



# Plymouth Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

Service of the Word  
May 12, 2019  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
10:00 am

## THE GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Prelude on *Slane*

Healey Willan

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Kaleigha Spinner

\*OPENING HYMN

God Made from One Blood

No. 427

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Abby Hind

One:

God you are our shepherd.

All:

**You will shelter and provide for us.**

One:

You will guide us to springs full of the water of life.

All:

**You will wipe every tear from our eyes<sup>1</sup>**

One:

We know this, and yet,

All:

**Some of us are still thirsty and crying.**

One:

So, while we are in the in-between

All:

**Waiting for Resurrection to run its course,**

One:

We hold tightly to Christ,

All:

**And the hope we find in his story.**

One:

Because from him, Resurrection is expanding outward,

All:

**Creeping onward,**

One:

Deepening inward,

All:

**Growing upward.**

One:

Help us, oh God, to behave as if Resurrection is everywhere,

All:

**Even if we can't see it,**

One:

Even if we're still working toward it,

All:

**Even if we feel discouraged,**

One:

Even if we're impatient with its timing,

All:

**And to have awareness of it when it appears.**

One:

May we faithfully embody Resurrection,

All:

**Speaking it into being,**

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 7:16,17

One: Carrying it forward,  
All: **And spreading its hope.**

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\* INVOCATION (*unison*)

**God, gentle in your power and strong in your tenderness, you have brought us forth from the womb of your being and breathed into us the breath of life. We know that we do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from you. Feed our deep hungers with the living bread that you give us in Jesus Christ. May Jesus' promise, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them,"<sup>2</sup> be fulfilled in us. Make us a joyful company of your people so that with the faithful in every place and time we may praise and honor you, God Most High. Amen.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Kim Looney

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.  
All: **And, also with you.**

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

\*PRAISE SONG

*Traditional*



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.

## THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Scott Looney

*Children are invited to return to their seats following the Story.*

SCRIPTURE

Acts 9:36-43

One: The word of God for the people of God.  
All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Glory to God On High

Arr. Downing

SERMON

SERMON RESPONSE TIME

\*HYMN

Be Now My Vision

No. 451

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<sup>2</sup> Matthew 18:20

## 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 PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors, 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 "debts" through the end of summer.*

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

### CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

God Binds Us With A Mighty Voice

Arr. Downing

\*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

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

No. 82

\*BENEDICTION

### CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

Prelude on *Italian Hymn*

Healey Willan



*Kim Looney leads us in worship today. She is the Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at Plymouth and a Member in Discernment, seeking ordination in the UCC.*

## ☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☞

**GREETER:** Sarah Whitton **USHERS:** George Bain and Kailyn Wright

**LITURGIST:** Abby Hind **ACOLYTE:** Kaleigha Spinner

The **FLOWERS** today are given in celebration of the 40th wedding anniversary of Susan and Rick Cowles and in honor of all mothers, especially our mothers Evelyn and Erna, and our grandmothers Mabel, Eva, Ethel and Marion.

**OFFERING COUNTERS:** Audrey Kane and Sarah Whitton

**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!

**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 All 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:**

- Community Time

Pastor John Terry is on vacation through May 18. Emergency pastoral concerns may be brought to the attention of Dave Pasinski, 315-663-1330.

**NEXT Sunday, May 19** we are privileged to have the Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President of The United Church of Christ, as our guest preacher. At a forum after worship he will be addressing white privilege and its effects on church and society. **After the forum there will be an opportunity to have lunch with the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer. If you are one of the first 8 people who email the church office you will be on the list!**

**All hands on deck for all-church Spring Clean-up!** Please plan on joining the effort on **Saturday, May 18 from 9am – 12 noon** as we clean off the winter grime in Memorial Hall, Sanctuary, Parlor and Kirtland Hall. Many hands make light work and this is a great opportunity to get to know other folks in the Plymouth community. No experience necessary! Please bring your own gloves or other tools you like for washing down tables, chairs, woodwork, venetian blinds and windows. Upholstery cleaner will be available. See sign up in back of sanctuary.

**Ushers Needed for May 19:** Rev. John Dorhauer, UCC president and general minister, will preach at Plymouth and lead the Forum afterward. As of this writing, both usher slots are unfilled. **It is imperative that we have two ushers.** Please volunteer to make this Sunday go smoothly for our special guest. Sign up on our website [www.plymouthsyr.org](http://www.plymouthsyr.org) through links on the GET INVOLVED page or contact the Church Office.

**CNY Diaper Bank's Mother's Day diaper drive:** Many parents in our community struggle to pay for the diapers their babies need. In honor of Mothers' Day we will be collecting diapers throughout the month of May for the Central New York Diaper Bank. Just leave the diapers in the portacrib at the back of the sanctuary and we will get them to the right place. Let's make Syracuse the dry bum capital of America!

**The Food Pantry** is in need of reusable bags and manual can openers for our clients. Donations of these items can be dropped off in the food pantry basket at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you!

