



# Plymouth Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

**February 11, 2018**  
**Service of the Word**  
**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**  
**10:00 am**

## THE GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

The Baptism of Christ

Rachel Aarons

\*OPENING HYMN

When Words Alone Cannot Express

*insert*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kaleigha Spinner

One: This is where our Lenten journey begins—  
where every human story begins:

**All: In the struggle to be our best ...  
to reach our fullest and highest potential.**

One: This is where our Lenten journey begins—  
where every human story begins:

**All: In the choices we make  
about how to use our God-given talents:  
for good or evil,  
for our own power and glory ...  
or for the glory of God and the good of all.**

One: This is where our Lenten journey begins—  
where every human story begins:

**All: With the way ahead unclear and uncertain,  
with unknown surprises and detours,  
with great blessings and great temptations.**

One: So once more let us “gird up our loins”  
and ready ourselves for the road ahead,

**All: with confidence in God  
and gladness for our traveling companions.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Craig French

## THE REFRESHMENT OF FORGIVENESS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Ruler of all that is silent and all that is spoken:  
because our lives are full of detail and deadlines,  
much to be done and little time in which to do it all,  
we find few moments  
to savor the beauty of the world,  
to contemplate the fierce endurance of all that lives,  
to enter that timeless realm of divine mystery**

\* Please rise if you are able

which surrounds us and is entered only in silence.

Yet we know that this place exists and is close to us.  
O God, grant us a glimpse of this inner sanctuary,  
and the desire and calm to dwell there in prayer.

As we begin our journey through Lent,  
help us to make more time for silence,  
more time for contemplation, more time for study,

that we may hear your voice in our lives.  
Open us to hear the words of Jesus in new ways.  
Challenge us and renew us in this holy season,  
that we may be worthy to be called your children.

SILENCE IS KEPT

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: In every wilderness, on every road;  
in every moment, in every life;  
in every journey, in every heart;

All: **we receive the daily bread we need:**  
**God's hope, God's mercy, God's peace, God's joy.**  
**Thanks be to God!**  
**We are forgiven!**  
**We are set free to live and love!**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

\*PRAISE SONG (unison)

Woke Up this Mornin'

1. Woke up this morn - in' with my mind, stayed on  
2. Woke up this morn - in' with my mind, stayed on

Je - sus. Woke up this morn - in' with my mind,  
free - dom. Woke up this morn - in' with my mind,

stayed on Je - sus. Woke up this morn - in' with my mind.  
stayed on free - dom. Woke up this morn - in' with my mind,

stayed on Je - sus. Hal - le - lu, hal - le - lu, hal - le - lu - jah.  
free-dom.

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

\*HYMN

Caribbean Hallelujah

A 4/4 musical score for 'Caribbean Hallelujah'. The first staff has a treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single line. Chord symbols above the staff are A, E, A, D, Bm, and E. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

The second staff continues the melody with chord symbols A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, and A. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu - ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

BURYING THE ALLELUIA

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:9-15

ANTHEM

The Baptism of Christ

Michael Bedford

SERMON

\*HYMN

One More Step Along the World I Go

A musical score for 'One More Step Along the World I Go'. It features a unison vocal line and a bass line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 1 One more step a - long the world I go, 2 Round the cor - ners of the world I turn, 3 As I trav - el through the bad and good, 4 Give me cour - age when the world is rough, 5 You are old - er than the world can be, one more step a - long the world I go; from the old things more and more a - bout the world I learn; all the new things keep me trav - el - ing the way I should; where I see no keep me lov - ing though the world is tough; leap and sing in you are young - er than the life in me; ev - er old and to the new, keep me trav - el - ing a - long with you: that I see you'll be look - ing at a - long with me: way to go, you'll be tell - ing me the way, I know: all I do, keep me trav - el - ing a - long with you: ev - er new, keep me trav - el - ing a - long with you:

The refrain is: And it's from the old I trav-el to the new; keep me trav-el-ing a-long with you.

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THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (unison)

**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.**

*There are several beloved versions of this prayer. In an effort to pray in unison while respecting the different versions that many of us have prayed since childhood, we will cycle through the different versions over the course of a year. We will pray using "trespasses" through the first part of 2018.*

**OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS**

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

\*DOXOLOGY (unison)

*Samba Laranja*

*Old Hundredth*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!  
Praise God, all creatures here below!  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host!  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

\*CLOSING HYMN

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

No. 18

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Samba Laranja*



*We welcome Samba Laranja, the Brazilian Music Ensemble of Syracuse University's Setnor School of Music, to our services this morning under the direction of Elisa and Joshua Dekaney*

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***🎶 Plymouth Runs On YOU 🎶***

**GREETERS:** Luis Morales and Bob Watrous **LITURGIST:** Kaleigha Spinner

**USHERS:** George Bain and Gert Danzy **ACOLYTE:** DaCoda Weller

**FLOWERS** given by Luis and Bob in celebration of their 40 years of life and love together

**COMMUNITY TIME** hosted by Sarah VanNorstrand and the Board of Christian Formation

**OFFERING COUNTERS:** Sue Bogucz and Audrey Kane

*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.*

**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 and across East Onondaga Street. 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 \$734,262.  
\$727,637 has been paid on those commitments so far.  
The finish line is in sight! Keep it up!

