



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word
February 17, 2019
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
10:00 am

THE GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Adoration

Florence Price

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Abigail Otte

*OPENING HYMN

Come Now, Almighty God

No. 275

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*based on Psalm 1*)

Lisa Neerukonda

One: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,

All: or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

One: but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on God's law they meditate day and night.

All: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

One: In all that they do, they prosper.

All: The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

One: nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,

All: but the way of the wicked will perish.

*INVOCATION (*unison*)

Holy God, you challenge the powers that rule this world and show favor to the oppressed. Instill in us a true sense of justice, that we may discern the signs of your kingdom and strive for right to prevail for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. 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 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

Luke 6:17-26

ANTHEM

The Beatitudes

Robert Lehman

SERMON

Kingdom Lessons

*HYMN

We Love Your Realm, O God

No. 312

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.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Oh Happy Day!

Edwin Hawkes

*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

Lead on Eternal Sovereign

No. 573

*BENEDICTION

CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

Elegy Samuel Coleridge-Taylor



☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☞

GREETERS: Luis Morales and Bob Watrous **LITURGIST:** Lisa Neerukonda

USHERS: Gert Danzy and Kailyn Wright **ACOLYTE:** Abigail Otte

FLOWERS given by Luis Morales & Bob Watrous in celebration of the love they have shared with each other for 41 years. And a message to the congregation ... today and everyday ... tell somebody you love them and care about them.

OFFERING COUNTERS: Sue Bogucz and Sarah Whitton

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.

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
- Youth Justice Work at Haven at Skanda
- Forum – update on the InterFaith Works refugee house: 11:15 – **Sanctuary**

Pastoral Search: Next Sunday following worship, the Discernment Committee will facilitate its third and final listening session for ALL ages to gather input around the question, **"Who is God Calling Us to Become?"** Please join the conversation – your input is valued and important!

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.**

Lent is nearly upon us! On **Sunday, March 3**, in preparation for this season of fasting and reflection as we get ready for Easter, we continue two traditions; the Brazilian Ensemble will join us in worship and children and youth will "bury the alleluias." We will also welcome new members to Plymouth.

After worship, all are invited to gather in Kirtland Hall (downstairs) for a Mardi Gras luncheon and an intergenerational activity that will help set us on the path to walk through Lent.

Ash Wednesday (March 6) services are at noon and 6pm. Stay tuned for information about Lenten Bible study as well.

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.

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 Krij1158@aol.com.

Ride need to church: 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.

The ACTS “Race Matters” Book Club will read and discuss “OUR KIDS: The American Dream in Crisis” on **Monday, February 25** at 7pm at Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church, 5299 Jamesville Road, in Dewitt. Author Robert Putnam is the renowned Harvard scholar who earlier wrote “Bowling Alone: The Collapse & Revival of American Community.” The discussion will be facilitated by Peter Sarver, ACTS Executive Director and Kelly Ward, Chair of the ACTS Equity in Education Task Force. The 4th Monday of the month book club is open to all willing to tackle tough social issues in the context of white privilege and systemic racism. There is no expectation of participation from session to session. The gathering site varies from month to month. For more information contact Peter Sarver at petersarveracts@gmail.com.

Upcoming Concerts in our Sanctuary: Two local music groups are renting our sanctuary for their upcoming concerts. The Onondaga Civic Symphony Orchestra will be performing on March 3 at 2pm and the Syracuse Vocal Ensemble’s concert is on March 10 at 3pm. More info is on the bulletin board in the hall.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. Feb. 18 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
(No Food Pantry)
Deadline for March *Plymouth Story*
- Tues. Feb. 19 Church Council – 5:30pm – Parlor
Discernment Committee – 6:00pm – Adult Education Room
Board of Christian Formation – 7:00pm - Parlor
- Thurs. Feb. 21 Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm
- Sun. Feb. 24 Worship/Chapel Time
Discernment Conversations – Who is God Calling Us to
Become? – for all ages - 11:15 in Memorial Hall
(No Learning Community)

🌀 Music Notes for February 17, 2019 🌀

Our **prelude** is by Florence Price (1887-1953) who also wrote last week's prelude. You may recall that she was an African-American woman who was the first to have her music played by a major orchestra (the Chicago Symphony in 1933.) Because she wrote in an older style, and did not embrace 20th century techniques, her music was largely forgotten after her death. Following the discovery of boxes of her manuscripts in a dilapidated house south of Chicago in 2009, her music is now enjoying a bit of a Renaissance.

Robert Lehman is noted conductor, organist, composer and harpsichordist. He has served several distinguished churches, including the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, and Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in New York City. He currently is at the Church of St. Michael and St. George in St. Louis, Missouri. Our **anthem** is his setting of the Beatitudes heard in our scripture reading today.

Like much gospel music, our **offertory anthem**, *Oh Happy Day*, has a long pedigree. The text was originally a mid-eighteenth century hymn by British clergyman Philip Doddridge set to a 1704 tune by the German composer and theologian Johann Anastasius Freylinghausen. In the mid nineteenth century, Edward Rimbault wrote a new tune and incorporated a refrain. In 1967 Edwin Hawkins released a single which was done in gospel style, and eliminated all the verses, leaving only the refrain, and it was this version that inspired many new recordings and arrangements of the hymn. The arrangement we are singing today was done by Teena Chinn, who is the music director at Fenton United Methodist Church in Michigan.

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) was born in England. His father returned to Gambia before Samuel was born because he was a doctor, and few patients in England would trust an unsupervised black doctor. Samuel became one of the leading composers in England – he was often referred to as “the African Mahler.” His oratorio *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast* was very popular internationally, and garnered him such fame that he made three American tours in 1904, 1906, and 1910. Jeffrey Green writes: By including African, Afro-American, and Afro-Caribbean elements in his compositions in melody and in title, as well as by being visibly and proudly of African descent, the music and the achievements of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor made black concert musicians proud and able to walk tall, especially in America where the compositions of European masters dominated in concert hall programs.

🌀 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

232 East Onondaga Street ☞ Syracuse, New York 13202

(315) 474-4836

plymouthsyr.org ☞ office@plymouthsyr.org