



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

**Service of Word and Sacrament
February 24, 2019
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
10:00 am**



Ryan Carter Norman-Preston

THE GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Arr. D. L. White

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Elias Mannion

*OPENING HYMN

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

No. 459

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*based on Psalm 37:1-9*)

Mack Richardson

One: Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers, for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.

All: Trust in God, and do good, so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

One: Take delight in God, and God will give you the desires of your heart.

All: Commit your way to God; trust in God, and God will act.

One: God will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

All: Be still before God, and wait patiently; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.

One: Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret--it leads only to evil.

All: For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for God shall inherit the land.

**Please rise if you are able*

*INVOCATION (*unison*)

Almighty God, in signs and wonders your Son revealed the greatness of your saving love. Renew your people with your grace, and sustain us by your power, for we can do nothing without you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE

Sue Bogucz

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.**

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

HYMN OF BAPTISM (seated) Child of Blessing, Child of Promise
(verse 1)

No. 325

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Ryan Carter Norman-Preston

Child of Jonathan Preston and Christopher Norman
Godparents are Nate and Charity Preston

LITANY OF BAPTISM

One: Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

People: There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.

One: The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

Baptismal questions to the parents:

One: Do you promise to live by the good will and love of God so that your son may grow in the love and nurture of God? Do you promise to grow with him in the Christian faith through regular prayer, study of Holy Scripture, and participation in Christian fellowship?

Parents: We do.

Congregational Response

One: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support, and care.

THE ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

HYMN OF BAPTISM (seated) Child of Blessing, Child of Promise No. 325
Verse 4

During the hymn, kids through 3rd grade can head upstairs with Kim for Chapel Time.

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE I Corinthians 15:35-49
ANTHEM Know That God Loves You Carson Cooman
SERMON Heavenly Bodies
*HYMN I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry No. 351

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

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.

☞ Some Things You Ought to Know ☞

TODAY following worship:

- Discernment Conversations – Who is God Calling Us to Become? – for all ages in **Kirtland Hall**. Children will be brought downstairs to the Adult Education Room after worship. (No Learning Community)

NEXT SUNDAY, in preparation for Lent, the 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. There will be no childcare.

Lenten Bible Study will take place following worship March 10-April 7:

- March 10: The Temptation of Jesus in Luke 4:1-13, with Rev. John Hottenstein
- March 17: Facing down the enemies of God in Philippians 3:17-4:1 and Luke 13:31-35, with Rev. John Terry
- March 24: Topic to be announced, with Rev. David Pasinski
- March 31: Psalm 46, with special focus on verse 10, “Be still and know that I am God,” with Rev. Rick Cowles and Rev. Caroline Cargo
- April 7: Topic to be announced, with Rev. Jim Tschudy

Plymouth Women are meeting on **Monday, March 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).

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.

Don't forget to wear your nametag! New people are joining the congregation and many of us long-timers have trouble holding on to names so please wear your nametag during worship and at after-worship gatherings. 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.

Rides needed 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.
- Tom McVene lives on East Seneca Turnpike near Nob Hill. If you can give him a ride, call him at 315-706-6916.

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.

The ACTS “Race Matters” Book Club will read and discuss “OUR KIDS: The American Dream in Crisis” tomorrow, **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.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. Feb. 25 Food Pantry – 2pm – 4pm
- Thurs. Feb. 28 Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm
- Sat. March 2 Set up for Mardi Gras Lunch – time TBA
- Sun. March 3 Worship/Communion/PrayGround
Mardi Gras Lunch & Lenten Prep – 11:15am – Kirtland Hall

🎵 Music Notes for February 24, 2019 🎵

D. L. White (b. 1930) is a native of Los Angeles. He has served various Baptist and AME churches throughout his life. Our **prelude** is his arrangement of a nineteenth century hymn by William Doane. It features flowing lines in the manuals (the hands), with interjections of the familiar melody played by the pedal (the feet.)

Carson Cooman (b. 1982) is an American composer with a catalog of hundreds of works in many forms—from solo instrumental pieces to operas, and from orchestral works to hymn tunes. His music has been performed on all six inhabited continents in venues that range from the stage of Carnegie Hall to the basket of a hot air balloon. Both our **anthem** and **offertory** were written by him. The text for our anthem is from Psalm 37 and Romans 8:

Know that God loves you.

God’s command is this: Love one another as I have loved you.

For neither death nor life, nor present nor future shall separate us from the love of God.

Julian of Norwich (1342-1416+) was an English mystic whose real name is unknown. She wrote the first surviving book in English by a woman. She lived in the times of the Black Death. After having a deathbed religious experience at age 30, she took vows as an *anchoress* . This involved going through a ceremony akin to a funeral, and then entering a cell which was then sealed up, so that she could not leave. She spent another 40 years in that cell praying, writing and giving counsel to others, supported by funds willed to her by at least four townspeople. Our **offertory anthem** is a setting of one of her prayers:

God, of your goodness, give yourself to me, for you are enough for me:

Only in you do I have everything. Amen.

W. C. Handy (1873-1958) was known as the “Father of the Blues.” A native of Alabama, he composed a number of spirituals, and published *W. C. Handy’s Collection of Negro Spirituals* in 1938. The following year, he was named a leading contributor to American culture at the 1939 New York World’s Fair. Our **postlude** was originally scored for military band, and adapted for organ by Walter Simon. I find it a fascinating combination of genres – with its roots as a spiritual, harmonies typical of the blues, and a march tempo for military use.

✿ 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