



# Plymouth Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

Service of the Word  
August 13, 2017  
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost  
10:00 am

## THE GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE "Terra Beata" ("God reigns o'er all the earth") Raymond H. Haan

\*OPENING HYMN Praise to the Living God No. 8

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION Bernie Peterson

One: O God, we wait,  
**Many: And our waiting is for you.**  
One: O God, we long,  
**Many: And our longing is for you.**  
One: O God, we yearn,  
**Many: And our yearning is for you.**  
One: And in this moment,  
**Many: We listen for your spirit.**  
One: And in this moment,  
**Many: We hear our names.**  
One: And in this moment.  
**Many: We are found.**

WORDS OF WELCOME Marjorie Purnine

## THE REFRESHMENT OF FORGIVENESS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**O gracious God, whose mercy is higher than the heavens and wider than our wanderings, we long to live and to love more fully. And yet, we have not received others simply as they are, nor met them as ourselves. Forgive us and heal us. Alone we cannot be healed, so lead us to the discovery of others, cleanse our hearts with honesty, give us courage to accompany our fears, and bring us even to faith, and hope, and love. Amen**

\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Please share a sign of peace with those around you.*

\*PRAISE SONG (unison)

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ,  
the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.**

*\*Please rise if you are able*

## THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SUNG PSALM

“Sing a new song” (Psalm 96)

by Michael Praetorius  
arr. M. Schweizer

*Sing a new song, sing to God with a voice of triumph,  
Make God’s praises known to all the nations,  
Sing the honor of God’s name.*

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:42-47

\*HYMN

Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?

No. 539

SERMON

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

## THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 debts as we forgive our debtors, 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

“Be thou my vision”

arr. Richard Shephard, Composer

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.  
Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou and thou only first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.  
High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heavens joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

\*DOXOLOGY (unison)

*Old Hundredth*

**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.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*CLOSING HYMN

Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)

No. 528

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rigaudon

Andre Campra



*Our pastor, Quinn Caldwell, is off this Sunday.  
Pray for rest and relaxation!*

*Our preacher, Rev. Dr. Marjorie Purnine, is a member of Plymouth and is the Associate Conference Minister for Leadership Development of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ.*

*This morning we are grateful for the music leadership of Alice Dickerson Hatt while Director of Music Joe Downing is away.*

# BE THE CHURCH

*Protect the environment.* Care for the poor.  
**Forgive often.** *Reject racism.*  
**Fight for the powerless.**  
*Share earthly and spiritual resources.*  
*Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.*

## ☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☞

**LITURGIST:** Bernie Peterson

**USHERS:** Bill Bucher and Frank Leonard

**COMMUNITY TIME:** Cara Steiner and Dawn Franits

**FLOWERS** given by Gert Danzy who wishes a *Happy Birthday* to members of Plymouth with August birthdays

**OFFERING COUNTERS:** Keith Jakway and Sarah Whitton

*You can volunteer for many of these ministries via the Plymouth website [www.plymouthsyr.org](http://www.plymouthsyr.org). Go to the "Get Involved" page and click on the link above the choir photo.*

**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.

## ☞ Some Things You Ought to Know ☞

### Capital Campaign Update

We have commitments totaling \$734,512.  
\$691,914 has been paid on those commitments so far.  
We're in the home stretch, team! Keep it up!

**TODAY following worship:** Community Time in Memorial Hall

**Nicaragua Mission Trip 2018:** In January 2018 we have the opportunity to return to Managua, Nicaragua (Saturday, January 27 – Saturday, February 3). This year some of us will be planning and working with teachers in the afterschool program, while others will be working on a sewing project with a group of older students who attend the afterschool program.

If you are interested in joining a group from the NY Conference on this mission trip, please contact Chris Hopkins by **August 20, 2017** (Cell: 315-481-7288, email: christinehopkins03@gmail.com). There are limited spaces available for this trip.

