



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

March 11, 2018
Service of the Word
Fourth Sunday in Lent
10:00 am

THE GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

O Sacred Head

Dietrich Buxtehude

*OPENING HYMN

Amazing Grace

No. 547

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Plymouth Choir

One: From Bethlehem to Nazareth,
from Jordan to Jericho,
from Bethany to Jerusalem,
from then to now,

All: Come, unswerving Jesus.

One: To heal the sick,
to mend the broken-hearted,
to comfort the disturbed,
to disturb the uncomfortable,
to cleanse the temple,
to liberate faith from convention,

All: Come, unswerving Jesus.

One: To carry the cross,
to lead the way,
to shoulder the sin of the world
and take it away,

All: Come, unswerving Jesus.

One: Today,
to this place,
to us,

All: Come, unswerving Jesus.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Craig French

THE REFRESHMENT OF FORGIVENESS

UNISON PRAYER *(by John van de Laar, adapted)*

**All: Dear God of Mercy and Compassion,
we acknowledge that we are not all that
we would like to be.
We carry wounds and regrets,
some of which are of our own design,**

* Please rise if you are able

some of which we have received from others.
We acknowledge our failings, our hatreds
and our bitterness,
and ask You to heal us.

Of all our sin: Forgive us, O God.
In all our weakness: Strengthen us, O God.
From all our diseases: Heal us, O God.

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

*PRAISE SONG (unison – Verses 1, 3, & 5)

Unison

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:

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

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

ANTHEM

The Blind Man Stood On the Road and Cried

Spiritual

SCRIPTURE

Mark 10:46-52 (Jericho)

New Living Translation

SERMON

*HYMN

Cast Out, O Christ



1. Cast out, O Christ, cast far a - way the
 2. Our rag - ing griefs, our jeal - ous fears are
 3. Once long a - go, from Gal - i - lee, you
 4. Your Word breathes life and health and hope that
 5. So come, O Christ and cast a - way the



de - mons that de - stroy: the haunt - ing dreads that
 Le - gion in their name. Our shack - led hearts im -
 sailed to storm-tossed shores. And still, in power, you
 break through e - vil's thrall. You send us, strength-ened,
 de - mons that de - stroy. Trans-form our lives to



choke our souls, the hates that sti - fle joy.
 plore your grace to loose our bind - ing shame.
 brave new paths to breach our bolt - ed doors.
 home in peace to live your gos - pel call.
 sense your love and spread a - broad your joy.

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THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

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

Today and next week, we will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Your OGHS contributions will be combined with those from seven other Christian denominations to make an impact on the lives of real people throughout the world. To contribute, please make a check out to Plymouth Congregational Church and write "OGHS" in the memo line, or place cash in the envelopes provided in the pews.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Give Me Jesus

arr. Benjamin Harlan

*DOXOLOGY (unison)

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, the One, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.**

*DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

*CLOSING HYMN

We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness

No. 179

*BENEDICTION

One: Touched by God's grace,
All: We take that grace to the world.
One: Healed by Christ's love,
All: We take that love to the world.
One: Renewed by the Holy Spirit,
**All: We go in the Spirit's power
to be agents of holy healing. Amen**

POSTLUDE

Präludium, Fuga und Ciacona

Dietrich Buxtehude



HOLY WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

 *Palm Sunday, March 25* 

10am Worship

Las Alfombras

“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” are among the first words we will hear as we enter into Jerusalem with Jesus for the final days before his crucifixion. The children and choir will process with palm branches in his honor. During the service the children will create a carpet of flowers (*Las Alfombras*) outside the church for the congregation's procession out into the world after worship – for this you'll want your real walking shoes! Admire the creativity of the children and join in on a pilgrimage around downtown to see where Jesus' journey takes us in Syracuse.

 *Maundy Thursday, March 29* 

6:30pm Worship

With additional interactive activity for children and youth. Nursery care provided.

As the shadows lengthen and betrayal overshadows all, we gather around dinner tables to remember the Last Supper and hold each other tight as we wait for the coming of the light.

 *Good Friday, March 30* 

Midday service at noon

Worship service at 6:30pm

With additional interactive activity for children and youth. Nursery care provided.

We gather to remember and mourn the death of Jesus. We commit to not despair.

