Plymouth Congregational Church
A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word
September 20, 2020
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Just Peace Sunday
10:00 am

RINGING OF THE BELL
BRINGING IN THE LIGHT
PRELUDE Prayer
WORDS OF WELCOME
MEDITATION FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

*OPENING HYMN Called as Partners in Christ’s Service No. 495

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

*CALL TO WORSHIP
God of Light, God of Change
open our hearts and minds
to embrace equality and justice for all people around the world.
Create in us the desire to bring change in our world.
Unveil our hearts so that your light may shine through us.

Let the light of God transform us!

*Please rise if you are able
*PRAYER OF INVOCATION*

Creative Hand of the Universe, all around us we see, hear, speak, taste and feel the fear and hatred that are the roots of racism. Provide us with the courage to care, the vision to imagine a new relationship, the wisdom to speak out, the faithfulness to brave the waters of the inward journey to grow in our own learning and the passion to stand up and be heard in our protests and cries for freedom. Amen.

*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,

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 20:1-16

One: “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SOLO Bid Them Go Labor Today Howard Entwhistle

Sarah Gross, voice and guitar

SERMON
Guide my feet while I run this race, guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!

Hold my hand while I run this race, hold my hand while I run this race,
Hold my hand while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!

I'm your child while I run this race, I'm your child while I run this race,
I'm your child while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!

Stand by me while I run this race, stand by me while I run this race,
Stand by me while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

CALL TO PRAYER

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 the different versions over the course of a year. We will pray the prayer with “sins” through the end of 2020.

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.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below!
Praise God for all that love has done!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A CONTEMPLATIVE LITANY OF COMMITMENT TO PLYMOUTH'S RACIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

After each of the following three readings, there will be a brief moment of silent reflection with a symbolic action by the reader.

During this silence, we invite you to prayerfully practice "breathing in and breathing out" as introduced in our opening meditation. This response will be a sign of your own commitment to becoming a co-conspirator in Plymouth's work for racial justice.
READING ONE: Rebecca Mannion

_Congregational response:_ Breathing in. Breathing out.

READING TWO: Abigail Mannion

_Congregational response:_ Breathing in. Breathing out.

READING THREE: Linda Milosky

_Congregational response:_ Breathing in. Breathing out.

PRAYER OF BLESSING Eric Jackson

*CLOSING HYMN* O For a World No. 575

0 for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

0 for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

0 for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

*BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE Marche Royale Jean-Baptiste Lully

_Kyle Jones, trumpet; Julia Ross, timpani_

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〜 Plymouth Runs On YOU 〜

LITURGIST: Kailyn Wright ACOLYTE: Abigail Otte

SOUND AND VIDEO RECORDING: Josh Wright

VIDEO PRODUCTION: Eric Jackson and Ben Cooper

Rev. Eric Jackson, Pastor, ejackson@plymouthsyr.org
Dr. Joseph Downing, Director of Music
Kim Looney, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries
Kathy Ferro, Church Administrator
Mark Johnson, Sexton

plymouthsyr.org ☝️ office@plymouthsyr.org
Accessing Sunday Worship:
Go to Plymouth Church’s Facebook PAGE:
https://www.facebook.com/plymouthUCCsyracuse/
OR
Click on the Facebook logo on the home page of Plymouth’s website,
www.plymouthsyr.org

You can also join worship via telephone as well:
• Dial 1-646-876-9923
• You will hear "Enter your meeting ID followed by pound." Enter 603 933 3178 #
• You will hear "Enter your participant ID followed by pound, otherwise just press pound to continue." Press #
• You will hear "Enter the meeting password followed by pound" Enter 13202 #

TODAY IS JUST PEACE SUNDAY. We will make a commitment to Plymouth’s Racial Justice ministry during the worship service. NEXT WEEK, everyone is invited to join in conversation about Plymouth’s emerging racial justice group initiatives following worship during the Community Time Zoom.

SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday, September 30 at 5:30pm will be our second opportunity to worship together in-person outdoors at Upper Onondaga Park. More details and registration form will be sent out this week.

Hymn Sing Sunday is October 18. The deadline to nominate your five favorite hymns is next Sunday, September 27. Nominations are accepted via google form sent out in a September 10 email, or by emailing or calling the church office. Let’s see how many of our favorite hymns Joe can incorporate in the worship service on October 18, and be prepared to belt them out at home!

The Plymouth Food Pantry continues to serve clients on a week-by-week basis following required health precautions and directives from the Food Bank of CNY. The pantry is in need of toiletry items (i.e.; bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes [single], deodorant, etc.) You can drop your donations off at the church Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm.

PASTOR ERIC WOULD LOVE TO CONNECT with you. Here are some ways we can connect as we persevere through the pandemic: ZOOM and Telephone Visits are always welcome. I’d also love to connect with you this fall in-person with masks and physical distancing with Lawn/Porch/Driveway/In Front of Your Apartment Building Visits, walks, or conversation in a park of your choice on the bench or with lawn chairs. Email me at ejackson@plymouthsyr.org or call 315-882-3906.

The Board of Deacons continues to seek volunteers to help run video and audio for Plymouth’s virtual Sunday services. We are looking for individuals who are comfortable and able to edit the Sunday service together from supplied video clips and/or run service audio through the church's Zoom platform. Those interested in volunteering in this way should reach out to Deacon Kailyn Wright. Or you can contact the Plymouth Church office at office@plymouthsyr.org or 315-474-4836.

School supplies needed: Ed Smith PreK-8 School is grateful for Plymouth's continued contributions of school supplies. This year Ed Smith PTO is requesting donations to the Teacher Request Fund to reduce the need for people to shop and arrange for supply drop-off. This fund is used
for classroom supplies, especially those items that cannot be shared. If you would like to donate, checks written to Ed Smith PTO can be mailed to Rebecca Mannion, 230 Westminster Ave, Syracuse NY 13210 or Venmo@EdSmith-PTO.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- **Mon. September 21**  Food Pantry, 2pm-4pm – Bell Tower door  DEADLINE for the October Plymouth Story
- **Tues. September 22**  Pastoral Relations Committee, 5:30pm via Zoom
- **Wed. September 23**  “Take Control Wednesdays” (for children in 1st-5th grade), 6:30pm via Zoom
- **Sat. September 26**  Oneida Association Meeting “hosted” by Plymouth, 9:00am via Zoom
- **Sun. September 27**  Compassion Camp (for children & youth), 9am via Zoom  Worship, 10am via Facebook  … followed by conversation about Plymouth's emerging racial justice group initiatives during Community Time on Zoom

Deadline to submit nominations for Hymn Sing Sunday

خيّم زهاء للفرصة

232 E. Onondaga Street | Syracuse, NY 13202 | 315-474-4836

*For an online and interactive worship experience*

We are Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Immigrant Welcoming, Progressive Christians, and a Sanctuary Congregation.

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!**

- **Resources for Worship:** Today’s worship bulletin can be found on the church’s website.
- **Visiting for the First Time?** We are so glad to meet another member of our extended global family. Please email office@plymouthsyr.org to add your name to our mailing list so we can know how to best serve you!
- **Giving:** Part of worshipping God is through giving. We can only live into our mission to impact the world TOGETHER with the generosity of all! You can share your gifts with Plymouth Church at the address above or via PayPal to giving@plymouthsyr.org
- **Prayer Requests:** We are excited to be worshipping together both with members of Plymouth Church and the wider world via Facebook Live. Public Prayer Requests you’d like the community to pray for can be submitted in the comments section of this posting. Private prayer requests can be sent via Facebook Message to Plymouth or email. To add a name to our Prayer List contact office@plymouthsyr.org.