



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

**Service of the Word
February 21, 2021
First Sunday of Lent
10:00 am**

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Alice Dunne

The preludes and postludes throughout Lent are variations of the "Passion Chorale." You will recognize the tune used in all of these pieces as "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded."

PRELUDE

The Passion Chorale

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

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

Kim Dill

In daylights, in sunsets
God is here.
In midnights, in cups of coffee
God is here.
In inches, in miles
God is here.
In laughter, in strife
God is here.
In this space
God here.
Let us worship God.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

As in days of old, Creator God, we come to look for your signs of covenant promises. Like the rainbow days of Noah, we see and know your signs and hear your voice again directing us to places of preparation and transformation in our lives and in our world. Thank you God, for your covenant signs in this season of Lent. Amen.

**Please rise if you are able*

**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.**

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 9:8-17

One: Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

ANTHEM

Seasons of Love
Sarah Gross, soprano

Jonathan Larson (1960-1996)

SERMON

**What a covenant, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms.
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Refrain (sung after each verse)

**Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Savior near, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

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

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.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Passion Chorale George Philipp Telemann (1681-1767)



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✧ Plymouth Runs On YOU ✧

LITURGIST: Kim Dill **ACOLYTE:** Alice Dunne

VIRTUAL DEACON ON DUTY/COMMUNITY TIME HOST: Luna Bogucz

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 #

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. On **Friday, February 19, Rent: Filmed Live on Broadway**, will be shown at **7:30 p.m.** *Up* will be shown at **6:00pm on Friday, February 26.** We will use the same format as was used for the Advent movie. The Zoom room will open at 15 minutes prior to the movie to give everyone a chance to get in and say hi. People will have the opportunity to talk after the movie ends. How will it work? Log into Plymouth's Community Time Zoom Room before movie time and we'll stream the movie to you.

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

Lenten Faith Formation Opportunities:

- "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time" book study, Sundays at 11:30am via Zoom
- Lectionary Discussion Group – Wednesdays, 12noon-1pm via Zoom

Links for both: <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.

Prepare to unbury our "A-----s" on Easter Sunday. Don't forget to email a picture of you and your "A-----" sign (be sure we can see your face) to the Church Office at 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).

Learning Together with Our Neighbors (postponed from March 2020) will take place via Zoom on **Sunday, March 21 from 1pm – 4:15pm.** This program will bring together Christians, Jews, and Muslims to explore the theme, "What do we expect from God? What does God Ask of Us?" Participants in the program will 1) gain real knowledge of other traditions and our own from presentations by an Imam, a Minister, a Priest, and a Rabbi; 2) share beliefs and listen to beliefs of others; 3) have the opportunity to begin to create new relationships (or build on previous ones) with people who are interested in learning and sharing with you. Sign up today via [Learning Together Registration](#) or by calling the Church Office. Registration deadline is March 8.

More information will be forthcoming in the March *Plymouth Story*.

Lent in a Bag: Plymouth families with children and youth have been provided tangible ways to dive more deeply into a regular Lenten practice. If you wish to help offset the cost of providing Lent in a Bag to a family, please consider making a donation with "Lent in a Bag" written in the memo line. A \$10 donation covers the cost of Lent in a Bag for one family.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. February 22 Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm
- Wed. February 24 Lectionary Discussion – Psalm 22, 12noon via Zoom
Endowment Fund Committee meeting, 7pm via Zoom*
- Fri. February 26 Lenten Film Friday – "Up," 6pm via Zoom
- Sun. February 28 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

* Committee meeting is 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 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.