



# Plymouth Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

**Service of the Word  
February 14, 2021  
Transfiguration Sunday  
10:00 am**

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

The Griffith Family

The King/Martinez Family

Gertrude Danzy

Sarah Whitton

PRELUDE

Arabesque #1

Claude Debussy

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

Jim and Lydia Kurt

Gathering in this sacred place  
we anticipate new wonders each week.  
Wherever two or three are gathered to worship,  
The holy spirit is present.  
May we open our eyes to witness  
the fantastic love and wondrous joy waiting to be revealed,  
even this day, even in this place.

We will want to linger and camp in this online sanctuary  
but when we leave today may our hearts be open  
to all the wonders of God's beautiful world.

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O Holy One, on mountaintops and valley floors you reveal to us the light of your love. Our hearts desire is to bask in the amazing glory of the divine presence. With each encounter we are changed and transformed. Draw us nearer that we might receive a double portion of your Holy Spirit. Help us, O Holy One, to live our lives as a reflection of divine glory. May we walk among our siblings and friends as a blessing, bearing light into dark places, hope to displace despair, and love that casts out hate. Our world is hurting and we need the followers of Jesus to follow more closely. Maybe then we will hear your voice speaking to us and saying... "listen to my Child, the Beloved!" Amen.

*\*Please rise if you are able*

**O wondrous sight, O vision fair of glory that the church shall share,  
Which Christ upon the mountain shows, where brighter than the sun, Christ glows!**

**From age to age the tale declare, how with the three disciples there,  
Where Moses and Elijah meet, they with the Christ God's future greet.**

**The law and prophets there have place, two chosen witnesses of grace;  
The voice of God out from the cloud proclaims the Human One aloud.**

**With shining face and bright array, Christ deigns to manifest today  
What glory shall be theirs beyond, who live within God's loving bond.**

**And faithful hearts are raised on high by this great vision's mystery,  
For which in joyful strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.**

### **THE GIFT OF THE WORD**

#### SCRIPTURE

Mark 9:2-9

One: Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### \*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.**

**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.**

SERMON

The Bliss of Ignorance

ANTHEM

Christ Upon the Mountain Peak  
*Christine Richardson*

STORY FOR ALL AGES/BURYING THE ALLELUIAS

Kim Looney

## 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

Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

No. 183

**Jesus, take us to the mountain, where, with Peter, James and John,  
We are dazzled by your glory, light as blinding as the sun.  
There prepare us for the night by the vision of that sight.**

**What do you want us to see there, that your close companions saw?  
Your divinity revealed there fills us with the self-same awe.  
Clothed in flesh like ours you go matched to meet our deadliest foe.**

**What do you want us to hear there, that your dear disciples heard?  
Once again the voice from heaven says of the Incarnate Word:  
"Listen, listen, everyone, this is my beloved One!"**

**Take us to that other mountain where we see you glorified,  
Where you shouted, "It is finished!" where for all the world you died.  
Hear the stunned centurion: "This was God's beloved One!"**

**We who have beheld your glory, risen and ascended Christ,  
Cannot help but tell the story, all that you have sacrificed;  
Say with Peter, James, and John: "You are God's beloved One!"**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude in e minor

J.S. Bach



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## ☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☞

**LITURGIST:** Jim and Lydia Kurt  
**VIRTUAL DEACON ON DUTY/COMMUNITY TIME HOST:** Nick Signorelli  
**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](mailto:av@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](http://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 #

**ASH WEDNESDAY, February 17:** All are invited to worship together via Zoom at 6:30pm where we will enter this holy season with four meditations. You will need clay and ashes. A playdough recipe was provided in the February *Plymouth Story*, and you may use dirt or fireplace ash from home. OR stop by the church to pick up ashes and playdough on Fri.. 2/12, Tues. 2/16 or Wed. 2/17 between 8:30am and 4:30pm.

Zoom link: <http://zoom.us/j/6039333178> or copy address into your browser. If prompted for a password: 13202

**Lenten Film Fridays:** Pastor Eric has planned his Lenten sermons around six different movies. You are invited to watch Sunday's focus movie on the preceding Friday night during Lent. Several films that are child-friendly – *Up* and *Soul* – will have an earlier start time. **The first film, *Rent: Filmed Live on Broadway*, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. on Friday February 19.** We will use the same format as was used for the Advent movie. The Zoom room will open at 7:15 to give everyone a chance to get in and say hi. The movie will begin at 7:30. People will have the opportunity to talk after the movie ends. How will it work? Log into Plymouth's Community Time Zoom Room before 7:30 p.m. and we'll stream the movie to you.

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6039333178>; Password: 13202.

**The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness** by Michelle Alexander will be discussed at the February 22nd – 7 PM virtual session of the ACTS Race Matters book club. Although this best-selling volume was published in 2010, it is still very relevant to today's issues of "race matters." To make your registration for the session, email [petersarverACTS@gmail.com](mailto:petersarverACTS@gmail.com).

**Burying the Alleluia!** It is a tradition at Plymouth for the children to Bury the Alleluia on the Sunday before Lent begins. This year *everyone* in the church will have a chance to Bury the Alleluia! Here's how it works:

1. **Write the word "Alleluia!"** on a piece of paper and decorate it however you want.
2. **Ask someone to take a picture** of you with your "Alleluia!" (As long as you're comfortable having your picture taken, make sure we can see your face)
3. **Email your picture to the Church Office** at [office@plymouthsyr.org](mailto:office@plymouthsyr.org) as soon as possible, but no later than March 22 (by doing so, you give Plymouth Church permission to use it on Easter Sunday, April 4th during worship on Facebook Live).
4. **Join us for Worship this Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> when** we will "bury" our "Alleluias!" together during the Story for All Ages OR "bury" your "Alleluia!" at another time that day if you can't join in on worship.
5. **Keep your "Alleluias!" buried until Easter Sunday** when we will "unbury" them together.

#### THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. February 15 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED – President's Day  
(Food Pantry Closed)  
Deadline for March *Plymouth Story*
- Tues. February 16 Virtual Pancake Party for families with children and youth, 5pm via Zoom  
Church Council, 5:30pm via Zoom\*  
Board of Christian Formation, 7:00pm via Zoom\*
- Wed. February 17 Ash Wednesday Service, 6:30pm via Zoom
- Fri. February 19 Movie Night – "Rent: Filmed Live on Broadway," 7:30pm via Zoom
- Sun. February 21 Climbing the Mountain: Exploring the Beatitudes, for children in 5th grade and younger, 9am via Zoom  
Worship 10am via Facebook  
.... followed by community time on Zoom  
"Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time" book study, 11:30am via Zoom  
Confirmation Class, 3pm via Zoom  
Youth Group, 7pm via Zoom

\* *Board meetings are open to all; please contact the Church Office to be put in contact with the Chair who can receive your request for voice during the meeting and share online meeting information with you.*

## ☞ 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 Syracuseans 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:office@plymouthsyr.org).