

Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word
April 23, 2017
Second Sunday of Easter
10:00 am

THE GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

1) Gaudent in Caelis
2) Verbum Caro

Anton Holzner

*OPENING HYMN

The Strife is O'er

No. 242

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Alyssa Galea

One: In the beginning, God made the world:
Made it and mothered it,

Many: Shaped it and fathered it,

One: Filled it with seed and with signs of fertility,

Many: Filled it with life and with song and variety.

One: All that is green, blue, deep and growing,

Many: God's is the hand that created you.

One: All that is tender, firm, fragrant and curious:

Many: God's is the hand that created you.

One: All that crawls, flies, swims, walks, or is motionless:

Many: God's is the hand that created you.

One: All that speaks, sings, cries, laughs, or keeps silence:

Many: God's is the hand that created you.

One: Let all that has life and breath praise the Lord!

Many: Alleluia! Praise God!

WORDS OF WELCOME

Quinn G. Caldwell

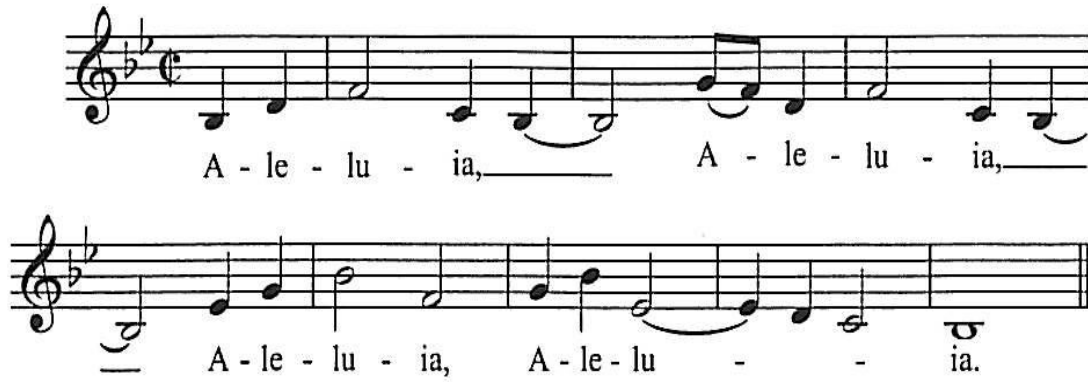
THE REFRESHMENT OF FORGIVENESS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON *and* PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Please share a sign of peace with those around you.
The traditional Easter greeting is "Christ is risen!" and the response is "He is risen indeed!"*

**Please rise if you are able*



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THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Kevin Michael Hind

Child of Abby and Brendan Hind

Godparents are Justin Rowland and Lauren Glavin

INTRODUCTIONS AND ADDRESS

LITANY OF BAPTISM

- O ne: We are gathered to present Kevin Michael Hind to the church and to dedicate him to God. What can we affirm about him?
- Many: That he is a child of God and made in the image of God.
- O ne: As Kevin grows in our congregation, how will he know that he is a child of God, made in God's image?
- Many: We will give him our love and include him in the life and ministry of this congregation.
- O ne: How will he learn of the Christian faith?
- Many: We will tell him about Abraham, the father of our faith; about Sarah, the mother of Isaac; about Moses and Miriam who led our ancestors out of bondage; about Ruth's example of faithfulness; about the Jewish hope for a messiah; about Mary and Joseph's openness to mystery; about the Savior, Jesus; and about the history of the church as the people of God.
- O ne: And what, in turn, will we expect of him?
- Many: We look forward to sitting with him at the Lord's Table, sharing with him the costs and joys of discipleship, learning and growing with him in the Christian pilgrimage, and declaring with one voice our faith in God and God's son, Jesus.
- O ne: Do you, Abby and Brendan, parents, and Justin and Lauren, godparents, assume your primary responsibility for fulfilling these expectations by growing with this child in the Christian faith, helping him to become a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, and by offering him the nurture and support of the Christian church?
- Parents/Godparents: With the help of God, we happily and genuinely accept this serious duty.*
- O ne: And do you, the Plymouth congregation, pledge to work toward creating and maintaining a nurturing and challenging Christian environment for Kevin?
- Many: We do, for he belongs to us as well.
- O ne: Then, may God be with us.
- Many: God help us. Amen.

THE PRAYER AND ACT OF BAPTISM

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME (unison)

We rejoice in God's empowering love, freely given to each and all. We welcome you, newly baptized, into the circle of love in Christ's church. We promise to pray for you, to seek the depths of faith with you, to support you, and to love you. We covenant with you to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

HYMN OF BAPTISM (seated) Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

No. 325

During the hymn, kids can head upstairs with Liz for Chapel Time

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Holy One, you appeared when they least expected you.

Many: Now when we long for you, come to us and reveal yourself.

