

# Plymouth Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

**Service of the Word  
April 15, 2018  
Third Sunday of Easter  
10:00 am**

## THE GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Humming Chorus Giacomo Puccini

\*OPENING HYMN

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

insert (see page 8)

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Sarah VanNorstrand

One: As Easter people, let us affirm the faith that holds, shapes and guides us:

**ALL: You, O God, are supreme and holy.  
You create our world and give us life.  
Your purpose overarches everything we do.  
You have always been with us.  
You are God.  
You, O God, are infinitely generous,  
good beyond all measure.  
You came to us before we came to you.  
You have revealed and proved  
your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
who lived and died and rose again.  
You are with us now.  
You are God.  
You, O God, are Holy Spirit.  
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.  
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.**

**You are our God. We worship you.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Craig French

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

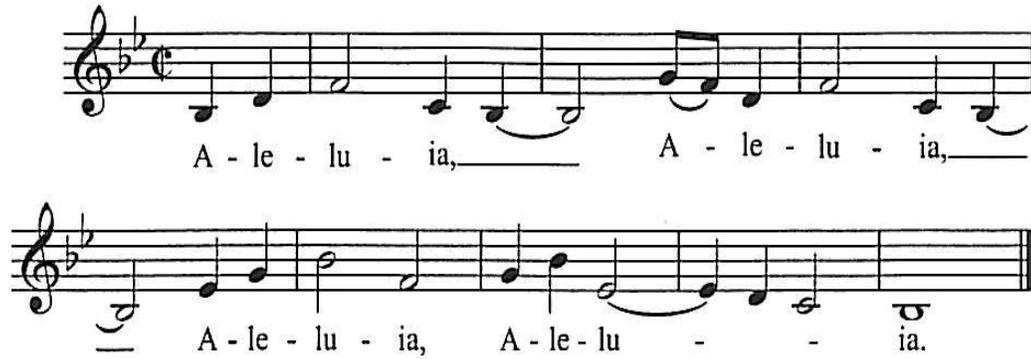
\*PRAISE SONG

A Repeating Alleluia

Calvin Hampton

*(see next page)*

*\*Please rise if you are able*



UNISON PRAYER (by Thom Shuman)

**Emptier of Tombs:**

**you raised Jesus from the grave  
so all fears might be banished;  
so the locked doors of our hearts could be flung open;  
so our quivering lips could declare what we have seen and heard.**

**Bright Glory of God:**

**as you stood in the middle of your friends on that first Easter night,  
come among us now, in this time and place,  
showing us that death and sin no longer stand in the way  
of our life with you.**

**Breath of Peace:**

**strengthen us  
so we may stand with all who fear life;  
take our hands in yours,  
so we may serve all who are broken with grief;  
inspire us to share the grace  
which has been breathed into our very souls.**

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

### THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Acts 3:1-13a, 16

*New Living Translation*

ANTHEM

We Know That Christ Is Raised

Hal Hopson

SERMON

WITNESS TO FAITH

Audrey Kane

\*HYMN

There's a Spirit in the Air (verses 1-6)

No. 294

### THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

THE 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 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.**



## ☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☞

**GREETERS:** Kathy Ferro and Sarah Whitton **LITURGIST:** Sarah VanNorstrand

**USHERS:** Gert Danzy and Juliet Giglio **ACOLYTE:** Ray Carr

**FLOWERS** are given today by Luis Morales  
to celebrate his husband Bob Watrous' birthday on April 10th.

**OFFERING COUNTERS:** Sue Bogucz and Elaine Wolf

*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 ☞

### **TODAY following worship:**

- Learning Community – third floor
- Forum – "Open Table," – Memorial Hall, presented by Ms. Tashia Thomas, Project Director for Onondaga County's OnCare program and instrumental in bringing the "Open Table" to our area.

Doug Wolf is circulating a **petition on behalf of Syracuse's Urban Jobs Task Force**, and addressed to the NY State Department of Transportation. The purpose of the petition is to ensure that whatever major I-81 project is ultimately chosen, steps will be taken to hire local workers – especially people of color, women, and other minorities – to work on this large-scale and important project. Please see Doug in the back of the Sanctuary, after the service, to sign this petition.

