially weighed down by the burden of their captivity.

Tune: BALM IN GILEAD Irr. with refrain
African-American spiritual

Bulletin Reminders for March 19, 2023

KINDNESS IN ACTION CAMPAIGN

Our *Kindness in Action* Campaign is going strong and our Kindness Garden is in full bloom! As of last Sunday, we planted a mighty 192 hearts! We're working towards a goal of 250 hearts to flower the cross in kindness on Easter morning! Our collaboration with *Keep Framingham Beautiful* is thriving, with a little added inspiration from the Social Action team. For every kindness and cleanup members post on Facebook, we are pledging a \$1 donation to the KFB fund, up to \$100! Check out the *Keep Framingham Beautiful* Facebook page, if you can!

CWS HYGIENE KITS

We seek: **hand towels, washcloths, combs, nail clippers, bath-size soap, toothbrushes, band-aids**. Both the hygiene kits and school kits will be assembled by Faith Workshop kids at the end of March. Please leave donations in the baskets near the lower elevator.

PLYMOUTH CHURCH COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for The Plymouth Church College Scholarship are now available. The deadline is Sunday, **April 16**. Awards will be given on Sunday, May 21, during *Children & Youth Sunday*. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Greg.

PEARL STREET CUPBOARD & CAFÉ

Pearl Street Cupboard & Café has an urgent need for volunteers, Monday-Friday, from 9-1 to work in the pantry sorting, making bags, and greeting clients. We have a need for volunteers Monday-Friday from 1-4 to pre-fill bags (with no client interaction). We are also looking for volunteers Saturday and Sunday from 12-1 in the Café to distribute meals to go to our clients.

DO YOU VOLUNTEER? LET US KNOW!

Volunteering is Kindness in Action. Many Plymouth Church folks are volunteering in the community. We want to know who you are and what you do. On Sunday, **March 26**, Social Action will highlight your good work and add your activities to our KIA heart collection. Would you join us to share a few words about what you do and what it means for you? To let us know what you're up to, contact **Mattie** at 774.217.477, or **Al Rapoza** at 508.788.9519.

EASTER SUNDAY FLOWERS 2023

As we did last year, we are taking donations to a "Flower Fund" to cover the expense of providing Easter flowers to our housebound members. For a donation of \$20, you may honor, celebrate, or remember a loved one in our Easter Sunday bulletin by placing your order. You have the option of taking your plant(s) home with you on Easter Sunday, or donating your plant(s) to one of our housebound members in need of cheer. Please indicate your choice on your order. Deadline to order is Thursday, **March 30**. (See complete details and links in your Wednesday Email.)



NEW MEMBER SUNDAY (EASTER!)

It's way past time that we offered folks a chance to formally join the church. If the Spirit is moving you to, we invite you to attend one or both conversations, after worship, on Sunday, **March 26** and Sunday, **April 2** (Palm Sunday). Bring your questions and your curiosity. We will formally welcome and covenant with New Members on Easter Sunday! We had a few folks join during the pandemic online, so we'll probably put them up front, too. It'll be fun!



EASTER FLOWERS

As we did last year, we are taking donations to a “Flower Fund” to cover the expense of providing Easter flowers to our housebound members. For a donation of \$20, you may honor, celebrate, or remember a loved one in our Easter Sunday bulletin. You have the option of taking your plant(s) home with you on Easter Sunday, or donating your plant(s) to someone in need of cheer. Please indicate your choice on the form.

Deadline to order is **Thursday, March 30.**

Given by _____

Tel # _____

No. of Plants _____

@\$20/each _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor/Celebration of _____

Please print legibly.

I will take my plant(s) home after the Easter service.

I would like my plant(s) delivered to someone in need of cheer.

*Please make your check payable to "Plymouth Church"
with "Easter Flowers" in the memo line.*

