



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of Word and Sacrament
March 3, 2019
Last Sunday after Epiphany
10:00 am

THE GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Hyfrydol

June Nixon

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Kaleigha Spinner

*OPENING HYMN

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

No. 182

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*based on Psalm 99*)

Jim Watts

One: The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble!

All: God sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

One: The Lord is great in Zion, exalted over all the peoples.

All: Mighty ruler, lover of justice, thou hast established equity; thou hast executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

One: Extol the Lord; worship at God's footstool!

All: Extol the Lord, and worship at God's holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy!

*INVOCATION (*unison*)

O God, glorious and faithful, to those who seek you with a sincere heart you reveal the beauty of your face. Strengthen us in faith to embrace the mystery of the cross, and open our hearts to its transfiguring power; that, clinging in love to your will for us, we may walk the path of discipleship as followers of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

PASTORAL SEARCH UPDATE

Jonathan Preston

TODAY'S PREPARATION FOR LENT

Kim Looney

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

BURYING THE ALLELUIAS

Kim Looney

Children and youth are invited to join Kim in the burying of the Alleluia! They will return to their seats when they come back to the Sanctuary.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 34:29-35
Luke 9:28-43

ANTHEM

Transfiguration

Marc Schweizer

SERMON

Unexpected Company

*HYMN

Break Now the Bread of Life (vs. 1)

No. 321

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

Lua Soberana

Ivan Lins & Vitor Martin

Children and youth are invited to join Kim in the back of the Sanctuary to bring forth the Communion elements.

*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 JOINING OF NEW MEMBERS

Jeffrey J. Bleecker
Charles H. Goodrich
Leslyn M. Goodrich
Leslie Kalil

Jim Kurt
Lydia Kurt
Gail Swinburne
Rev. James C. Tschudy

LITANY OF INTENT

One: Friends in Christ, we are all received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ.

Many: They have been led by the Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the Christian church.

One: They are here, as we are here, to endeavor to love God with all our hearts, and all our souls, and all our minds. God help us.

Many: They are here, as we are here, to endeavor to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. God help us.

One: Friends who are joining, we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place.

Many: We give thanks for every community of faith which has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

One: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be a vital part of the family of Christ, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and Word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Those joining: We promise, with the help of God.

Many: Do you promise, according to the grace given to you, to grow in the Christian faith? And do you promise, that so far as able, you will participate in the life of this church, by worshipping God with us, and offering your time, talent and means for the ministry of this church and for the larger church of which this is a part?

Those joining: We promise, with the help of God.

One: We welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church, and we offer to you the hand of Christian love.

*HYMN Let Us Break Bread Together (vs. 1) No. 330

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

DISTRIBUTION OF BREAD AND CUP

Our communion table is open to all without regard for religion, strength of belief, state of soul, or certainty of conviction. All you have to be to feast with our God is hungry.

The cup is non-fermented grape juice; a gluten-free substitute is available on each plate.

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.

*BENEDICTION

CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

Samba-Reggae

Joshua Dekaney



🌿 About Our New Members 🌿

JEFFREY BLEECKER

Jeffrey was born in Syracuse, NY. He grew up in Cicero, NY. He attended St. John's University in Jamaica Queens New York before transferring to the University of Maryland where he graduated in 2006 with a B.A. in English. Jeff found Plymouth Church through his girlfriend, Erica, a few years back. He began to attend regularly after Erica had moved to New York City for SUNY Optometry. Jeff recently just took the LSAT and is looking to attend Law School in two years after Erica has finished school. They are planning to get married in the summer of 2020 and move to the Midwest so Jeff can pursue his Doctorate in Jurisprudence for Environmental and Energy Law.

CHARLIE AND LES GOODRICH

Les and Charlie moved to Syracuse in January 2018 from Kenmore/Town of Tonawanda (next to Buffalo). The move was important to be near our dear daughter Kathy Ferro for support as we age. We met at Oberlin College in 1953. We married in 1956 after Charlie's two years in the army. Charlie taught high school English for 31 years. In retirement he did lots of volunteering. After a year as a physical therapist, Les stayed home to bring up four children. When they moved on, she ran the Ken-Ton Meals on Wheels and became a Docent at the Buffalo Zoo.

LESLIE KALIL

Leslie moved to Syracuse to attend Syracuse University. She is a mental health counselor at Helio Health. Leslie is very happy to have found Plymouth and to be able to grow spiritually in such a warm and welcoming group.

JIM AND LYDIA KURT

Jim, Lydia, and Oliver moved (back, for Lydia) to Syracuse from Buffalo in May 2018. They met in Buffalo in 2011 while Lydia was finishing her B.A. in Early Childhood Education and Jim was working on his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature. In Buffalo, they attended Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, where Lydia served as educational director. Their son Oliver is 3.5 years old and Baby Graham ("Pickle," if you ask Oliver the name), is due in mid-March.

GAIL SWINBURNE

Gail grew up in Liverpool and attended Syracuse University. She met her husband, Paul, in 1980. They moved to Oswego for 30 years. Paul has since died. Gail is so glad to be back in Syracuse. One of the things she does is volunteering (occasionally) at Beaver Lake. Currently, she is a board member of the Adirondack Mountain Club. The "Y" keeps her busy as does the "Oasis" Center. She travels. She is happy and excited to find Plymouth and be part of the Plymouth community.