**Plymouth ROCKS - Earth Day service Activity:** Plymouth ROCKS and the Christian Formation Board are teaming up with the Downtown Committee of Syracuse for an **Earth Day Clean Up on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 AM.** We will meet at 217 Montgomery Street to begin the cleanup. There is no age limit for this service activity, and ALL ARE WELCOME!

We will be serving lunch at the Rescue Mission on **Sunday, April 22.** 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.**

**Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse (ACTS) Annual Spring Banquet:** Get your tickets TODAY to sit at one of Plymouth's tables on Tuesday, April 24 at 6pm at Drumlins Country Club! Support the important work of our partner organization and come celebrate our very own Nancy Gwin who will receive the ACTS Volunteer Leader Award. Tickets are \$65 (checks payable to Plymouth.) Contact the church office or speak to Gert Danzy (315-491-7650) **no later than Tuesday, April 17.**

**THE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOU!** We are considering changing the food distribution day to Mondays, either morning or afternoon. If you have availability for approximately 2 hours during the day on Mondays and are willing to volunteer once a month or more, please contact Cyndi Signorelli: 315-446-1121, [signorelli4@verizon.net](mailto:signorelli4@verizon.net); or Leslie Lawrence: 315-446-9137, [lelaw@twcny.rr.com](mailto:lelaw@twcny.rr.com).

The Food Pantry is collecting SHAMPOO during the month of April. Please place your contributions in the box in the back of the worship area.

The Cathedral Square Neighborhood Association's **Organ Crawl** begins at Plymouth on **Sunday, April 29 at 1:30pm** and concludes with a reception at the Park Central Presbyterian Church Parish House. The two other participating churches are the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and St. Paul's. Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$12 by calling Alice at 315-470-1953 no later than 12:00 noon on Thursday, April 26. On the day of the event, tickets may also be purchased for \$15 at the door.

### **Heifer Festival – Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> after Worship**

**DID YOU KNOW?** There are more chickens in the world than any other species of bird. A single chicken can lay up to 200 eggs per year, which makes them a continuous source of a power food.

Heifer International provides flocks of chickens to families around the world. Just \$20 can provide a family with a flock of chickens. (There may or may not be live chickens at the Heifer Festival...)

**HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE:** The children have created a goal of raising \$2,000 for Heifer International this year as part of the Fill the Ark program.

They're getting a head start and collecting money at home and during Chapel Time. You can get a head start, too! Check out the table at the back of the sanctuary and take home a Fill the Ark calendar and coin box. Complete the challenges on the calendar and bring the money you collect to the Heifer Festival on Sunday, May 6th.

*Contact Kim Looney if you would like to volunteer!*

## THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. April 16 May *Plymouth Story* Deadline
- Tues. April 17 Church Council – 5:30pm – Parlor
- Thurs. April 19 Food Pantry – 10am – 12noon - Parlor  
Choir Rehearsal – 7:00pm – Memorial Hall
- Sat. April 21 Earth Day Clean-up – 10:30am - meet at 217 Montgomery St.
- Sun. April 22 Worship/Chapel Time – 10am  
Serve Lunch at Rescue Mission – depart at 10:15am  
Learning Community – 11am – third floor  
Forum – I-81 and the Grid Colation – an update  
11:15am – Memorial Hall  
Oneida Association spring gathering – 2:30 at Bayberry

## 🎵 Music Notes for April 15, 2018 🎵

We begin our service today with the “Humming Chorus” from *Madam Butterfly* by Giacomo Antonio Domenico Michele Secondo Maria Puccini (1858-1924.) (I suspect that when his mother was angry with him, by the time she said his full name, she would have forgotten what she was angry about.) The opera was originally just two acts, but Puccini later decided to divide the second act in two, and added this chorus at the new end of the second act. However, the performance of the opera this afternoon by Syracuse Opera presents the second and third acts without intermission!

