



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word
September 9, 2018
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 am

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content knowing you are a child of God."

Teresa of Avila

THE GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Cantabile

Cesar Franck

*OPENING HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

No. 24

(Low voices on verse 1, all voices on verses 2-3, high voices on Verse 4)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Laine Wojcik

One: From the rising of the sun till its setting in the west,

Many: God's holy name be praised!

One: On the lips of children and seniors from wheelchairs,

Many: God's holy name be praised!

One: In the visions of the old and the dreaming of the young,

Many: God's holy name be praised!

One: In the banquet hall of heaven and in the forgotten corners of our hearts,

Many: God's holy name be praised!

One: People of God, let all that has life and breath praise the Lord.

Many: God's holy name be praised!

INVOCATION (unison)

Direct and help us, O Lord, in all our deeds, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

WORDS OF WELCOME

John Terry

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

*SONG OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit Three in One;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and every shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

THE BLESSING OF GIFTS AND BACKPACKS

Today we bless our children and their backpacks, and also the school supplies that we have been gathering for the last several weeks.

**Please rise if you are able*

*After the blessing, kids through 3rd grade can head upstairs with Kim for Chapel Time.
Parents/Guardians, please join your children in Kirtland Hall
immediately following worship for Learning Community registration and
an ice cream social with the entire Plymouth community.*

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE	Mark 7:24-37	Translation: The Message
ANTHEM	Your Hands, O Lord	Carson Cooman
SERMON	Weariness With Well Doing	
*HYMN	Where Charity and Love Prevail	No. 396

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

CALL TO PRAYER

One: God be with you.
Many: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
Many: We lift our hearts to God.
One: Let us pray...

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 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.

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 the prayer with "sins" through the end of 2018.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM	At the Name of Jesus	Arr. James Kirkby
*DOXOLOGY		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. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN	We Love Your Realm, O God	No. 312
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*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE	Cortège	Flor Peeters
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✿ Joys and Concerns ✿

In the week ahead, you are invited to pray for:

- * Alice Hatt, recovering from a second round of surgery
- * Juanita Tschudy, Jim's wife, recovering at home from surgery
- * Laura Masuicca, recovering from back surgery
- * The overflowing joy of Barbara and Craig French, at the birth of a new grandchild, Barbara Elaine
- * The peace that surpasses all understanding, for Diana French, sister-in-law of Craig and Barbara French
- * Sue de Lima, dealing with health matters
- * David Alber, recovering from successful eye surgery
- * Geoffrey, struggling with faith and relationships—guilt, pain, reconciliation
- * Rick Sears, recovering from surgery
- * Dave West on his journey toward ordination in the Methodist Church
- * Marilyn Fais and her daughter Heather
- * Ruth Emmons
- * Nellie Fisher
- * Mary Lou Ormond
- * Dan
- * Ed Regan
- * Jamie Shavers
- * Cath and Barbara

✿ Plymouth Runs On YOU ✿

LITURGIST: Laine Wojcik **ACOLYTE:** Harry Crawford

OFFERING COUNTERS: Sue Bogucz and Elaine Wolf

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. At Plymouth we try to engage people of all ages in different ways. **Worship activity kits** and age-appropriate **children's bulletins** are available at our *worship activity shelf* in the back of the Sanctuary for our young children and youth (and for any adults who feel led to use them!). We hope that these activities will help worshipers connect with the service in ways that are meaningful to them. **PLEASE** return the activity kits with all of the supplies to the shelf at the end of the service.

Nursery Care: Infants and toddlers have a special place in worship, too, and are always welcome. Sound is piped into Memorial Hall next door to the sanctuary for those who would welcome a space apart. We also offer Nursery care for infants and toddlers at 9:45am.

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:

- All are invited to an Ice Cream Social in Kirtland Hall!
- Learning Community Registration – Kirtland Hall

Help John Terry know who we are by wearing your nametag: John admits he's not good with names and urges all of us to wear our name tags. The Board of Deacons has approved a new format for name tags, with your first name largely printed above your last name. Look for your new name tag and – please – wear it as a sign of your warm welcome for John. (If your nametag hasn't been updated or you don't have one, or prefer a different style – clip vs. lanyard - make a note on the pad on the table below the nametags.) Visitors are encouraged to fill out a "stick-on" tag.

Plymouth's online photo directory reinforces nametag use, matching name to face during the week! If the directory doesn't include your photo yet, email a high quality file to office@plymouthsyr.org. Or we'll be happy to scan a hard copy of a photo you give us and upload it for you; just let Kathy Ferro know! (And if you have questions about the directory, give the church office a call.)

On **September 16 and 23**, we will receive a special offering to supplement our basic budgetary commitment for **Our Church's Wider Mission** basic support. Being a "5 for 5" congregation reminds us that we are a church committed to keeping our covenant with the wider church – including our New York Conference and the national UCC denomination – by fully supporting Our Church's Wider Mission with both basic and special support.

The Food Pantry is seeking donations of hearty soups and spaghetti sauce during the month of September. Please leave your donations in the basket in the back of the sanctuary.