 *Easter Sunday, April 1* 

**10am Worship for all ages
with brass, organ, timpani, and voice
PrayGround
Christ is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!**

☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☞

LITURGISTS: The Plymouth Choir
USHERS: Barbara Genton and Luckner Morange
ACOLYTE: Kaleigha Spinner
OFFERING COUNTERS: Keith Jakway and Susan Hawks

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.

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 \$734,287.
\$729,392 has been paid on those commitments so far.
The finish line is in sight! Keep it up!

TODAY following worship: *Don't forget to get your passport stamp from a Passport Agent!*

- Learning Community
- Lenten Study – 11:15 - Memorial Hall

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!)

One Great Hour of Sharing special offering will be collected TODAY and next Sunday. This offering (referred to as OGHs) is one of five "special" offerings we take on behalf of the UCC denomination. Your contribution involves you in disaster, refugee, immigration and development ministries throughout the world.

Plymouth ROCKS: We will be serving lunch at the Rescue Mission on **Sunday, March 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 or 315 476-5139.) ahead of time. The Rescue Mission needs to have the names of the individuals who are volunteering.**

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 Food Pantry is collecting TOOTHPASTE during the month of March. Please place your contributions in the box in the back of the worship area.

ACT Now! Unite to End Racism: All are welcome to travel with the NY Conference UCC to Washington, DC April 3-4 to participate in a series of events commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination and to launch a Truth and Racial Justice Initiative (see Schedule-at-a-Glance on flyer on bulletin board.) Register to join the NY Conference on the bus ride to DC with the following link. You can also purchase a reduced hotel room through the conference when you register.
<https://arena.nyucc.org/default.aspx?portal=4&page=3352&occurrenceId=168&profileId=467>

Plymouth needs YOU to help us live out our mission of "Welcoming All"! Please 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). You can also sign up by contacting:

- Greeters - George Bain (georgesbain@aol.com)
- ☑ Ushers - Juliet Giglio (julietgiglio@gmail.com)

Or by signing up on the charts in the bell tower for Flowers or Community Time.

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 and provide your email to the church office (office@plymouthsyr.org) in order to receive the monthly newsletter *The Plymouth Story*.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. March 12 DEADLINE FOR APRIL *PLYMOUTH STORY*
- Tues. March 13 Board of Deacons - 5:15pm - Parlor
Board of Trustees - 6:30pm - Parlor
- Thurs. March 15 Food Pantry - 10am - 12noon - Parlor
Bell Choir Rehearsal- 5:30pm - Bell Room
Choir Rehearsal - 7:00pm - Memorial Hall
- Sat. March 17 Deacons Retreat - 9:30am - Parlor/Sanctuary
- Sun. March 18 Worship and PrayGround-10am
Learning Community - 11am
Lenten Study - 11:15am - Memorial Hall

🌀 Music Notes for March 11, 2018 🌀

Our **prelude** and **postlude** today are by Dietrich Buxtehude (c.1637-1707.) He was the organist at St. Mary's in Lubeck, in the far north of present-day Germany (although it was in Denmark in Buxtehude's time.) He was greatly admired as an organist and composer, and the young J. S. Bach walked two hundred miles to study with him. We begin with a chorale prelude on the tune to which we sing the text, *O Sacred Head Now Wounded* (#226 in your hymnal.) This tune was used by Bach several times in his *St. Matthew Passion*, and has been called *The Passion Chorale* since then. Many composers have written chorale preludes on this tune.

The postlude begins with a pedal solo – only possible in its time on the organs of Germany which had pedalboards played by both feet. (In France, pedal parts were very simple, and English and Italian organs rarely had pedals!) This is followed by a short fugue (in the interest of time, I am omitting a second fugue that follows the first) and ends with a Chaconne, in which the pedal plays the same repeating phrase eight times while the hands play variations above it. A short flourish brings the piece to its conclusion.

In line with our reading, the choir shares an old spiritual, *The Blind Man Stood on the Road and Cried* as our **anthem**:

*The blind man stood on the road and cried,
Crying, "O my Lord, save me."
Crying that he might receive his sight.*

Our **offertory anthem** also comes from the spiritual tradition:

*In the morning when I rise,
Give me Jesus.*

*You can have all this world,
Give me Jesus.*

*Just before the break of day,
Give me Jesus.*

*And when I come to die,
Give me Jesus.*

✿ 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