



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

**Service of the Word
January 31, 2021
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Annual Meeting Sunday**

10:00 am

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Elias Mannion

PRELUDE

Prelude in C minor

J. S. Bach

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

Elias Mannion

God comes into a world filled with uncertainties and darkness.
God seeks out the voids of belief and conviction.
God embraces the wounded and broken.
God knocks down the walls of division and strife.
God is the candle shining in the darkness of our days.
God is the light of our lives.
God is the one who makes all things new.
Praise be to God, now and forevermore!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

John Mannion

Un-stop our ears, O God, that we may hear your Word proclaimed this day. Open our minds and hearts to be changed. Free us from the unclean spirits of worry, fear, destruction, and pride. Teach us, Lord, that we may follow you more faithfully. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

In The Midst of New Dimensions

No. 391

**In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?**

Refrain (sung after each verse):

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey
Now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.**

**Please rise if you are able*

**Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?**

**As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams.**

**We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.**

**Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.**

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:21-28

Rebecca Mannion

One: They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

ANTHEM

Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit!
Michael Chellis, bass

Carol Doran

REFLECTION

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

FUNMI AFELUMO

Kailyn Wright

EDWIN COOKINHAM

Dick Mace

JOSEPH FISCHER

Russ Wojcik

LESLYN GOODRICH

Harold Bristol

JACQUELINE MANIER

Dorothea Nelson

*HYMN

I Want Jesus to Go With Me

No. 490

**I want Jesus to go with me; I want Jesus to go with me;
All along my pilgrim journey, O I want Jesus to go with me.**

**In my trials, O comfort me; in my trials, O comfort me;
When my heart is almost breaking, O I want Jesus to comfort me.**

**When I'm in trouble, O stay with me; when I'm in trouble, O stay with me;
When my head is bowed in sorrow, O I want Jesus to stay with me.**

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

CALL TO PRAYER

THE 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 different versions over the course of a year. On the last Sunday of the month we pray the following, which is adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book and uses contemporary, inclusive language. It is a paraphrase – not a translation – of the original Greek in the New Testament.

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver
Source of all that is and all that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by people of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hopes and come on earth.
With bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
May it be so. 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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

No. 43

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, you are all compassion; pure, unbounded love impart.
Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
Let us all in you inherit, let us find your promised rest;
Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, almighty to deliver, let us all your life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing, love you as your angels love,
Pray and praise for your unfailing, wounded arms outstretched above.**

**Finish, then, your new creation; pure and spotless may we prove;
Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Crowned as saints, we ever shall be lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C minor

J. S. Bach



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✧ Plymouth Runs On YOU ✧

LITURGISTS: Elias, John, and Rebecca Mannion **ACOLYTE:** Elias Mannion
VIRTUAL DEACON ON DUTY/COMMUNITY TIME HOST: Therese Howington
WORSHIP ZOOM COORDINATOR: Tom Zorn

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

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

- **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.

☞ 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 #

The 2021 Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Plymouth Church will be held THIS SUNDAY, 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.*

Stewardship Campaign Passes \$260,000: We have received 88 pledges for **\$261,810** 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.

REMINDER - RACIAL JUSTICE "WOW!" WORKSHOPS - PART 2 SIGN UPS for folks who have completed Part 1! Everyone who participated in Part 1: Journey Inward is eligible to register for Part 2: Journey Outward. 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. Use the link you have received via email (or call the Plymouth Office) to sign up for your preferred date.

- Sunday, 2/7 – 11:30am-1:30pm (sign up by Fri. Feb. 5)
- Monday, 2/8 – 5:30pm-7:30pm (sign up by Fri. Feb. 5)

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.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. February 1 Food Pantry, 2pm-4pm – Bell Tower door
- Tues. February 2 Racial Justice Working Group, 5pm via Zoom
- Sun. February 7 Sunday Storytime for families with children and youth, 9am via Zoom
Worship and Communion, 10am via Facebook
.... followed by community time on Zoom
WOW! Widening Our Welcome – the Journey Outward, 11:30am 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!