SCRIPTURE John 20:19-31

ANTHEM Blessed Are They

Jean Pasquet

SERMON

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Crash the Cymbals

Paul Isensee

*DOXOLOGY

Lasst uns Erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, true and eternal, whom we adore!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

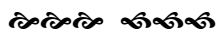
*CLOSING HYMN Now the Green Blade Rises

No. 238

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Wir Eilen Mit Schwachen

J. S. Bach



☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☞

GREETERS: Rich Jaeger and David Jenks LITURGIST: Alyssa Galea
USHERS: Frank Leonard and Barbara Forsstrom ACOLYTE: Ray Carr
FLOWERS: With joy and love the Cappelli family celebrates
the birth of Alice Louise Cappelli on 4/10/17
OFFERING COUNTERS: Sue Bogucz and Elaine Wolf

Hospitality Ministry – Please consider serving as a host for Community Time. There is a sign-up chart in the bell tower entrance. It's easy and we'll help you!

Flowers – Make our worship space even more beautiful for the glory of God and in honor of whatever you choose. A sign-up sheet is found in the bell tower entry. The cost is \$25, but plans for larger or multiple arrangements can always be made.

Accessibility: Individual listening headsets are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Please contact one of the ushers for help. An elevator and ramp are available. **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY.**

Welcoming Children in Worship: Children of all ages have a place in worship and in the life of the church. Nursery care is offered at 10:00 am for infants. Sound is piped into Memorial Hall next door to the Sanctuary for those who would welcome a space apart.

Worship Clipboards: Worship clipboards with age-appropriate bulletins and coloring paper are available in the back of the Sanctuary for our elementary aged children as a support to their attendance in worship. We hope you will find these clipboards a welcoming and supportive means of engaging your children during the worship service.

There is ample free street parking on the blocks around our church on Sundays, as well as in the lots behind the Catholic diocese building. For those able to walk a short distance, parking here will allow those with mobility impairments or small children to use the spots directly in front of the church.

☞ Music Notes for April 23, 2017 ☞

We welcome Kat Skafidas, soprano, and Nicholas Peta, countertenor, to our services today. They are both students at Syracuse University's Setnor School of Music, and members of the Baroque Ensemble (which is giving a free concert this afternoon at 5 pm in Setnor auditorium in Crouse College.)

Anton Holzner (1599-1635) was an organist and composer in Munich who studied in Italy, and brought some of the new Baroque ideas to Bavaria. Our prelude consists of two movements of one of his "Sacred Concertos" for two voices:

*In the heavens rejoice the souls of the saints who have followed in Christ's footsteps, and since they spilled their blood for his love, they exult with Christ without end.
The Word made flesh makes true bread into flesh by his word, and wine becomes blood,
And if reason fails, faith alone shall suffice to assure the pure heart.*

Our anthem is based on the Gospel reading for the day. Jean Pasquet (1896-1977) was an American organist and composer who held positions in New Orleans, Virginia, Chicago and Garden City, NY:

Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed.

Our offertory anthem is by Paul Isensee who retired as Dean of the School of Music at Cairn University (Philadelphia) in 2014 and is now Director of Music at Aldan Union Church:

*Crash the cymbals at sunrise, shouting, "J esus is risen!"
Let the sound burst upon the sleepers; Bring them running to see
Then speak, Lord; wrap us in your presence
Speak, Lord; wrap us in your life
Awaken within our hearts a celebration;
Awaken within our hearts an Easter celebration!
Crash the cymbals at sunrise!
Crash the cymbals and shout that Christ is risen!*

Our postlude is from J ohann Sebastian Bach's (1685-1750) C antata #78:

*We hurry with weak, yet eager steps, O J esus, O master, to you for help.
You faithfully look for the sick and the straying.
Ah, hear as we raise our voices to pray for help.
May your gracious countenance give us joy!*

🌀 About Plymouth 🌀

Plymouth was founded in 1853 by a group of Syracusans who wanted to create a C hristian abolitionist bulwark in the city. Since then, we have fought against slavery, poverty, and war; for immigrants', natives', workers', L G B T, and women's rights; and sought to be agents of mercy in a hurting world. We believe in beauty, laughter, the struggle for peace with justice, taking risks for G od, and the Way of J esus C hrist.

Our faith is over 2,000 years old; our thinking is not!

We are O pen and Affirming We believe G od calls us to welcome all people and their gifts regardless of gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, physical ability, socioeconomic status, or religious background.

We are J ust Peace We covenant to live actively within the holy longing that weds justice with the quest for peace – within us, between us, in community, and across the globe. We covenant to affirm the sacredness of all life and to honor and preserve creation.

We are Sanctuary We provide a space of physical, emotional, and spiritual safety for immigrants without documents, and specifically pledge to the principles of the national New Sanctuary M ovement.

We are Progressive C hristians We try to walk in the way of J esus C hrist, our brother and savior. We believe G od speaks new meanings for new days, and that She does so not only in the church and the ancient words of the Bible, but through the insights of science, the arts, the revelations of other religions, and the best strivings of the human spirit. We believe G od has granted us a purpose, and that life is too short for long-faced religion. J oin us!

Rev. Q uinn G . C aldwell, Pastor
D r. J oseph D ownings, D irector of M usic
Liz Pruchnicki, D irector of C hildren, Y outh, and Family M inistries
Kathy Ferro, Church Administrator
M ark J ohnson, Sexton

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