**Rescue Mission Youth Shelter Update:** Two years ago, Plymouth members approved funding support for The Rescue Mission's effort to renovate a house for a shelter that will serve LGBTQ youth. The Rescue Mission is moving forward with the project and a summary is available in the back of the sanctuary. If you have questions or comments about the project, please contact Jon Preston 585-797-7056 or [jpspeechie@hotmail.com](mailto:jpspeechie@hotmail.com)

**Duck Race Raffle Tickets on sale now!** The Christian Formation Board is selling raffle tickets for InterFaith Works' 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Duck Race to End Racism. Fifty percent of the proceeds will go to support the El-Hindi Center for Dialogue program at InterFaith Works and fifty percent will go to support the Christian Formation Board's work at Plymouth. **Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$5 each to participate in the general public Community Duck Race featuring many prizes and gifts. You do NOT have to attend the Duck Race to participate in the raffle. Please contact Jim Dunne or the Church Office to purchase tickets.** More info is in the May *Plymouth Story*.

**Plymouth ROCKS:** We will be serving lunch at the Rescue Mission on **Sunday, May 26**. The group will leave Plymouth around 10:15am and will finish serving shortly after 12pm. Young (ages 12 and up) and old are welcome! AND, with summer upon us, **please note the dress code:** close-toed shoes (no sandals), long pants, capris or shorts to the knees, and no tank tops. **RSVP to Chris Hopkins ([christinehopkins03@gmail.com](mailto:christinehopkins03@gmail.com) or 315 476-5139.)**

#### THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. May 13      Food Pantry – 2:00pm – 4:00pm
- Tues. May 14      Board of Deacons, 5:15pm – Parlor  
                            Board of Trustees, 5:30pm – Adult Education Room  
                            Board of Christian Formation, 7:00pm - Parlor
- Wed. May 15      Pastoral Search Committee, 6:00pm - Parlor
- Thurs. May 16      Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm -Sanctuary  
                            (No Choir Rehearsal)
- Sat. May 18      All Church Spring Cleaning – 9am – 12noon
- Sun. May 19      Worship/Chapel Time  
                            Learning Community  
                            Forum – Rev. John Dorhauer speaks on white privilege  
                            Youth Justice Work – attend forum followed by lunch  
                            Community Time

## 🎵 Music Notes for May 12, 2019 🎵

Today's music is all based on hymns. Technically, a hymn is sacred sung music for a congregation, where the text does NOT come from the Psalms. A chorale is a hymn with a different chord for each syllable. Both consist of the words (text) and the music (tune.) The text has its title, which is usually the first line, and the tune has its own name, which can be pretty much anything that the composer (or publisher) randomly chooses.

Our **prelude** is based on the tune *Slane*, which we will sing later in the service to its most familiar text, *Be Thou My Vision*. Our **postlude** is based on *Italian Hymn* which the choir will sing as the anthem. Healey Willan (1880-1968,) although born in London, England, became Canada's best known composer of the twentieth century. He was best known for his time at St. Mary Magdalene Church in downtown Toronto – a small Anglo-Catholic congregation that maintains the reputation he gave it as North America's best example of the High Anglican tradition.

Our **Anthem** uses the hymn tune *Italian Hymn* where the tune is presented in different voices with the melody in the tenor for the final verse (the English call this *fauxbourdon*.)

*Glory to God on high! Let heaven and earth reply: Praise ye God's name!  
God's love and grace adore, who all our sorrows bore. Sing aloud evermore: Worthy the Lamb!*

*Jesus, our Lord and God bore sins tremendous load. Praise ye his name!  
Tell what his arm has done, what spoils from death he won. Sing his great name alone: Worthy the Lamb.*

*Let all the hosts above join in one song of love praising God's name.  
To God ascribed be honour and majesty through all eternity: Worthy the Lamb!*

Our **offertory anthem** uses a new text by Joanne Reynolds to the familiar English folktune *Kingsfold*.

*God binds us with a mighty cord we seldom feel or see.  
This tie, with our creating Lord, links all eternally.  
Each life a thread joined in the whole our gathered destinies  
So God, the weaver, knits our souls in one great tapestry.*

*In times of trial, God's steadfast light shines on a world in need,  
And leads all people to unite with healing words and deeds.  
We yearn to feel the spirit then; find God in tragedy,  
Thus strangers transform into friends in holy unity.*

*The face of evil we perceive in desperate deeds and crimes  
Lies deep in all humanity; our burden throughout time.  
Will dark seeds bloom or dormant lie? All face this choice sublime.  
Still, mercy waits and grace abides: God's gift to humankind.*

*For God maintains no border lines to limit each one's place;  
Our souls are born of grand design transcending nation, race.  
All life comes through this holy source, one God through time and space;  
One author, who alone brings forth lives drawn in lines of grace.*

## 🎵 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 All 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; [jerry@plymouthsyr.org](mailto:jerry@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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