



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

**Service of Word and Sacrament
February 3, 2019
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
10:00 am**

*“Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes and see - how good God is.
Blessed are you who run to him.”*

Psalm 34:8

THE GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

There Is a Balm

Joe Utterback

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Harry Crawford

*OPENING HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Skies

No. 86

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

After the Story for All Ages, children through 5th grade are invited to follow Kim Looney and two representatives from the Discernment Committee for a special tour of Plymouth. We will be back in time for Communion.

INVOCATION (*unison*)

Scott Looney

God guide us as we seek to discern your future for this church. We ask you to replace all fear and anxiety with faith and trust. Lead us where you would have us go. Bind us together in love for one another. Grant us growth in our faith and widen the outreach of your ministry. We ask this to your glory and praise. In Jesus' name we pray. 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

SCRIPTURE

Job 38 – selected verses

ANTHEM

Why Is the World In Colour?

Joseph Downing

SERMON

Tasting God

*HYMN

All Things Bright and Beautiful

No. 31

**Please rise if you are able*

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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Come Sunday

Duke Ellington

*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

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.

*CLOSING HYMN

When In Our Music God Is Glorified

insert (pg. 3)

*BENEDICTION

CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

Somebody's Knocking

Joe Utterback



☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☜

GREETER: Jeff Bleecker **USHERS:** George Bain and Barb Genton

LITURGIST: Scott Looney **ACOLYTE:** Harry Crawford

COMMUNION SERVERS: George Bain, Juliet Giglio, Kelly Tooley,
Kailyn Wright

OFFERING COUNTERS: Keith Jakway 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.

When In Our Music God Is Glorified

Frederick Pratt Green (1969)

Joseph Downing (1982)



1. When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied,
2. How oft in ma - king mu - sic we have found
3. And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night
4. Let ev' - ry in - stru - ment be tuned for praise!

4



And a - dor - a - tion leaves no room for pride,
a new di - men - sion in the world of sound
when ut - most e - vil strove a - gainst the light?
Let all re - jice who have a voice to raise!

7



It is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried:
as wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found
Then let us sing for whom he won the fight,
And may God give us faith to sing al - ways

10



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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:

- Learning Community
- Community Time – Memorial Hall
- Inquirers' Luncheon – 11:30 - Parlor
- Youth Supper – 5pm at the Mannion's home

Plymouth Women are meeting **TOMORROW, Monday, February 4 at 12:00noon** (unless schools are closed due to snow) at the Solvay Library, 615 Woods Rd., Solvay, 13209. We meet to share our social justice interests and activities and for our own social connections. Bring a lunch and a snack to share. For directions or information, contact Anne Frank (315-487-1023) or Peggy Kinner (315-492-0556).

Plymouth Bells are the opening act at the 9th Annual **World Interfaith Harmony Assembly TOMORROW, Monday, February 4** from 6:30-8:00pm at Southern Missionary Baptist Church, 3143 Midland Ave. Come support the Plymouth Bells and experience the diversity of faith communities in Central New York. The event is free and open to all.

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/>.

All Plymouth families with young children and youth are invited to go bowling at Flamingo Bowl in Liverpool on **Saturday, February 9, 12-2 PM**. Cost is \$5 per person bowling, which includes shoes and two hours of bowling (If cost is an issue, let Kim Looney know in order to make alternate arrangements). Please contact Kim Looney by Monday, February 4 if your family would like to participate.

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, February 24**. 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.**

Ride to church needed! Rebekah Tanner and Andrea Stoeckel live in the Lyncourt area. If you can give them a ride to church, call them at 315-450-5708.

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 Krj1158@aol.com.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. Feb. 4 Plymouth Women – 12noon – Solvay Library
Food Pantry – 2pm – 4pm
World Interfaith Harmony Assembly -6:30pm – Southern
Missionary Baptist Church
- Tues. Feb. 5 Discernment Committee – 6pm - Parlor
- Thurs. Feb. 7 Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm
- Fri. Feb. 8 Andrew VanNorstrand and friends in concert – 8pm – Parlor
- Sat. Feb. 9 Family Bowling – 12noon – Flamingo Bowl
- Sun. Feb. 10 Worship/Chapel Time-Discernment
Learning Community – 11:00am
Discernment Conversations – Who is Our Neighbor?
11:15 in Memorial Hall

🎵 Music Notes for February 3, 2019 🎵

During the month of February, in recognition of Black History Month, we will be doing several pieces from the African American tradition.

Joe Utterback (b. 1944), who wrote our **prelude** and **postlude**, is a jazz musician who has worked on Broadway and in major jazz clubs around the USA. He has taught at Sacred Heart University, in Fairfield, Connecticut for more than 20 years, and has been Director of Music at First Congregational Church (UCC) in Stratford, Connecticut since 1996.

I wrote our **anthem** in 2007. It expresses today's theme of experiencing God through all our senses:

*Why is the world in colour? Why not just black and white?
Shade and shadow are all we need to keep from stumbling at night!
But each new day we, in bright display, see flowers and paints in endless strains:
Salmon and taupe and meadow green, teal, dusty rose, and tangerine.
Such an extravagant God! Such an irrational God!
Delighting us on every side with colour, taste and sound.*

*Why does food taste delicious? Why water turned to wine?
Soy and tofu are all we need to keep us fit and alive!
Instead, we savour each different flavor; vegetables, fruits in endless strains:
Garlic and chocolate, refried beans, strawberries, mint, and tangerines.
Such an extravagant God! Such an irrational God!
Delighting us on every side with colour, taste and sound.*

*Why are there songs and music? Why timbre, rhythm, pitch?
Words and gestures are all we need. Does music merely enrich?
Why no! We revel in changing levels; harmonic sounds in endless strains.
Tubas and cellos, aeolines, xylophones, flutes, and tambourines.
Such an extravagant God! Such an irrational God!
Delighting us on every side with colour, taste and sound.*

Duke Ellington (1899-1974) rose to fame when his orchestra (big band) played at the Cotton Club in Harlem. Although we quickly think of him as a jazz musician, he preferred to think of his own music as "beyond category." Our **offertory anthem** is a rare example of a piece written for church which uses a jazz harmonic vocabulary:

*Come Sunday, that's the day.
I believe that God put sun and moon up in the sky.
I don't mind the gray skies, 'cause they're just clouds passing by.
Lord, dear Lord above, God Almighty, God of love,
Please look down and see my people through.
I believe God is now, was then, and always will be.
With God's blessing, we can make it through eternally.*

✿ 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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