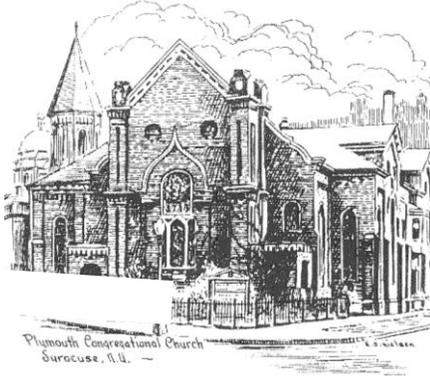


Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Service of the Word
November 12, 2017
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
Stewardship Sunday
10:00 am

THE GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Lay Up Treasures in Heaven

James Neff

*OPENING HYMN

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

No. 558

*CALL TO ORSHIP

Doreen Todorov

One: Creator of the Cosmos, of eternity and time:

Many: Be with us in this time.

One: Child of God, Lover of the unloved, Prince of Peace:

Many: Be with us in this place.

One: Breath of all that lives, of people near and far, of animal and air:

Many: Stir within our lives.

One: Maker-Spirit-Son, God of a beautiful and broken world:

Many: Be present in our worship

that we may find new ways to be present in your world.

*MUSICAL CALL TO COMMUNITY

We will sing once through in unison, then as a round, following your section leader

1
Come, come, who - ev - er you are, wan - der - er,
3
wor - ship - er, lov - er of leav - ing. Ours is no car - a - van
4
of de - spair. Come, yet a - gain come.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Quinn G. Caldwell

**Please rise if you are able*

THE REFRESHMENT OF FORGIVENESS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Oh, God, you gave us everything.

Many: And we have kept too much of it.

One: You gave up everything.

**Many: And too often, we have given up
Only what we will not miss.**

One: If we have made our lives into holding tanks
Around the springs of your grace,

Many: Forgive us.

One: If we have not shed things
To make way for graces,

Many: Forgive us.

One: If we have given only out of duty
And not in the hopes of being transformed,

Many: Forgive us.

One: If we have seen freedom staring us in the face,
And turned away,

**Many: Then crack open our hard hearts,
Knock down these ragged walls,
Water this barren plain.**

And make us to spring up green, and prodigal, and free. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

*PRAISE SONG

**Day by day (repeat),
O, dear Lord, three things I pray;
To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly, day by day.**

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

Kids are invited to head upstairs for Chapel Time after the Story.

ANTHEM

What Shall I Render To My God?

Austin Lovelace

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 9:35-10:23

*HYMN

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

No. 448

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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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.

MUSICAL RESPONSE (unison)

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And God's righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you,
Allelu, alleluia.**

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Let Your Eye Be To The Lord

Daniel Moe

Members and friends of Plymouth Church are invited to prayerfully consider their 2018 pledges, and when the Spirit prompts, fill out their pledge cards. If you are a visitor this Sunday, you might consider a different kind of commitment: a gift of time, or prayer, or a good deed. Simply take the Giving Card and, on the back of it, write down some commitment you will offer to God. Together we will consecrate our giving and ourselves to God's service.

*THE PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

When invited, please bring forward both your Sunday Offering and your Giving Cards as a sign of your faith, a practice of your discipleship and to return a portion of your material blessings to God. As we come, we will sing:

* OFFERTORY PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Refrain: As I went down to the river to pray

Studyin' about that good old way

And who shall wear the starry crown?

Good Lord, show me the way.

Oh, sisters, let's go down

Let's go down, come on down,

Oh, sisters, let's go down

Down to the river to pray.

Refrain

Oh, brothers...Oh, mothers...Oh, fathers...Oh, sinners...

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN

Come, Labor On

No. 532

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Les Moissonneurs

François Couperin



Plymouth Runs On YOU

GREETERS: PV George, Leela George and Maria Polsinelli

LITURGIST: Doreen Todorov

USHERS: George Bain and Bill Bucher

ACOLYTE: Asa Caldwell

FLOWERS given by Pat and John Hottenstein in thanksgiving
for the Plymouth community

OFFERING COUNTERS: Sue Bogucz and Audrey Kane

*You can volunteer for many of these ministries via the Plymouth website 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.

Music Notes for November 12, 2017

Today is Stewardship Sunday, and most of our music reflects that theme. Thanks to Kat Skafidas for singing our **prelude**. James Neff (b. 1934) taught at the University of Alberta until his retirement in 1993.

*Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth,
where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal,
But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.
For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

Austin Lovelace (1919-2010) was a prolific composer of church music who served churches in Dallas and Denver. Our **anthem** is his setting of a text by Charles Wesley:

*What shall I render to my God for all his mercies store?
I'll take the gifts he hath bestowed and humbly ask for more.
The sacred cup of saving grace I will with thanks receive,*

And all his promises embrace, and to his glory live.

My vows I will to his great name, before his people pay,

And all I have, and all I am, upon his altar lay.

Thy lawful servant, Lord, I owe to thee whate'er is mine,

Born in thy family below, and by redemption, thine.

Thy hands created me; thy hands from sin have set me free.

The mercy that hath loosed my bands hath bound me fast to thee.

Praise God, ye saints, the God of love who hath thy sins forgiv'n,

Till gathered to the church above, we sing the songs of heaven.

Daniel Moe (1946-2012) was professor of choral conducting at Oberlin College until his retirement, when he became the music director at The Church of the Redeemer in Sarasota. Our **offertory anthem** uses a text by William Penn. Note how the simple tune builds in intensity, with increasingly complex harmonies, and then relaxes back into traditional harmony.

Let your eye be to the Lord, and wait upon him.

Walk with him, and he will walk and dwell with you.

François Couperin (1668-1733) was the greatest composer in a family that was a major part of Parisian musical life for over two hundred years. Our **postlude** uses the French *Rondeau* form, in which the repetitions of a short tune are separated by increasingly longer diversions in an ABACA form.

🌀 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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