

PLYMOUTH CHURCH

SHARES THE WORSHIP OF GOD

April 28, 2024

The Fifth Sunday of Easter



Hope can be a powerful force. Maybe there's no actual magic in it, but when you know what you hope for most and hold it like a light within you, you can make things happen, almost like magic.

—Laini Taylor

PRELUDE

Holy Manna
arranged by David See, *organist*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lesley-Ann Hix Tommey

Leader: Hope never gives up.

Congregation: Hope cares more for others than self.

Leader: Hope doesn't want what it doesn't have.

Congregation: Hope doesn't strut.

Leader: Hope doesn't have a swelled head,
and doesn't force itself on others.

Congregation: Hope is never "me first."

Leader: Hope doesn't fly off the handle,
doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
and doesn't revel when others fail.

Congregation: Hope always looks for the best.

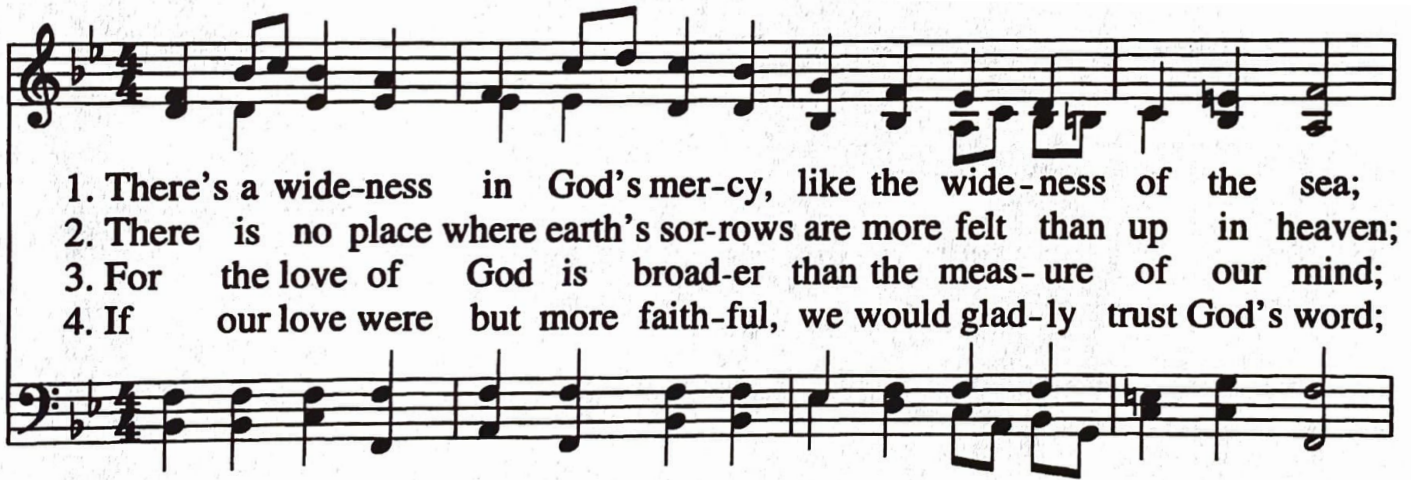
Leader: Hope never looks back,
but keeps going to the end.

Congregation: Hope never dies.