**TODAY following worship:** Introduction to *Walking with Jesus: A Lenten Journey* –  
All ages – 11:15am – Memorial Hall  
(No Learning Community)

**Weekly Lenten Study begins on Sunday, February 18:** Each Sunday in Lent, immediately following worship we'll spend 30-40 minutes together discussing and reflecting on a short section of the book *Love Big, Be Well* by Winn Collier. (More details to follow in the February *Plymouth Story*.) You may purchase your copy of the book from the church office for \$12 ... or pick one up on Sunday mornings in church between now and mid-February as long as supplies last! (Don't let the cost keep you from participating. If that's a concern, just speak to Craig French.)

**The 2018 UCC Lent Devotional Book *Lovers and Fools*,** written by UCC authors, is available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary for a suggested price of \$4 each (let us know if that price is prohibitive for you!)

Jail Ministry Bread will NOT be available today following worship as previously announced. Stay tuned for the next sale later in the spring.

**Begin the Lenten journey this week on Ash Wednesday:**

**Noon service** – Worship with prayer, song, and the imposition of ashes

**Pancake Supper, 5:30pm in Kirtland Hall** – All you need to bring is yourself and a suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$15 per family.

**Evening Service, 6:15pm** – A brief service and the imposition of ashes – a time to remember who we are, whose we are, where we come from, and where we are going. Children and youth are invited to explore these questions in our Playground, which will be a dedicated space for them to quietly and creatively interact with the service. Nursery care will be provided for infants and toddlers.

**Plymouth's Food Pantry** seeks new volunteers, including someone to serve as coordinator. Longtime volunteers Leslie Lawrence and Tina Goodall will retire in April. New volunteers are needed so the Food Pantry can continue its operation. The Food Pantry serves clients on Thursday mornings. For more information, contact Leslie Lawrence or George Bain, the chair of the Board of Deacons.

The pantry is collecting TOOTHBRUSHES during the month of February. Please place your contributions in the box in the back of the worship area.

**Plymouth ROCKS:** We will be serving lunch at the Rescue Mission on **Sunday, February 25**. The group will leave Plymouth around 10:15am and will finish serving shortly after 12pm. Young (ages 12 and up) and old are welcome! **RSVP to Chris Hopkins ([christinehopkins03@gmail.com](mailto:christinehopkins03@gmail.com) or 315 476-5139.) ahead of time. The Rescue Mission needs to have the names of the individuals who are volunteering.**

**Coming to Plymouth Congregational Church, Sunday March 4, 3:00 PM:**

Syracuse Vocal Ensemble presents *Nature Beckons* with guest conductor, Ryan Endris, performing Britten's *Five Flower Songs* and the *Choral Dances* from *Glorianna*, Stanford's *The Blue Bird* and Morley's beloved *English Madrigals* and featuring Argento's *Walden Pond* with harp and cellos.

Tickets: Adults \$20, Students 12 and over \$5, Under 12 free

Tickets and Information 315-450-7887, [www.SyracuseVocalEnsemble.org](http://www.SyracuseVocalEnsemble.org)

Additional performance Saturday March 3, 7:30 PM, OCC Recital Hall, AcademicII/Performing Arts Center, 4585 W. Seneca Tpke, Syracuse 13202

### THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Tues. Feb. 13 Board of Deacons – 5:15pm – Parlor  
Board of Trustees – 6:30pm – Parlor
- Wed. Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday Service – 12noon – Sanctuary  
Pancake Supper – 5:30pm – Kirtland Hall  
Ash Wednesday Service – 6:15pm – Sanctuary  
Choir Rehearsal – 7:00pm – Mem. Hall (after service)
- Thurs. Feb. 15 Food Pantry – 10am-12noon - Parlor  
Bell Choir Rehearsal– 5:30pm – Bell Room
- Sun. Feb. 18 Worship/Chapel Time –10am  
Learning Community – 11am  
Lenten Study – 11:15am – Memorial Hall

### ✿ 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. Craig French, Bridge Pastor  
Dr. Joseph Downing, Director of Music  
Kim Looney, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries  
Kathy Ferro, Church Administrator  
Mark Johnson, Sexton

232 East Onondaga Street ✿ Syracuse, New York 13202  
(315) 474-4836  
plymouthsyr.org ✿ office@plymouthsyr.org



*Harmony*

Bring mu - sic! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Bring mu - sic! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
bring mu - sic! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Bring mu - sic! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Unison*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!