



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word
October 28, 2018
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday
10:00 am

THE GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Ein Fest Burg ist unser Gott

Michael Praetorius

*OPENING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

No. 439

*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 34)

Dick Mace

One: I will bless the Lord at all times.

Many: God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

One: Our souls make their boast in the Lord.

Many: Let the humble hear and be glad.

One: When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears them

Many: and rescues them from all their troubles.

One: The Lord is near to those who are brokenhearted;

Many: our God saves those who are crushed in Spirit.

One: The Lord redeems the lives of his servants.

Many: None of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

* INVOCATION (*unison*)

Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts, Almighty God, to rule and direct us according to your will, to comfort us in all our temptations and afflictions, to defend us from all error, and lead us into all truth; that we, being steadfast in the faith, may increase in love and in all good works, and in the end obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

*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 ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

**Please rise if you are able*

After the story, kids through 3^d grade can head upstairs
with Kim for Chapel Time.

SCRIPTURE	Mark 10:46-52	
ANTHEM	The Blind Man	Spiritual
SERMON	The Quality of Mercy	
*HYMN	Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour	No. 551

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 SAVIOUR

In an effort to pray in unison while respecting the different versions that many of us have prayed since childhood, we will cycle through different versions over the course of a year. On the last Sunday of the month we pray the following, which is adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book and uses contemporary, inclusive language. It is a paraphrase – not a translation – of the original Greek in the New Testament.

Eternal Spirit,

Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver

Source of all that is and all that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by people of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hopes and come on earth.

With bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

May it be so. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

STEWARDSHIP WITNESS

Kim Dill

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER (*unison*)

Dear God,

There are times when I don't know what to do. That is why I am so glad that you are in my life. When I am torn between what I think is the right thing to do and others are telling me differently, I turn to you. You are never too busy to answer my knock, or ask me to leave a voice message. All you ask of me is "to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk wisely before You." But I can't do it alone. Thank you for giving me my Plymouth family. Together, we can help each other do just that. Act justly, love mercy, and walk wisely before You. Now it is my turn to help others in my Plymouth family in Syracuse and abroad. May my offering be a delight to your eyes. Amen.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

A Mighty Fortress

William R. Price

*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

I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me

No. 474

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ein Fest Burg ist unser Gott

Johann Gottfried Walther



✠ Joys and Concerns ✠

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

- * Scott and Kim Looney and family on the death of Scott's grandfather, James Clifford Moore
- * Clita Mae Moore
- * Lee Morris Whitehead
- * The peace that surpasses all understanding, for Diana French, sister-in-law of Craig and Barbara French
- * Sue de Lima, dealing with health matters
- * Geoffrey, struggling with faith and relationships—guilt, pain, reconciliation
- * 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

**Don't forget to set your clocks BACK one hour before
going to bed next Saturday, November 3rd!**

✿ Plymouth Runs On YOU ✿

LITURGIST: Dick Mace

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

OFFERING COUNTERS: Sue Bogucz and Keith Jakway

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
- Community Time – 11:15am – Memorial Hall
- Covenant Community Potluck – 11:30am – Kirtland Hall

Fall is here! The coatrack on the elevator balcony is now available for your use (as is the coatrack in the parlor.)

All are invited to a **celebration of Dana Wheelock's life** on **Saturday, November 3** at **2pm** in Memorial Hall.

Plymouth Women's Fellowship will meet at 12 noon on **Monday, November 5** 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). *And use the back parking lot for better accessibility!*

The Food Pantry needs additional volunteers. We are looking for subs on Monday afternoon 2-4 to help out when regulars are unavailable. We are also looking for individuals willing to pick up and drop off food from various locations to the church at any convenient time. Please contact Cyndi Signorelli 315-727-5671 or Maurine McTyre-Watts 315-395-5212 if you can help. We are also 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.

Having trouble matching a name with a face? During this interim time when it is perhaps more important than ever to get to know one another, our online photo directory is an invaluable tool **IF it is populated with photos!** Please, please, please email your photo or a family photo to the church office ASAP. If you have a smart phone, download the free Instant Church Directory app and you can call, email, or navigate to home addresses with a tap of the finger! Contact the church office if you have any questions about this important means of staying connected.

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.

Home communion: If you are unable to be in church on communion Sunday and want to receive communion, Keith Jakway will be happy to bring it to you – just give him a call at 315-382-0843. Or email him at Kri1158@aol.com.

Where have all the Greeters gone? Plymouth needs YOU to help us live out our mission of "Welcoming All" on Sunday morning. Please sign 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!

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)
- Board books
- Sensory toys

We are NOT able to accept toys with batteries, jumpers, walkers, plush/fabric toys, toys with small parts, or toys that are old/worn-out

Contact Kim Looney via email or at the church office if you'd like to make a donation.

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. Oct. 29 Food Pantry – 2pm – 4pm
- Thurs. Nov. 1 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 5:30pm - Sanctuary
Choir Rehearsal – 7pm – Memorial Hall
- Sat. Nov. 3 Celebration of Dana Wheelock's life – 2pm – Memorial Hall
- Sun. Nov. 4 **Daylight Savings Time Ends!**
Worship/Communion/PrayGround - 10am
Learning Community – 11am – 3rd floor
Youth Justice Work – 11am – Downstairs kitchen

🌀 Music Notes for October 28, 2018 🌀

Today we celebrate Reformation Sunday. The great hymn of the Reformation was written by Martin Luther himself: A Mighty Fortress is our God. This tune remains one of the most popular hymns of all time, especially in Germany. Numerous composers have written chorale preludes and cantatas which use this hymn tune. Felix Mendelssohn even wrote a symphony in which this tune plays a prominent role, called, not surprisingly, the Reformation Symphony.

Our **prelude** is a chorale prelude on A Mighty Fortress by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621.) Praetorius (which is the Latin form of Schultz) was a prolific composer in southern Germany – from Frankfurt to Dresden. He wrote over twelve hundred sacred pieces, many of them in the Venetian polychoral style that he most likely learned from the music of the Gabriellis. He remains one of the most important composers of the late Renaissance.

William Roger Price (b. 1955) is a professor of piano and composition at the University of Tulsa. Our **anthem** captures some of the rhythmic vitality that was present in Luther's original tune which was all "evened out" to equal note values in the eighteenth century.

Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748) was the cousin of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750.) It is not at all surprising that he was an organist; so many of Bach's relatives were organists, composers, and musicians that in Germany people used the word "Bach" to mean "church musician." There were more than fifty members of the family that were musicians over a period spanning two hundred years! Although Walther was an accomplished performer, his greater legacy was the first musical dictionary which defined over three thousand musical terms, and gave names and dates of composers, as well as entire treatises on music. Our **postlude** is one of his 132 organ chorale preludes.

Our **anthem** relates to our scripture reading. It is taken from the collection of spirituals that Harry Burleigh (1866-1949) compiled. The text is almost literally from the reading:

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

🌀 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; jerry@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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