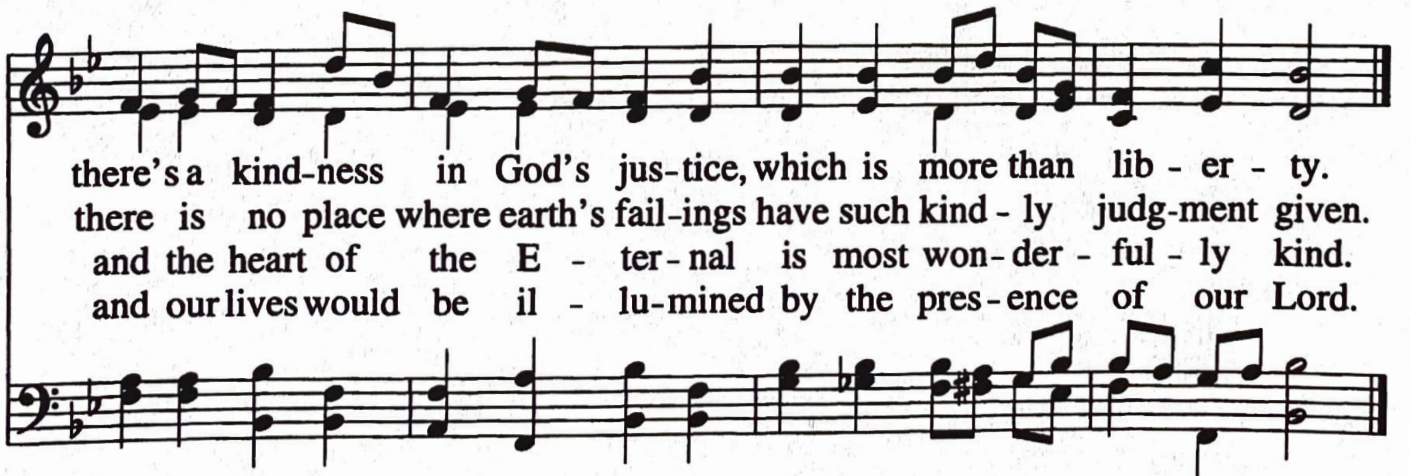
Leader: Let us worship the God of hope.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. There is no place where earth's sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven;
3. For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;
4. If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is no place where earth's fail-ings have such kind - ly judg-ment given.
and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.
and our lives would be il - lu-mined by the pres-ence of our Lord.

WORDS: Frederick W. Faber, 1854, alt.
MUSIC: Lizzie S. Tourjée, 1877

WELLESLEY
87.87

*INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Robert Reigstad

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. And forgive us
our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against
us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the
glory, forever. Amen.

READING FROM THE PSALTER

Psalm 19:1-8
Emma DeMonte

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims God's
handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

**Congregation: There is no speech, nor are there words.
Their voice is not heard.
Yet their voice goes out through all the
earth, and their words to the end of the
world.**

Leader: In the heavens God has set a tent for the
sun, which comes out like a bridegroom
from his wedding canopy,
and like an athlete runs the course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them,
and nothing is hid from its heat.

**Congregation: The law of God is perfect,
reviving the soul.
The decrees of God are sure,
making wise the simple.
The precepts of God are right,
rejoicing the heart.
The commandment of God is clear,
enlightening the eyes.**

CHORAL THANKSGIVING

I Will Praise Thee, O Lord
Adam Geibel

I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart.
I will show forth thy marvelous works.
I will be and rejoice in thee.
I will sing praise to thy name, O Lord, most high.
Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty.
Give unto the Lord glory and strength.
Give unto the Lord the glory,
the glory due unto his name.
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous!
For praise is comely for the upright.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah! Amen!

EPISTLE READING

Romans 12:9-13

Let love be genuine. Hate what is evil. Hold fast to what is good. Love one another with mutual affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal. Be ardent in spirit. Serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope. Be patient in affliction. Persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints. Pursue hospitality to strangers.

CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO CONFESSION

Holy, Holy, Holy
Argentina, 20th century

Holy, holy, holy.
My heart, my heart adores you!
My heart knows how to say to you:
you are holy, Lord!

CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: God, if we have left a neighbor wounded by the way,

Congregation: if we have ignored the cries of the poor,

Leader: if we have caused tears to those who love,

Congregation: if we have failed to feed the hungry,

Leader: if we have neglected to visit those in distress,

Congregation: if we have seen injustice and turned away,

Leader: if we have used our responsibilities as an excuse for not helping,

Congregation: forgive us and help us get our priorities in the right order.

Leader: Let us confess our sins to God.

In this moment, we go to God in prayer, silently confessing our sins so that we may take hold of the forgiveness God gives.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When we walk out of the light of God, we stumble. God accepts and forgives our stumbling and is there to help us back into the light. We are accepted, forgiven, and made new by the love of God.

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen, Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Brett Younger

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Children are invited to gather at the front of the sanctuary.
Children, ages 3-12, are encouraged to join us for
Sunday school after the children's message.*

HYMN ON HOPE

I've Got Peace Like a River
African-American spiritual

I've got hope like an ocean, I've got hope like an ocean,
I've got hope like an ocean, in a my soul.
I've got hope like an ocean, I've got hope like an ocean,
I've got hope like an ocean, in a my soul.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 12:29-31

Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION TO GIVE

Leader: May you have enough happiness to keep you kind,

Congregation: enough trials to keep you strong,

Leader: enough sorrow to keep you human,

Congregation: enough hope to keep you happy,

Leader: enough friends to give you comfort,

Congregation: enough enthusiasm to look forward,

Leader: enough faith to overcome despair,

Congregation: enough determination to make each day better than yesterday,

Leader: enough generosity to give.

