



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word
January 13, 2019
Baptism of the Lord
First Sunday after Epiphany
10:00 am

THE GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Water Music: Andante

Georg Frideric Handel

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Harry Crawford

*OPENING HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

No. 407

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*based on Psalm 29*) Scott Kraemer

One: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

All: Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.

One: The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.

All: The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

One: The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

All: The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

One: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

All: May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

*INVOCATION (*unison*)

Eternal God, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Grant that all who are baptized into his name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. 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.**

**Please rise if you are able*

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY FOR ALL AGES

After the story, kids through 3rd grade can head upstairs for Chapel Time.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:15-22

ANTHEM

Jesus Came to John the Baptist

Crawford Gates

SERMON

Washed

*HYMN

There's a Spirit in the Air

No. 294

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...

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Baptism of Christ

Michael Bedford

*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

*BLESSING FOR LUCKNER MORANGE for his journey to Haiti and back

*CLOSING HYMN

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

No. 393

*BENEDICTION

CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

Water Music: Alla Danza

Georg Frideric Handel



Kim Looney is away this week for the funeral of her grandmother.

☞ Joys and Concerns ☞

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

- * Kim Looney and her family on the death of her grandmother, Virginia Ann Sturgill
- * 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



The Discernment Committee will be conducting a series of three listening sessions following worship to gather input from the congregation around the three questions below:

TODAY: Who Are We Now?

February 10: **Who Is Our Neighbor?**

February 24: **Who Is God Calling Us To Become?**

Please plan to attend and participate in the discussion as you are able. If you are unable to attend, the questions for each session will be available via email and/or in paper copies during church that Sunday. Please feel free to answer the questions independently if you are unable to stay. You can submit them to any member of the committee or to the church office. All responses are anonymous.

Discernment Committee:

Funmi Afelumo
Sue Bogucz
Caroline Cargo

Barb Genton
Leela George
Juliet Giglio

Christine Richardson
Sarah Whitton
Josh Wright



☞ Some Things You Ought to Know ☞

TODAY following worship:

- Learning Community
- Forum - Discernment Conversations - 11:15 - Memorial Hall

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.

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. Please let us know on or before January 20 if you want to participate so that groups can be ready to meet in February.

Inquirers' luncheon: Are you new to Plymouth and want to know more? Are you interested in taking the "next step?" If the answers to either or both of these questions is "yes," please plan on attending the next Inquirers' Luncheon on Sunday, February 3 from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Join John Terry to learn more about Plymouth, our United Church of Christ, and the meaning of membership. A light lunch will be provided. Child care is available if you let us know by January 27. RSVP to the church office at office@plymouthsyr.org or 474-4836. Should you so choose, new members will be received during worship on Sunday, March 3.

Come hear Andrew VanNorstrand and friends play some parlor music at Plymouth on Friday, February 8 at 8pm. Andrew will perform on vocals, fiddle, guitar and banjo, joined by Anna Patton, from Brattleboro, Vermont, on clarinet, and Amy Englesberg, from Seattle, on keyboard. Andrew's original music often focuses on issues of identity, faith, gender and a search for understanding in rural America. They will perform in the Parlor, where seating is limited. Please reserve your seats by calling the Plymouth office at 315-474-4836 or office@plymouthsyr.org. Tickets are \$15 apiece to be paid at the door by cash or check payable to Plymouth Church.

For more information on Andrew check out <https://www.andrewvannorstrand.com/> and for his friends <http://www.amyenglesberg.com/> and <http://www.annapatton.com/>.

The Plymouth Food Pantry depends on donations... Our food pantry is open one day a week, serving approximately 80 people per month. We appreciate donations of money as well as non-perishable food items. Hearty soups and canned chicken are most needed, as they are not often available from the Food Bank. For the most part, money donations go further in feeding more people since we purchase food in bulk. A donation of **\$15.00 provides a 5 day/15 meal pantry package for 1 person**, and **\$40.00 provides that package for a family of 4**. Please consider donating, as you are able, to support our pantry.

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.**

An event for families: "Weird! The Musical." January 19 at 3:00 and 7:30 PM, January 20 at 3 PM. The Oncenter Carrier Theater. Tickets \$10 children/\$15 adults. TicketMaster.com or 315-435-2121. The show, based on the Weird! book series by Erin Frankel and Paula Heaphy, is an energetic family musical with a powerful message about bullying. Families and kids will enjoy seeing the pages of the books come to life on stage with Luisa, Sam, Jayla and their friends learning where their power comes from and how to use it. This show is written and produced by the local agency Peaceful Schools, who works with schools in the areas of conflict resolution, mediation, and character development.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

• Mon. Jan. 14 Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm	• Thurs. Jan. 17 Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm
• Tues. Jan. 15 Church Council, 5:30pm – Parlor	• Sun. Jan. 20 Worship/PrayGround - 10am Learning Community – 11am

Forum – Budget Review – 11:15am – Memorial Hall

The Annual Meeting of Plymouth Congregational Church is on Sunday, January 27 following worship.

☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☞

GREETER: Sarah Whitton **USHERS:** George Bain and Kelly Tooley

LITURGIST: Scott Kraemer **ACOLYTE:** Harry Crawford

COMMUNITY TIME: The Discernment Committee

FLOWERS given by Gert Danzy in honor of Desmond, TJ, Darius and Imani

OFFERING COUNTERS: Sue Bogucz and Audrey Kane

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.

☞ 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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