



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

**Service of the Word
January 10, 2021
Epiphany Sunday
10:00 am**

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Amelia Wright

PRELUDE

March of the Magi Kings

Theodore Dubois

The high-pitched note throughout represents the star guiding the Magi.

WORDS OF WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Eric Jackson

One: Peace be with you.

All: **And, also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

*SONG OF PRAISE

There are angels hov'ring round. (sung 3 times)

To carry the tidings home. (sung 3 times)

Of a new Jerusalem. (sung 3 times)

Let all who see it come. (sung 3 times)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rick Cowles

Light! Light, light and more light!
Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of God has risen upon you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem,
wise men came from the East, saying:
Where is he who is born king of the Jews?
For we have seen his star in the East,
and have come to worship him.

The wonderful light of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Bright Morning Star, your light has come, and the birth of Jesus has overwhelmed us with joy. Like the magi of long ago, may we be drawn to you and offer you such gifts as we are able. Amen.

**Please rise if you are able*

**We three kings of orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar;
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

Refrain:

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

**Born a king on Bethlehem plain; gold I bring, to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. (no refrain)**

**Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a deity nigh,
Prayer and praising, all men raising, worship Him, God most high. (no refrain)**

**Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (no refrain)**

**Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and sacrifice;
Heav'n sings, "Alleluia;" "Alleluia," the earth replies.**

Refrain

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

One: In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

ANTHEM

The Three Kings

Peter Cornelius

Janet Brown, soprano; Michael Chellis, bass

SERMON

*HYMN

Arise, Your Light is Come

No. 164

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!**

**Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.**

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

CALL TO PRAYER

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 "trespasses" through the first part of 2021.

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.

*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.**

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org

God of ink black skies and starry nights,
Like the Magi so many years ago,
We are here, seeking you.
Step by step, we have wandered into this time
With the hope of feeling you in our midst.
And step by step, you have claimed us, loved us, and fed us.
Today we have all received star words.
For some of us, these words are full of meaning, challenge, and invitation already.
For others, these words are a blank canvas—inviting you into our lives.
So as a new year dawns, we pray that you would be in our dreams and in our waking. Allow us to use these star words as a tool to see you in our everyday life.

May they guide us, as the star guided the Magi.
May they illuminate your path, as light always does.
And in a year, may we find ourselves here, together again,
With a mouth full of praise for the ways in which you have been present to us.
With hearts full to the brim,
This we pray,
Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

No. 140

**Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning;
O shepherds, shudder not in fright, but hear the angel's warning.
“This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,
The power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.”**

**Come, dearest child, into our hearts, and leave your crib behind you!
Let this be where the new life starts for all who seek and find you.
To you the honor, thanks, and praise, for all your gifts this time of grace;
Come, conquer and deliver this world, and us, forever.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Noel: How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

Gael Liardon



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~ Plymouth Runs On YOU ~

LITURGIST: Rick Cowles **ACOLYTE:** Amelia Wright
VIRTUAL DEACON ON DUTY/COMMUNITY TIME HOST: David Cowdery
WORSHIP ZOOM COORDINATOR: Tom Zorn

*To give feedback and ideas about worship video production, you can contact our technician Ben
Cooper at av@plymouthsyr.org*

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

☞ Some Things You Ought to Know ☞

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 #

Stewardship Campaign Passes \$259,000: We have received 87 pledges for \$259,830 toward Plymouth's operating budget for 2021. There is still time for you to make a pledge. You may mail your pledge card to the church office or to the stewardship secretary, George Bain, or contact George by email with your pledge amount, even if you don't have a pledge card.

WOW! Widening our Welcome – Journey Inward, Journey Outward, Journey Together: The Racial Justice Working Group is offering one more opportunity to participate in the first of the three-part workshop being led by Pastor Eric Jackson, with each session building on the previous session's learnings. This additional chance to participate in session 1, "The Journey Inward," is on Sunday, January 17 from 12:30–2pm via Zoom. *Register by emailing Christine Herb at beabeaconoflove@gmail.com. The deadline to register is Friday, January 15. You will be sent a Zoom link via email on Saturday, January 16.*

In Part 1: The Journey Inward, we will talk about our own experiences with bias, develop shared language as a faith community, reflect on where we are and what kind of faith community we could see, and leave with our own story of self and commitment to widening our welcome at Plymouth.

The second session, "The Journey Outward," is upcoming this February and will be announced shortly.

Open Enrollment for Covenant Community Groups! These groups of eight to twelve committed listeners meet monthly in members' homes to discuss "life's big questions" and share whatever is on their hearts and minds. You are invited to an informational session with Susan Hawks and Rich Jaeger **THIS Sunday, January 10 at 11:30am** after church on

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2475181919?pwd=akE3NVNhUWc0OGZyYdFJncHhkS0NQUT09>

Meeting ID: 247 518 1919 **Passcode:** A3Xm7r

If you are unable to attend but have questions, contact Susan (315-475-4032) or Rich (315-528-2638.)

Please let us know by Sunday, January 17 if you want to participate in a Covenant Community Group during 2021.

The 2021 Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Plymouth Church will be held on January 31, 2021 at 11:30am via Zoom. The purpose of the meeting shall be to receive the yearly reports of officers, boards, council, committees, ministry teams and organizations; to fill elective offices; to set up plans for the ensuing year; to adopt the budget; and to transact such other business as may properly come before said meeting, including consideration of two proposed amendments of Plymouth's bylaws.

For action by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting, Church Council will propose the following two amendments to Plymouth's bylaws:

- 1) Proposed bylaw amendment to be added to Article VI, Section 4:
*Meetings of each Board/Council and their committees may be held electronically following the Rules of Conduct for Electronic Meetings in **Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised**.
 The President/Moderator/Chair of each Board/Council/Committee shall provide notice of such meetings 24 hours in advance, including pertinent contact information for said meeting. Electronic meetings of the Board/Council/Committee shall be subject to all rules adopted by the Board/Council, to govern them, which may include any reasonable limitations on, and requirements for, Board members' participation.*
- 2) Proposed bylaw amendment to be added to Article XIII, Section 1:
*In consultation with the officers of Boards and the professional staff, the moderator may determine that the Annual Meeting be held electronically. Rules of Conduct for Electronic Meetings in **Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised** will be followed in the conduct of the meeting.*

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. January 11 Food Pantry, 2pm-4pm – Bell Tower door
- Tues. January 12 Board of Deacons, 5:30pm via Zoom
 Board of Trustees, 5:30pm via Zoom
- Sun. January 17 Worship, 10am via Facebook
 ... followed by Community Time on Zoom
 WOW! Widening Our Welcome, 12:30pm via Zoom
 Confirmation Class, 3pm via Zoom
 Youth Group, 7pm via Zoom

🌀 Welcome to Plymouth 🌀

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 worshiping 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.