



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word
September 23, 2018
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 am

THE GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Livre d'Orgue: Dialogue

Joseph Downing

*OPENING HYMN

God is My Shepherd

No. 479

*CALL TO WORSHIP (by Katherine Hawker, adapted)

Sue Bogucz

One: We come to worship as we are.

All: The first shall be last, and the last shall be first.

One: We come with confidence.

All: The first shall be last.

One: We come with questions.

All: The last shall be first.

One: We come celebrating success.

All: The first shall be last.

One: We come burdened by failure.

All: The last shall be first.

One: We come uncertain of the future.

**All: The first shall be last
and the last shall be first
and a little child shall lead them.**

INVOCATION (*unison*)

by Pádraig Ó Tuama

God of the story,

**You are in and out of the stories we read,
calling us into them and calling us out of them.**

**Give us courage to listen to our own curiosities
as we read old stories.**

**Dare us to ask the questions
hidden in the heart of the text.**

**Lead us to mine—
with heart and mind and desire and desperation—
the many meanings in the one story.**

**Because this is where we find you
and where you find us. Amen.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Craig French

*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.**

**Please rise if you are able*

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

*After the story, kids through 3rd grade can head **downstairs** (this week only!)
with Kim for Chapel Time.*

SCRIPTURE

Mark 9:33-37

The Inclusive Bible

ANTHEM

I Wonder As I Wander

Appalachian Folk Song

SERMON

*HYMN

A Place at the Table

Insert (page 3)

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.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Today we will receive a special offering to supplement our basic budgetary commitment to Our Church's Wider Mission support. Please prayerfully consider a special gift and place it in the envelopes provided in the pews or make out a check to Plymouth Church with "OCWM" in the memo line.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Hear the Voice and Prayer

John Larkin Hopkins

*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

Help Us Accept Each Other

No. 388

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Les Moissonneurs

François Couperin



We welcome Craig French to the pulpit this Sunday as John Terry is away officiating at an old friend's wedding.

A Place at the Table



1. For ev - ery-one born, a place at the ta - ble, for
 2. For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble, re -
 3. For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble, a
 4. For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble, a -
 5. For ev - ery-one born, a place at the ta - ble, to



ev - ery-one born, clean wa - ter and bread, — a shel - ter, a
 vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share, — with wis - dom and
 voice to be heard, a part in the song, — the hands of a
 bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give, — in an - ger, in
 live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be, — to work, to speak



space, a safe place for grow - ing, for ev - ery-one born, a
 grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er, for wom - an and man, a
 child in hands that are wrin - kled, for young and for old, the
 hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy, for just and un - just, a
 out, to wit - ness and wor - ship, for ev - ery-one born, the

Refrain



star o - ver - head. —
 sys - tem that's fair. —
 right to be - long. — And God will de - light — when
 new way to live. —
 right to be free. —



we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and joy, — yes, God will de -



light — when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice, —



jus - tice and joy! —

✎ Joys and Concerns ✎

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

- * Kirsten Hubel and the repose of Dana Wheelock's soul
- * Jim Vedder and his children as they both mourn the death and celebrate the life of their wife/mother, Carol
- * Alice Hatt, recovering from a second round of surgery
- * 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: Sue Bogucz

USHERS: Funmi Afelumo and Frank Leonard **ACOLYTE:** Kaleigha Spinner

FLOWERS are given by Tina and Jenny Goodall with immense gratitude and overwhelming joy for the birth of Jayden Frederick Bess, Sept. 15, 2018, 5 lbs. 7 ozs.

COMMUNITY TIME: Chris Hopkins

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:

- Learning Community – 11am
 - Preschool/Kindergarten – Upstairs
 - Elementary - **downstairs** in Adult Education Room
- Community Time – 11:15am – Memorial Hall

Search Process update: Church Council has discussed the next steps in the search for a settled pastor. They decided that the process will proceed in two steps. First, a “Discernment Committee” will engage the congregation in exploring answers to three questions: “Who are we?” “Who is our neighbor?” and “Who is God calling us to be?” Discernment of the answers to these questions will enable the Committee to develop the Church Profile that will be used to advertise for Plymouth’s next settled pastor. The members of the committee will decide specifically how, when, and where members of the congregation will engage with one another, and they will be responsible for organizing activities that help us to answer these questions. Once this process nears completion, a separate Search Committee will be formed to advertise the position, interview candidates, and call the settled pastor. The rationale for a two-step process is that the Discernment process is intended to help us to build a stronger community and to identify individuals, including new members, who would be candidates to be members of the Search Committee.