We invite you to give as the offering plate is passed, or online.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

More Love, O Christ. to Thee
Elizabeth Prentis
Sylvanus Phelps
Lanny Lanford

More love to thee, O Christ,
more love to thee.

Hear thou the prayer I make
on bended knee.

This is my earnest plea
more love, O Christ, to thee.
More love to thee,
more love to thee.

Once earthy joy I craved,
sought peace and rest.
Now thee alone I seek.
Give what is best.

Then shall my latest breath
whisper the praise.
This be the parting cry
my heart shall raise.

This still its prayer shall be
more love, O Christ, to thee.

*DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

*HYMN ON GOD'S GOODNESS

Jesu, Jesu

Refrain (Unison)

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

Fine

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
 2. Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and
 3. These are the ones we would love, these are the ones we would
 4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees, thank-ful and hum-ble and

feet, Je - sus, our broth-er, a hum - ble man.
 race; neigh-bors are near and far a - way.
 serve; all these are neigh-bors, your child - ren, too.
 true; this is the way we would live with you.

D.C.

WORDS: Tom Colvin, 1969, alt.

MUSIC: Ghanaian folk song; arr. Tom Colvin, 1969; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

CHEREPONI
Irr. w. refrain

This text was written for a meeting of the...

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

Love never ends.

But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes the partial comes to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

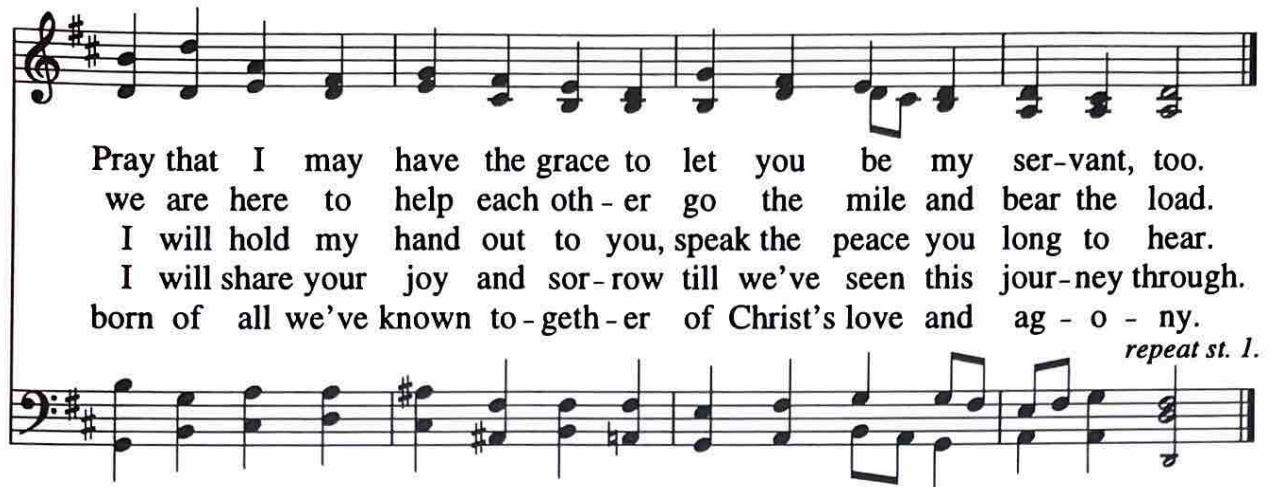
For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God within us,
for the Word of God around us,
thanks be to God.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?



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-'lers 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 st. 1.

WORDS: Richard Gillard, 1977, alt.
MUSIC: Richard Gillard, 1977; harm. FCC, 1997

SERVANT SONG
87.87

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rise Up, O Saints Of God
Festal Song
Seth Bingham

The very least you can do in your life is figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof.

—Barbara Kingsolver

The flowers are in loving memory of
the Graf-Koch-Rockel family.