**Plymouth ROCKS:** We'll be serving lunch at the Rescue Mission **Sunday, August 27**. The group will leave Plymouth around 10:15am and will finish serving shortly after 12pm (if you volunteer you will be missing the service that week). All generations are welcome and encouraged to attend. **Please note the dress code:** close-toed shoes (no sandals), long pants, capris or shorts to the knees, and no tank tops. RSVP to Chris Hopkins (christinehopkins03@gmail.com or 315.476.5139.)

**Learning Community Service Project:** We are requesting school supplies for children in need. This is the best time of year to pick up discounted school supplies at Target, Staples, etc. Suggested items include crayons, pencils, erasers, glue sticks, and safety scissors. Stay tuned for more information about the recipients of your generosity as well as additional items that are needed. There will be a bin in the back of the sanctuary starting next Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, September 10, when we will bless your gifts.

The **Food Pantry** is collecting TOOTHBRUSHES during the month of August. Please place your contributions in the box in the back of the worship area.

**You Grew 'em, Now Share 'em!:** In August, members and friends are invited to bring flowers from their home gardens or yards as an offering of beauty to God. Bring them in your own vase, or bring them cut and grab a vase from the windowsills in the first floor hallway. (You also have the traditional option to commemorate a special occasion with a florist-made arrangement. Just sign up on the chart in the bell tower and send in a check for \$25 to Plymouth Church with "flowers" noted in the memo line. We order the arrangement for you!)

**Sunday morning ministries continue through the summer... and in to the fall!** Sign up to greet, usher, provide flowers or host community time through Sign-up genius [by clicking here](#) or by clicking on the link on the *Get Involved* page on the Plymouth website ([www.plymouthsyr.org](http://www.plymouthsyr.org)). You can also sign up by contacting:

- Greeters - George Bain (georgesbain@aol.com)
- Ushers - Barbara Forsstrom (315-427-3513)

- Flowers - Tina Goodall or Leslie Lawrence (lclaw@twcny.rr.com)
- Community Time - Plymouth office (office@plymouthsyr.org, 315-474-4836)

**InterFaith Dinner Dialogues:** InterFaith Works' Dinner Dialogues will be held on **Thursday, Sept. 14**, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at various host residences in and around Syracuse. Gathering over a meal and discussing questions posed by a facilitator, diverse individuals offer their personal thoughts about faith and spirituality. A facilitator guides and moderates the dialogue, so participants feel comfortable sharing. For more information about hosting, facilitating or attending, contact Daryl Files at 315-449-3552, ext. 208, or email [dfiles@interfaithworkscny.org](mailto:dfiles@interfaithworkscny.org).

Want to stay informed about the news and events at Plymouth Church? Sign up for Plymouth's weekly email newsletter by contacting George Bain at [georgesbain@aol.com](mailto:georgesbain@aol.com) and provide your email to the church office ([office@plymouthsyr.org](mailto:office@plymouthsyr.org)) in order to receive the monthly newsletter *The Plymouth Story*.

#### THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Thurs., Aug. 17: Food Pantry, 10am – 12noon
- Sun., Aug. 20: Worship and Summer Chapel Time, 10am

## ✿ About Plymouth ✿

Plymouth was founded in 1853 by a group of Syracusans who wanted to create a Christian abolitionist bulwark in the city. Since then, we have fought against slavery, poverty, and war; for immigrants', natives', workers', LGBT, 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 God, and the Way of Jesus Christ.

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

**We are Open and Affirming** We believe God 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 Just 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 Movement.

**We are Progressive Christians** We try to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our brother and savior. We believe God 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 God has granted us a purpose, and that life is too short for long-faced religion. Join us!

Rev. Quinn G. Caldwell, Pastor  
 Dr. Joseph Downing, Director of Music  
 Kim Looney, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries  
 Kathy Ferro, Church Administrator  
 Mark Johnson, Sexton

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