Nomination forms for the Discernment Committee will be available in the back of the church. Completed forms should be left in the Church Council mailbox (in the hallway near the elevator) by Sunday, October 14, 2018. Alternatively, up to 3 names can be submitted via email to Kathy Ferro at kferro@plymouthsyr.org Nominations will be reviewed at the October Church Council meeting.

Learning Community Family Apple Picking: Families with young children and youth are invited to go apple-picking at Navarino Orchard on Sunday, September 30th. We will meet at the orchard at 2:00PM. Contact Kim Looney if you need a ride, have questions, or need to RSVP.

Plymouth Women’s Fellowship will reconvene at 12 noon on **Monday, October 1** at the **Solvay Library**, 615 Woods Rd., Solvay, 13209. All women are invited. Bring a lunch and a snack to share. For directions or information, contact Anne Frank (315-487-1023) or Peggy Kinner (315-492-0556).

The **Food Pantry** is seeking donations of hearty soups, canned tuna and chicken, hamburger helper, ravioli/meat and pasta, spaghetti sauce and crackers. Please leave your donations in the basket in the back of the sanctuary.

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@twcny.rr.com) if you are willing to be trained and to serve on an occasional Sunday.

The “Race Matters” Book Club sponsored by ACTS will read “Evicted - Poverty & Profit in the American City” for its 4th Monday of the month gathering on **Monday September 24 @ 7 PM**. This session will be held at University United Methodist Church at the corner of E. Genesee & University Avenue. Access to the church is through the side entrance off of University Ave. Off-street parking is available in the church’s lot across from Copper Beach Commons [student housing] just off University Ave.

The Plymouth Nursery is growing! Will you help us update our room by donating new or like-new toys?

We are looking for the following for infants 0-12 months:

- Toys to stack and sort
- Toys that make noise (xylophone, rattles, shakers, etc.)
- Board books
- Sensory toys

We are NOT able to accept:

- Toys with batteries
- Jumpers
- Walkers
- Plush/fabric toys
- Toys with small parts
- Toys that are old/worn-out

Please contact Kim Looney via email or at the church office if you have a donation you would like to make.

Don't forget to wear your nametag! Please wear it as a sign of your warm welcome for Interim Pastor John Terry, visitors and for us long-time members who have trouble holding on to names. If you don't have a nametag, prefer a different style (clip vs. lanyard) or have a preferred version of your name, make a note on the pad on the table below the nametags. Visitors are encouraged to fill out a "stick-on" tag.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. Sept. 24 Food Pantry – 2pm – 4pm
- Wed. Sept. 26 Pastoral Relations Team – 5:30pm - Parlor
- Thurs. Sept. 27 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 5:30pm - Sanctuary
Choir Rehearsal – 7pm – Memorial Hall
- Sun. Sept. 30 Worship/Chapel Time - 10am
Learning Community – 11am
Community Time – 11:15am
Learning Community Family apple picking – 2pm

Music Notes for September 23, 2018

Our **prelude** was written when I was a graduate student in 1984. It is from a suite of pieces written using modern harmonies, but forms and organ registrations from the French Baroque times.

Perhaps the most famous carol from Appalachia, *I Wonder As I Wander* is most frequently sung today at Christmas time because of the second verse reference to the Nativity. However, it is appropriate for today because of its reference to the awe the singer feels about Jesus' gift of his life:

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die,
For poor ornery people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.*

*When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.*

*If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing –
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing, -
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.*

John Larkins Hopkins (1819-1873) was an English organist and composer. Our **offertory anthem** follows almost all the rules of 16th century composition, so the piece sounds much older than it actually is:

*Hear the voice and prayer of thy servants which they make before thee this day,
That thine heart may be open towards this house, day and night.
Ever towards this place of which thou hast said, "My name shall be there."
And when thou hearest, have mercy upon them.*

François Couperin (1668-1733) was the most famous of a family of keyboard players and composers in the French Baroque. He wrote two masses for organ and hundreds of short character pieces, often in the *Rondeau* form (with a refrain played at the beginning which comes back in between contrasting sections of music.) The movements for organ only have as titles which stops to use, while the harpsichord works have fanciful titles. Our **postlude**, for example, means "*The Reapers*" which seems appropriate for this time of year.

🌀 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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