



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of Word and Sacrament

January 6, 2019

Epiphany

10:00 am

THE GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

“Divinum Mysterium”
arr. John Watkinson

Plainsong

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Adena Giroux

*OPENING HYMN

As With Gladness Those of Old

No. 159

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*based on Psalm 72*)

Stacey Ott

One: Give to the rulers your justice, O God.

All: May the rulers judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

One: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

All: May the rulers defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

One: For the rulers deliver the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

All: The rulers have pity on the weak and the needy, and save the lives of the needy. From oppression and violence may the rulers redeem their life.

*INVOCATION (*unison*)

God of Light and Love, in this very moment the star still beckons. Gather us and let the star call us to new ways of healing and hope, restoration and renewal, as we discover again Christ’s call to discipleship. 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 for All Ages, all children and youth as well as any adults are invited to participate in the PrayGround in the space at the front, right-hand side of the sanctuary. The PrayGround is a dedicated space for them to quietly and creatively interact with the day's theme.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

ANTHEM

"Christmas Joy"

by Mark Schweizer

*[The Anthem is combined with the quartet chorale:
"O Morning Star, how clear and bright" with text from hymn #158]*

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky has withdrawn,
When the kings see their prophecy rightly fulfilled,
when the princes and shepherds have gone;
then the true work of Christmas begins,
to find the lost, to heal the broken hearts, to feed the hungry,
to free the prisoner, to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among neighbors, to make music in the heart.
When the song of the angels is stilled, then the true work of Christmas begins.*

(poem by Howard Thurman)

SERMON

Drawn to the Light

*HYMN

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

No. 459

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...

BIDDING PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 2019.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Today we receive a special offering for Plymouth's Good Samaritan Fund. This fund is used for direct ministries of mercy and benevolence with Plymouth members and our neighbors. To contribute, please make out a check to Plymouth Congregational Church with the words "Good Samaritan Fund" in the memo line.

*What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent announcing a new King, glad tidings of our God to bring.
'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, "From Jacob shall a star proceed;"
and lo! The eastern sages stand, to read in heaven the Lord's command.
While outward signs the star displays, an inward light the Lord conveys,
And urges them, with force benign, to seek the giver of the sign.
O, while the star of heavenly grace invites us Lord, to seek thy face,
may we no more that grace repel, or quench that light which shines so well!
To God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit, three in One,
May every tongue and nation raise an endless song of thankful praise!*

(hymn text by John Chandler, 1807-1876)

*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

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

DISTRIBUTION OF BREAD AND CUP

Our communion table is open to everyone. All you have to be to feast at this table is hungry. Please come forward by the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and eat before returning to your seat via the side aisles. The cups contain non-alcoholic grape juice; an egg and gluten-free option is available instead of bread. If you cannot come forward but would like to partake, simply raise your hand and servers will come to you.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*CLOSING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

No. 154

*BENEDICTION

CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

arr. Dale Wood



*This morning we welcome the music leadership of
Alice Dickerson Hatt while Joe Downing is away.*



✿ Joys and Concerns ✿

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

- * Jon Preston, Chris Norman, and their son Ryan in celebration of the finalizing of Ryan's adoption on December 21 - an exciting Christmas present for the family
- * Bob Watrous
- * Mary Ellen Brzozowski
- * Myrtle Bryant
- * Carola Shave
- * John Jureller
- * Sue deLima
- * Diana French
- * Dave West
- * Ruth Emmons
- * Nellie Fisher
- * Mary Lou Ormond
- * Dan
- * Ed Regan
- * Jamie Shavers
- * Kath and Barbara

✿ Plymouth Runs On YOU ✿

GREETER: Sarah Whitton **USHERS:** Barb Genton and Cindy Perrine

LITURGIST: Stacey Otte **ACOLYTE:** Adena Giroux

COMMUNITY TIME: Kailyn Wright

COMMUNION SERVERS: Funmi Afelumo, George Bain,
Nancy Johnson, Kailyn Wright

FLOWERS given by George Bain in loving memory of Caroline D. Bain,
September 3, 1922-January 5, 2015

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 are changing tables in the restroom just off the sanctuary, in the nursery, and in the men's restroom in the basement.

