



# Plymouth Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

**Service of the Word  
March 10, 2019  
First Sunday of Lent  
10:00 am**

## THE GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Ich Ruf' Zu Dir

J. S. Bach

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Abigail Otte

\*OPENING HYMN

Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days

No. 211

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Cappelli

One: Temptation surrounds us at every turn, inviting us to take just a little more:

**All: More food, more money, more power, more life!**

One: "What could it hurt?" we hear, on television, from friends, in our own souls:

**All: More suffering, more hunger, more need, more fear, more anger.**

One: So we gather today in worship to hear the consequences of "more":

**All: And to celebrate that we do not need "more" when we have everything in Christ.**

One: Beloved of God, let us drink deeply from the wellspring of God's Spirit, which has all we need to live fully, love deeply, and serve faithfully.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

\*INVOCATION (*unison*)

**O Holy One**

**We come to you in gladness and expectation  
to begin our Lenten exploration.**

**You offer steadfast love as our strong refuge;  
Your boundless grace is our sheltering presence,  
and we rejoice!**

**In the unity of worship,  
we trust that you will speak to us and through us  
as we begin this Lenten journey with each other and with Christ.**

**Prepare our hearts  
to seek you and embrace you,  
to hear you and follow you,  
to love you and to serve you.**

**With gladness and expectation we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

*\*Please rise if you are able*

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Please share a sign of peace with those around you.*

\*PRAISE SONG

(Ma - si - thi:) A - men, si - ya - ku - du - mi - sa. (Ma - si - thi:)  
 (Sing a - men:) A - men, we praise your name, O God. (Sing a - men:)

A - men, si - ya - ku - du - mi - sa. (Ma - si - thi:) A - men, Ba - wo,  
 A - men, we praise your name, O God. (Sing a - men:) A - men, a - men,

A - men, Ba - wo, A - men, si - ya - ku - du - mi - sa.  
 a - men, a - men, A - men, we praise your name, O God.

**THE GIFT OF THE WORD**

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

SCRIPTURE

Luke 4:1-13

Mary Cappelli - Narrator  
Olive Crawford - Satan  
Amelia Wright - Jesus

ANTHEM

Into the Woods My Master Went

Richard Shephard

SERMON

SERMON RESPONSE TIME

**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...



**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
- Bible Study - The Temptation of Jesus in Luke 4:1-13, with Rev. John Hottenstein - 11:15am in the Adult Education Room (downstairs)
- Youth Supper – 5:00pm, Youth Room

**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!)

**Plymouth Directory:** Updated directories have been sent via email. A limited number of hard copies are available at the back of the sanctuary. Those listed can access an always up-to-date edition online! (Call Church office for details.)

**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](mailto:christinehopkins03@gmail.com) or 315 476-5139.) ahead of time. The Rescue Mission needs to have the names of the individuals who are volunteering.**

**Lenten Bible Study** will take place following worship through 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

**ACTS Spring Banquet - Reserve your seat at a Plymouth table!** The Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse (ACTS) annual banquet is on Tuesday, April 9 at Drumlins (more info in March *Plymouth Story*.) Tickets are \$75 each and can be purchased by writing a check to Plymouth Church with "ACTS dinner" in the memo line. If you have questions or want more information about the ACTS banquet, please contact Nancy Gwin or Gert Danzy.

## THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. March 11 Food Pantry – 2:00pm – 4:00pm
- Tues. March 12 Board of Deacons – 5:15pm, Parlor  
Board of Trustees – 5:30pm, Adult Education Room
- Wed. March 13 Pastoral Relations Team – 5:30pm, Parlor
- Thurs. March 14 Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm
- Sun. March 17 Worship/Chapel Time  
Learning Community – 11:00am  
Bible Study – 11:15am

## 🌀 Music Notes for March 10, 2019 🌀

Lent is a penitential period, and as such, our music takes on a more serious tone. Our **prelude** and **postlude** are both chorale preludes by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750.) Bach wrote well over a hundred chorale preludes – pieces based on a pre-existent hymn tune that would have been familiar to his congregations. One of the largest sets is found in the *Orgelbuchlein* (the Little Organ Book) which consists of forty-six short chorale preludes. There was a two-fold purpose in writing this collection: 1) to provide music from simple to moderately difficult which could be used for pedagogical purposes (our prelude is the very first piece I ever studied in my organ lessons) and 2) to provide one chorale prelude for each Sunday of a three year cycle. (Bach only finished about one third of his plan and lost interest in the project when working for a disinterested congregation.) Our prelude is based on the text:

*I call to thee, Lord Jesus Christ; Hear my complaint.  
Bestow grace upon me at this time; Let me not be discouraged.*

Our postlude text follows. Notice how Bach uses the chorale melody in long notes, while the fast moving lower voices represent the “shifting sand” beneath us:

*He that suffers God to Guide him,  
and always hopes in God will be wonderfully upheld in all need and sadness.  
He who trusts in God, the Almighty, has not built on sand.*

Sidney Lanier (1842-1881) was known as “The poet laureate of Georgia.” He wrote this text about 1880, and by 1905 it had found its way into a Methodist hymnal with a new tune by Peter Christian Lutkin. Our **anthem** is a new setting by the English composer Richard Shephard (b. 1949):

*Into the woods my master went, clean forspent, forspent.  
Into the woods my master came, forspent with love and shame.  
But the olives, they were not blind to him. The little gray leaves were kind to him.  
The thorn tree had a mind to him, when into the woods he came.  
Out of the woods my master came content with death and shame.  
When death and shame would woo him last, from under the trees they drew him last:  
‘Twas on a tree they slew him last, when out of the woods he came.*

A carol is a popular song or ballad of religious joy. We mostly associate carols with Christmas, but this season we will be singing several carols written for Lent:

*Now quit your care, and anxious fear and worry; for schemes are vain and fretting brings no gain.  
To prayer, to prayer! Bells call and clash and hurry; in Lent the bells do cry:  
Come buy with love the love most high.*

*Lent comes in spring, and spring is pied with brightness; the sweetest flowers, keen winds and sun and  
showers their health do bring to make Lent's chastened whiteness, for life to men bring light,  
And might to those whose hearts are right.*

*To bow the head in sackcloth and in ashes, or rend the soul, such grief is not Lent's goal,  
But to be led to where God's glory Flashes, his beauty to come nigh,  
To fly where truth and light do lie.*

## ✿ 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](mailto: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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