JIM TSCHUDY

Jim has attended Plymouth since July, 2017, upon retiring after 30 years as Pastor of the Pulaski Congregational UCC. He is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary, NYC, 1967; Elmhurst College, (IL), 1964. His first pastorate was the UCC Congregation in Oswego (subsequently merged with the Presbyterian Church forming Faith United Church in Oswego). He has had a dual career in ministry and education, retiring from Oswego City Schools as Director of Special Education in 2006. Jim is currently an adjunct professor at Oswego State (teaching "History of Education in the US, 1865 to the Present) and Chaplain at St. Luke's Health (since 1975). Jim's wife, Juanita was Assoc. Registrar at Oswego State, and is currently treasurer of Faith United Church in Oswego. Jim is Chair of the Committee on Authorized Ministry for the Oneida Association. Jim and Juanita are parents of Jim (& Lori) in Ridgefield, CT; Pete (& Kati) of Hamilton, MA; Laura (& John) of Las Vegas, and John, also of Las Vegas, and have six grandchildren. Jim has long-standing interests in model railroading and photography.

🌀 Plymouth Runs On YOU 🌀

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

LITURGIST: Jim Watts **ACOLYTE:** Kaleigha Spinner

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

FLOWERS given by Kathy Ferro in celebration of her parents Chuck (or Charlie!) and Les Goodrich and the others joining Plymouth this morning

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.

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:

- Mardi Gras Luncheon and Lenten Preparation until 12:30 – Kirtland Hall (No Learning Community)

Nominations are being sought for the Pastoral Search Committee: Church Council has decided to follow a process similar to the Discernment Committee selection, beginning by soliciting names from the congregation in March. Inserted in the bulletin is a nomination form detailing Church Council's goals for this process as well as the opportunity to nominate five individuals for consideration. **March 17 is the deadline for submitting nominations.** Your input is important!

The 2019 UCC Lent Devotional Book *Take Nothing With You*, written by UCC authors, is available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary for a suggested price of \$4 each (let us know if that price is prohibitive for you!)

Ash Wednesday services are this Wednesday, March 6 at noon and 6pm. There will be a PrayGround activity at the evening service. (No childcare provided.)

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: Exodus Story with emphasis on Passover story, Chapter 12, 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 **tomorrow, 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.

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

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. He is also looking for an apartment mate. Please contact him if you know someone who is looking for a place to live

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. March 4 Plymouth Women – 12noon at Solvay Public Library
Food Pantry – 2:00pm – 4:00pm
- Tues. March 5 Discernment Committee – 6:00pm, Parlor
- Wed. March 6 Ash Wednesday Services – 12noon and 6:00pm
(PrayGround activity at 6pm; no childcare)
Choir Rehearsal – 7:00pm
- Thurs. March 7 Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm
- Sun. March 10 Worship
Learning Community – 11:00am
Youth Bible Study – 11:15am – Adult Education Room

❧ Music Notes for March 3, 2019 ❧

Today we celebrate both Transfiguration, when Peter, James and John saw Jesus in astonishing glory along with Moses and Elijah, and we also celebrate Mardi Gras – that final burst of rejoicing before the penitent season of Lent. We are pleased to welcome Samba Laranja, the Brazilian Ensemble of Syracuse University's Setnor School of Music, to our services to add some Latino exuberance to our celebration today. Under the direction of Elisa and Joshua Dekaney, Samba Laranja has been featured four times performing at Jazz at Lincoln Center, and has performed in Maryland, Massachusetts and extensively throughout Central New York.

Normally the **prelude** is rather quiet and contemplative. But today is a festive day, and even the prelude is somewhat brash and celebrative. It is based on the hymn tune *Hyfrydol* which is sung to various texts. (Did you know that hymn tunes have separate names from the words that are usually sung? You can find those names to the bottom right in our hymnbook.) June Nixon was the music director and organist at Melbourne's St. Paul's Cathedral (Episcopal) from 1973-2013. She continues to serve on the music faculty of Melbourne University.

Marc Schweizer (b. 1956) is a composer, baritone, organist, publisher and mystery writer living in North Carolina. Our **anthem** is a setting of our scripture reading for today:

*After six days, Jesus led Peter, James and John high upon a mountaintop
and was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white,
and there appeared with him Elijah and Moses.
Then came a cloud, overshadowing them, and there came a voice;
"This is my beloved Son. Listen."*

Vitor Martin (b. 1944) and Ivan Lins (b. 1945) are a Brazilian song-writing team. Lins has won several Latin Grammys for his work, and his 1989 hit, *Love Dance*, is one of the most recorded songs in history. The translation is:

*It came from Madagascar, this sovereign moon,
On the waters of Iemajah, in this sea of white rose.
This moon has come to Salvado, carried by a fisherman*

Joshua Dekaney is one of the founders of Samba Laranja. Originally from Houston, he has spent considerable time in Brazil, studying drumming and folk and popular music. He regrets that a previous out-of-town commitment keeps him from being here today.

✿ 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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