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:

- Community Time
- Family Faith Formation for children, youth & their families – 11:15 on third floor
- Forum Planning Team – 11:15 in the Parlor
- Covenant Community Information Session – 11:15 in youth room (Room #5) on second floor
- Discernment Committee – 11:30 in the Adult Education Room

Stewardship Update: We have received 82 pledges for \$235,512 toward Plymouth's 2019 budget. Our stewardship effort will continue until the Annual Meeting in January. Your pledges make possible the operation of the church and its ongoing efforts of love, justice and mercy. Pledge cards are available in the Sanctuary. If you need one but are unable to come to worship, please contact George Bain.

YOUR input is important as Plymouth moves forward into 2019! Opportunities include:

- **Discernment Conversations** - Sunday, January 13 following worship in Memorial Hall: The Discernment Committee will facilitate conversations around "who are we now?" and "who is God calling us to be?" Information gathered through these conversations will assist the Committee in creating the Church Profile which is used in the search for our new pastor.
- **2019 Budget Review** – Sunday, January 20 following worship in Memorial Hall: Treasurer Susan Hawks will review the proposed 2019 budget. Assistant Treasurer Bernie Peterson and trustees will also be available to field any questions. This is your chance to have input prior to the budget coming up for a vote at the Annual Meeting on January 27.
- **Annual Meeting** – Sunday, January 27 following worship in the sanctuary.

Consider Joining a Covenant Community! Plymouth's Covenant Community groups consist of eight to twelve people building community and discussing "life's big questions" in monthly meetings in one another's homes. Its coordinators (Sue Bogucz and Elaine Wolf) are currently recruiting people to form groups in 2019. If you are interested in exploring this means of getting to know other Plymouth people in a small and confidential environment, you are invited to an informational session with Elaine **TODAY** after church in the Youth Room (Room #5) on the second floor. If you are unable to attend that gathering but have questions, contact Elaine (elainewolf0148@gmail.com) or Sue (sebogucz@twcny.rr.com). Please let us know on or before January 20 if you want to participate so that groups can be ready to meet in February.

Ushers, Greeters and Community Time hosts are needed every Sunday so that we can continue our mission of "Welcoming all." Volunteer today by:

- 1) Signing up online (Visit our website: www.plymouthsyr.org; click on GET INVOLVED at the top of the screen, scroll down to GREETERS, USHERS and HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS, click on SIGN UP and follow the prompts OR
- 2) Contacting a Deacon (an usher can connect you with one!) OR
- 3) Contacting the church office

Community Time sign up is also available in the bell tower and on the community time table each week. The Deacons are happy to answer any questions about these important ministries. Sign up with a friend, or partner with someone who has done it before. Please consider a couple-times-a-year commitment. Thanks!

Plymouth ROCKS: We will be serving lunch at the Rescue Mission on **Sunday, January 27**. 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.**

ACTS Race Matters Book Club discussion of “To Kill a Mockingbird,” by Harper Lee, is taking place on Monday, January 28th at 7:00 PM at St. Augustine’s Catholic Church, 7333 O’Brien Rd. in Baldwinsville. For more information contact Peter Sarver at petersarveracts@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. Jan. 7 DEADLINE FOR ANNUAL REPORTS
Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm
- Tues. Jan. 8 Board of Deacons, 5:15pm – Parlor
Board of Trustees, 6:30pm – Parlor
Board of Christian Formation, 7:00pm
- Thurs. Jan. 10 Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm
- Sun. Jan. 13 Worship/Chapel Time - 10am
Learning Community – 11am
Discernment Conversations – 11:15am – Memorial Hall
Youth Supper – 5:00pm

✿ 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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