



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

**Service of the Word
January 17, 2021
Second Sunday after Epiphany
Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday
10:00 am**

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Alice Dunne

PRELUDE

Solemn Processional

Robert A. Harris

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

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.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Darnisa Amante-Jackson

God of our ancestors and God of our dreams,
we gather today to remember
that you have created us all in your image and in your likeness
And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.
We remember how you spoke into the darkness and created light
And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

We remember the ways you have delivered your people
through trials and tribulations since the beginning of time,
right up until this present moment
And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

You have comforted us
through the middle passage, racism, segregation,
stripped identities and unjust laws
And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

God you have been the guiding light along the paths of Hope and Love
leading toward a beloved community
where all are equally seen and radically loved
And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

We gather today remembering your presence amongst us and the call
to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with you and our neighbors.

**Please rise if you are able*

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

God of our weary years and God of our silent tears, thou who has brought us thus far on the way, we invite your presence into our midst as we pay tribute to all who have labored for justice, equality and love. We pray that in this moment you would strengthen us to continue to fight for the fulfillment of the dream that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. so eloquently laid out on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

Help us to labor so that every valley is exalted, every hill and mountain made low, the rough places are plain, and the crooked places made straight so that the glory of the Lord is revealed, and all flesh see it together. Let your love guide us to see one another as fully human with diverse hues, colors, ethnicities and cultures, and respect the content of their character. Let your spirit strengthen us for the fight of today and tomorrow until all God's children can say with full conviction,

"Free at last. Free at last. Thank God All-Mighty, I'm free at last." Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Lift Every Voice and Sing (vs.1)

No. 593

**Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of faith that the harsh past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.**

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 2:1-4

One: The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

Matthew 5:1-11

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.”

The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST PREACHER

ANTHEM

Up to the Mountain
Michael Chellis, bass

Patty Griffin

SERMON

"Martin Luther King, Jr. - A Vision and A Legacy"

Rev. Geoffrey A. Black

*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.**

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

*CLOSING HYMN

We Shall Overcome (vs. 1-4, 6)

No. 570

**We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome some day.**

**We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in hand some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we'll go hand in hand some day.**

**We are not afraid, we are not afraid, we are not afraid today;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we are not afraid today.**

**Our God will see us through, our God will see us through, our God will see us
through some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, our God will see us through some day.**

**We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace, we shall live in peace some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall live in peace some day.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"



We welcome Rev. Geoffrey A. Black to the pulpit today. Geoffrey served as General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Prior to that call he served as Conference Minister of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ. Rev. Black has served as Pastor of the Congregational Church of South Hempstead, UCC and Associate Pastor of the St. Albans Congregational Church, UCC. He has also served as Assistant Chaplain at Brown University and program staff member in the UCC's Office for Church Life and Leadership.

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☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☞

LITURGIST: Darnisa Amante-Jackson **ACOLYTE:** Alice Dunne
VIRTUAL DEACON ON DUTY/COMMUNITY TIME HOST: Keith Giglio
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

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. January 18 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED for MLK Holiday
Food Pantry, 2pm-4pm – Bell Tower door
Deadline for February *Plymouth Story*
- Tues. January 19 Church Council, 5:30pm via Zoom
Board of Christian Formation, 7:00pm via Zoom
- Sun. January 24 Sunday Storytime for families with children and youth, 9am via Zoom
Worship, 10am via Facebook followed by Community Time on Zoom
followed by 2021 Budget Review, 11:30am via Zoom
Youth Group, 7pm via Zoom

☞ Some Things You Ought to Know ☞

Accessing Sunday Worship:

Go to Plymouth Church's Facebook PAGE:

<https://www.facebook.com/plymouthUCCsyracuse/>

Click on the Facebook logo



OR 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.

2021 Budget Review: The Board of Trustees will provide an opportunity to review and discuss the proposed 2021 Budget following worship on Sunday, January 24 at 11:30am via Zoom in advance of the Annual Meeting on January 31.

RACIAL JUSTICE "WOW!" WORKSHOPS - PART 2 SIGN UPS! The Racial Justice Working Group invites all participants who have completed Part 1 of the "WOW! Widening Our Welcome" workshop series with Pastor Eric to sign up for Part 2. You will receive an email this week with information so that you can register for your preferred date to attend Part 2:

Monday, 1/25 – 5:30pm-7:30pm
Sunday, 2/7 – 11:30am-1:30pm
Monday, 2/8 – 5:30pm-7:30pm

In this Part 2 workshop we will lean in to a deeper understanding of white privilege culture and systems that have shaped all of us, think about how these can show up in a community like Plymouth, and consider how we can strengthen our capacity to be even more intentional about ensuring our welcome is truly welcoming.

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.*

The 2020 Giving statements have been sent out by email and by post. If you have not received your statement, or if you have a question about your statement, please contact Susan Hawks at 315-475-4032 or shawks@twcny.rr.com.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL WRITERS NEEDED: During the Season of Lent we would like to offer a devotional to our Congregation sent electronically each day. Each devotional should be somewhat brief (approximately 100-150 words max) and finish with a short prayer that's approximately 20-30 words. You are welcome to write one or two devotionals. They will be emailed mailed each day to the congregation and delivered weekly by mail to those without email. If you are able to help with this project and have a piece or have questions please contact Pastor Eric ejackson@plymouthsyr.org by February 1st. Contributions would need to be received by February 10th. This is an opportunity to inspire your faith community and share your gifts.

🌀 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 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.