



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word

September 8, 2019

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

St. Anne Fugue – Part 1

J. S. Bach

*OPENING HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

No. 25

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*based on Psalm 139*)

Christina Jureller

One: The Lord has searched us and known us.

All: The Lord knows when we sit down and when we rise up.

One: The Lord searches out our paths and our lying down.

All: Even before our words are on our tongues, Lord, you know them.

One: Where shall we go from your Spirit? Or flee from your presence?

All: Search us, O God and know our hearts! Try us and know our thoughts! Lead us in the way everlasting!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*unison*)

Direct and help us, O Lord, in all our deeds, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**Please rise if you are able*

WORDS OF WELCOME

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.

All: And, also with you.

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.**

THE BLESSING OF THE BAGS

Today we bless our children and their backpacks and diaper bags, and everyone else and the bags they carry with them every day. We also bless the school supplies that we have been gathering for the last several weeks.

After the blessing, 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.

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Luke 14:25-33

One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

He Who Would Valiant Be

Ralph Vaughan Williams

SERMON

The Cost

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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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.

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 the prayer with "sins" through the end of 2019.

RETURNING TO FAITH

Barbara Genton

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM I Don't Want No Trouble at the River Spiritual

*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 Called as Partners in Christ's Service No. 495

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE St. Anne Fugue - Parts 2 & 3 J. S. Bach



☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☞

USHERS: George Bain and Kailyn Wright

LITURGIST: Christina Jureller **ACOLYTE:** Abigail Otte

DEACON ON DUTY: Nick Signorelli

FLOWERS are given by Christine Richardson in celebration of Mack Richardson's 70th birthday today!

OFFERING COUNTERS: Sue Bogucz and Keith Jakway

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!

Flowers – Make our worship space even more beautiful for the glory of God and in honor of whatever you choose. A sign-up sheet is found in the bell tower entry. The cost is \$25, but plans for larger or multiple arrangements can always be made.

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.

Plymouth likes to share its story! Photos are often taken during worship and at Plymouth events and are shared on the website, in social media and by partnering organizations. If you **DO NOT** wish your photo to be used, please contact the church office.

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.

🌀 Music Notes for September 8, 2019 🌀

Somewhere around 1745-6, Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) worked on a collection of organ music now called “Clavierübung III” (*Organ Exercises, Volume III*). This was no mere collection of educational pieces; it is now regarded as one of his most important compositional achievements. It begins with a prelude, and includes twenty-one choral preludes, four duets, and various liturgical pieces suitable for the Lutheran mass. The music is written in forms and styles from across Europe in order to make it the most cosmopolitan collection possible. It concludes with a fugue in three parts, which are played today as both the **prelude** and **postlude**. The subject of the fugue is the first eight notes of the tune we know as St. Anne – which we are singing as our first hymn today to the text *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*. Amazingly enough, Bach most likely never heard this tune, since it was written in England, and was unknown in Germany (and Bach never travelled beyond the Germanic states.) The first part is very stately, in five parts, and you will clearly hear the tune entering again and again in the various voices. The second part is quick, and you don’t hear the familiar eight notes until later in the section. The third part concludes with the tune in unbridled joy.

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) was a major British composer who often wrote church music. When working on a new hymnal in 1906, he adapted a folk tune for the text from Paul Bunyan’s 1684 book, *The Pilgrim’s Progress*:

*He who would valiant be ‘gainst all disaster, let him in constancy follow the Master.
There’s no discouragement shall make him once relent his first avowed intent:
To be a pilgrim.*

*Who so beset him round with dismal stories do but themselves confound; his strength the more is
No foes shall stay his might ‘though he with giants fight. He will make good his right
To be a pilgrim.*

*Since, Lord, thou dost defend us with thy spirit, we know we, at the end, shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away; I’ll fear not what men say. I’ll labor night and day
To be a pilgrim.*

Our **offertory anthem** is a spiritual:

*I don’t want no trouble at the river when it’s time for me to cross to the other side.
Sometimes I feel mistreated, sometimes I feel defeated,
Sometimes I feel that I should just give up.
But then I think of Jordan. I’ve got to cross that Jordan,
and I don’t want no trouble when it’s time for me to cross to the other side.*

✎ 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; 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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☞ Some Things You Ought to Know ☞

TODAY following worship: All are invited downstairs to Kirtland Hall for an Ice Cream Social. Learning Community families can register their children for the 2019-20 program year and photos will be taken for the Plymouth Directory.

