

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany  
February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
*"Following FORWARD"*



Welcome

Prelude

Gathering for Worship -

Where do we find you, Holy One, and how do we follow?

Find me at your table,

**ALL: We'll share your food**

Find me in your resources,

**ALL: We'll share your riches**

Find me in your power,

**ALL: We'll share your mercy**

Find me in your pain,

**ALL: We'll share your forgiveness**

Find me in your generosity,

**ALL: We'll share all, and expect nothing in return**

In community, seek my holiness,

**ALL: We follow you in love, generosity, joy**

In the world, share my desire:

**ALL: We follow you in justice, mercy, peace for all.**

Gathering Prayer

**ALL: Holy One, you are deep within our world, calling us to join you in creating abundant life for all. Open our hearts to recognize you; Free us to trust your call and follow; Enable us to repent, and forgive, and join in your work to make "all things new". In Jesus' name we pray.**

**Amen**

Song "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing" TNCH #459

Joys and Concerns: Our Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Generous Gifts

Reminder of Generous Giving Opportunities

Doxology

Prayer Dedication

**ALL: Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God. Let them give You honor and glory as we serve the needs of your people. And let the called and redeemed of God say, Amen**

Song "Every Step of the Way" SPP #66

Prayer for Scripture

## 1st Reading: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

### Exhortation to Patience and Trust

- 1 Do not fret because of the wicked;  
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
- 2 for they will soon fade like the grass,  
and wither like the green herb.
- 3 Trust in the Lord, and do good;  
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
- 4 Take delight in the Lord,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- 5 Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in him, and he will act.
- 6 He will make your vindication shine like the light,  
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
- 7 Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,  
over those who carry out evil devices.
- 8 Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.  
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
- 9 For the wicked shall be cut off,  
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.
- 10 Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;  
though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.
- 11 But the meek shall inherit the land,  
and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

## 2nd Reading: Luke 6:27-38

“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even

sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as God is merciful.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

## **Meditation**

**Song “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” TNCH #495**

### **Affirming Our Mission**

**ALL: We the members and friends of Plainfield Congregational Church United Church of Christ seek to embody and celebrate God’s love by being a community that lives Christ’s compassion and promotes justice, healing and wholeness of life; a joyous family where all are welcome to join together to grow in faith and love.**

**Blessing** - Send us into the world, O Holy One, Ready to witness to Your generosity and forgiveness; Ready to be recognized as those who follow Your Way; Ready to shape a world of justice, peace and joy.

## **Chimes**

## **Postlude**

**\*SPP – Sing! Prayer and Praise Hymnal**

**\*TNCH – The New Century Hymnal**