The tune for our **anthem** was written by the great English church musician, Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924.) The arrangement we are singing today was done by Hal Hopson (b. 1933) of Cedar Park, Texas. Mr. Hopson has over 1200 publications, virtually all church music. The text is by John Brownlow Geyer (b. 1932), who is an English minister in the Congregational Church. It was written originally for use at baptisms, but it is now more commonly sung during Eastertide. It was also written to be sung to Stanford’s tune *Engelberg* (which is what we are using today), although this tune had fallen out of use, and was virtually unknown in 1967 when he wrote the text. (In the late 1980s, Fred Pratt Green wrote the text *When In Our Music God is Glorified*, and that text is now the most associated with *Engelberg*.)

*We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,  
And our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!*

*We share by water in his saving death.  
Reborn, we share with him an Easter Life  
As living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!*

*The Father’s splendor clothes the Son of life.  
The Spirit’s power shakes the church of God.  
Baptized, we live with God, the Three in One. Alleluia!*

*A new creation comes to life and grows  
As Christ’s new body takes on flesh and blood.  
The universe restored will sing: Alleluia!*

Our **Offertory Solo** is from Georg Frideric Handel’s (1685-1759) *Messiah*, and is sung by Kat Skafidas.

The **postlude**, by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), is taken from his collection of forty-five chorale preludes entitled the *Orgelbüchlein*. The tune for this chorale was written by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621) in 1607.

## ✿ About Plymouth ✿

Plymouth was founded in 1853 by a group of Syracuseans 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.

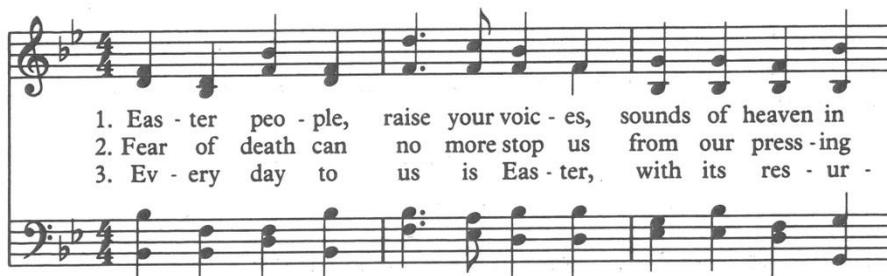
**We are Sanctuary** We provide a space of physical, emotional, and spiritual safety for immigrants without documents, and specifically pledge to the principles of the national New Sanctuary Movement.

**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, 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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## Easter People, Raise Your Voices 304



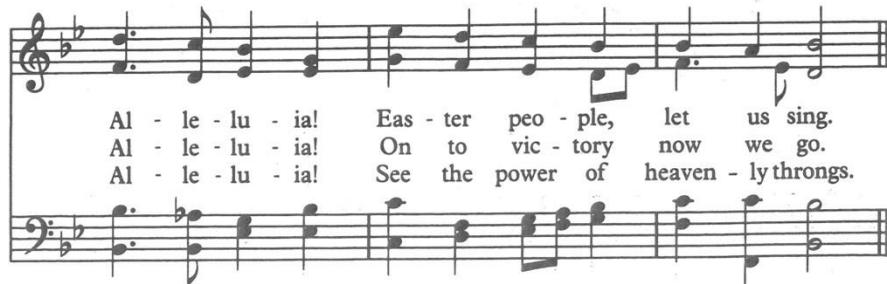
1. Eas - ter peo - ple, raise your voic - es, sounds of heaven in  
 2. Fear of death can no more stop us from our press - ing  
 3. Ev - ery day to us is Eas - ter, with its res - ur -



earth should ring. Christ has brought us heav - en's choic - es;  
 here be - low. For our Lord em - pow - ered us to  
 rec - tion song. When in trou - ble move the fast - er



heaven - ly mu - sic, let it ring. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 tri - umph o - ver ev - ery foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 to our God who rights the wrong. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Eas - ter peo - ple, let us sing.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! On to vic - tory now we go.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! See the power of heaven - ly throngs.