Plymouth Church Pastoral Candidate Eric Jackson to Lead Worship

September 29: Following much hard work, the Pastoral Search Committee has identified Eric Jackson as the candidate to present to the congregation to become our new settled Pastor! Eric will lead worship on Sunday, September 29, 2019. We will hold a Congregational meeting following worship that day to vote on calling Eric as our settled pastor.

Worship Without Worry Summit: This Wednesday, September 11 from 9:30am – 2pm InterFaith Works will be hosting an event that will provide information and resources on dealing with active shooters and other emergency situations that may arise during worship. All are invited. Meet at City Hall steps at 9:30am for a proclamation by Mayor Walsh; event continues at the Atrium. Register by calling Melissa Morral at 315.449.3552, x101 or online at <http://www.interfaithworkscny.org/cnysecuritysummit/>.

More info in *The Plymouth Story*.

Luncheon Buffet to benefit SAGE Upstate: Following worship **NEXT Sunday, September 15** come downstairs to Kirtland Hall for a feast! Consider donating what you might spend for a lunch out. Proceeds will benefit this non-profit agency that helps older LGBT adults live their best lives and age in a positive and healthy way. More info in *The Plymouth Story*.

In 2017 the UCC identified 3 Great Loves: Love of Neighbor, Love of Creation, and Love of Children. In 2019 the UCC was the first Christian body to endorse the Green New Deal. **Join students and activists across CNY as we strike from school and work to address the crisis of our time: climate disruption.** In solidarity with strikes across the country, join us for an afternoon of speakers, music, calls to action, and information. Let's come together to demand climate justice and collectively address the climate emergency. We will meet at Plymouth **on Friday, September 20**, 10:45AM to make signs. Around 11:30 we will walk over to Forman Park where the rally tentatively begins at 12:00. Please contact Kim Looney for more information.

Plymouth ROCKS*: We will be serving lunch at the Rescue Mission on **September 22** from **10:45am – 12:30pm**. Young (ages 12 and up) and old are welcome. There are a limited number of volunteer positions each month AND the Rescue Mission is required to have the names of the individuals who are volunteering so **RSVP to Chris Hopkins (christinehopkins03@gmail.com or 315 476-5139.) ahead of time** to get on the list and receive instructions re: where to report.

*Reaching Our Community through Kindness and Service

Board of Christian Formation to Host the KAIROS Blanket Exercise Program:

This participatory event, taking place on **Monday, October 14 from 5pm – 8:30pm** here at Plymouth, unravels Indigenous history in a compelling, experiential way. The workshop offers education to foster truth, understanding, and respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Register through the Church Office by October 3, \$0-\$10 suggested donation. More info in September *Plymouth Story*.

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

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. September 9 Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm
- Tues. September 10 Board of Deacons, 5:30pm – Parlor
Board of Trustees, 5:30pm – Adult Education

Room

- Wed. September 11 Security Summit for Places of Worship, 9:30am –
City Hall steps and atrium
- Thurs. September 12 Choir Rehearsal, 7pm – Memorial Hall
- Fri. September 13 Laity Empowerment Team, 10am - Parlor
- Sat. September 14 Oneida Association Mtg, 8:30am – Central Square Community Church
4th and 5th grade breakfast gathering, 9:30am –
Parlor and Sanctuary

- Sun. September 15 Worship/Chapel Time
Community Time, 11:15am – Memorial Hall
Lunch to benefit SAGE Upstate, 11:15am –
Kirtland Hall

(No Learning Community)