Plymouth ROCKS is once again participating in the Annual Home Headquarters Block Blitz on **Friday, September 14** from 9am-3pm (morning/afternoon shifts) serving Syracuse's Elmwood neighborhood on the Southside. Contact Kelly Tooley from more info or to sign up! (315-450-1023, kelly.tooley@gmail.com).

And we continue to serve lunch at the Rescue Mission on the fourth Sunday of the month (**September 23 this month!**) The group departs Plymouth around 10:15am and finishes serving shortly after 12pm. Young (ages 12 and up) and old are welcome! RSVP to Chris Hopkins (christinehopkins03@gmail.com or 315 476-5139.)

InterFaith Works Youth Ga-Ga Games: Youth teams from Central New York faith communities will compete in a tournament format of this kinder, gentler version of dodge ball on **Sunday, September 16 – 2pm – 4pm** at Schiller Park. Join the Plymouth team by contacting Kim Looney.

The Sunday worship recording team needs assistance! The sermon and worship service is recorded every Sunday morning and posted on the website. We are looking for additional people to join this ministry so we don't miss a Sunday! Contact John Hottenstein (315.474.6214, jhottens@twcnny.rr.com) if you are willing to be trained and to serve on an occasional Sunday.

PLEASE help us live out our mission of "Welcoming All" by signing up to usher, greet, host community time or contribute flowers:

- 1) Visit our website: www.plymouthsyr.org
- 2) At the top of the screen, click on: GET INVOLVED
- 3) Scroll down to GREETERS, USHERS and HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS
- 4) click on SIGN UP
- 5) Scroll down to the date of your choice and click on SIGN UP next to the ministry of your choice
- 6) Click on SUBMIT AND SIGN-UP
- 7) Add your contact info and you are all set to go!

Registration is now underway for Interfaith Works' *Dinner Dialogues* that are being held on **Thursday, September 27, 2018**, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at various residences or faith communities in

and around Syracuse. Around the table, over food, people of diversity share a meal, and with facilitated questions, offer their personal thoughts about life, faith, and spirituality. To participate contact: Gracious Moyo, 315-449-3552 ext. 111 or goyo@interfaithworkscny.org. Registration forms are also available on the bulletin board in the Plymouth hallway and additional information can be found in the September *Plymouth Story*.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. Sept. 10 Food Pantry – 2pm – 4pm
- Tues. Sept. 11 Board of Deacons – 5:15pm - Parlor
Board of Trustees – 6:30pm - Parlor
- Thurs. Sept. 13 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 5:30pm - Sanctuary
Choir Rehearsal – 7pm – Memorial Hall
- Fri. Sept. 14 Plymouth ROCKS – Home Headquarters Block Blitz – 9am-3pm
- Sun. Sept. 16 Worship/PrayGround - 10am
Learning Community – 11am
Forum – Pastoral Search Update – 11:15am – Memorial Hall
Youth Ga-Ga Games Event – 2pm – Schiller Park

🌀 Music Notes for September 9, 2018 🌀

Today we welcome back the choir with several new members whom we will introduce in the coming weeks.

Our **prelude** is by the great French organist, Cesar Franck (1822-1890.) He was born in Liege, which was then part of the Netherlands, but in the area which separated from the Protestant Netherlands to become the Catholic Belgium in 1830. After a poor reception to one of his early works, he moved to Paris where he took the position as organist at St. Clotilde, and eventually became professor of organ at the Paris Conservatoire. The *Cantabile* is one of the myriad of pieces he wrote for his church. If you listen carefully, you'll hear a canon (a round) between the top voice and the pedal in the middle section of this piece. Franck was very fond of canons and included them in his music often.

Our **anthem** is by Carson Cooman (b. 1982), who was born in Rochester and is now composer in residence at Memorial Church at Harvard University. He is especially active as a performer of new music:

*Your hands, O Lord, in days of old were strong to heal and save;
They triumphed over pain and death, o'er darkness and the grave.
To you they went, the blind, the mute, the palsied and the lame,
The leper set apart and shunned, the sick and those in shame.*

*And then your touch brought life and health, gave speech and strength and sight;
And youth renewed, with health restored, claimed you, the Lord of light.
And so, O Lord, be near to bless, almighty now as then,
In every street, in every home, in every troubled friend.*

*O be our mighty healer still, O Lord of life and death;
Restore and strengthen, soothe and bless with your almighty breath.
On hands that work and eyes that see, your healing wisdom pour,
That whole and sick and weak and strong may praise you ever more.*

James Kirby (b. 1949) is a retired English teacher who now lives in Aberdeen, Scotland. Our **offertory anthem** uses the tune of the French folk carol, *Noel Nouvelet* set to the familiar text.

Flor Peeters (1903-1986) was a Belgian composer from the Flemish north, just across the border from the Netherlands. Our **postlude** is from a collection of sixty pieces he wrote for both amateur and professional organists, for both church and home. You'll notice the four repeated notes in the bass (an *ostinato!*) which occur throughout the piece.

✎ 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 Immigrant Welcoming We seek to learn, support, and develop practices and programs that facilitate the respectful welcome and inclusion of all immigrants into our congregation and community.

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!

The Rev. Dr. John A. Terry, Interim Pastor; jterry@plymouthsyr.org
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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