



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word
February 28, 2021
Second Sunday of Lent
10:00 am

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Abigail Otte

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

J. S. Bach (BWV727)

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

Craig French and Kaleigha Spinner

We come to worship this morning from different places.

O God, do not be far from us.

We come to worship this morning for different reasons.

O God, do not be far from us.

We experience the presence of the Spirit in different ways.

O God, do not be far from us.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Living God, we come to you now, in wonder. We have heard of your works - as Creator, Upholder, In-dweller, Lover of all – and we have known you in our own times, in our own lives, in the lives of our neighbors. Before the mystery of your presence all around and within, it is right for us to be silent, and to offer thanks and praise. Amen.

**Please rise if you are able*

**Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator,
 With you no shadow of turning we see.
 You do not change, your compassions they fail not;
 All of your goodness forever will be.**

Refrain (sung after each verse)

**Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 All I have needed your hand has provided,
 Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
 Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
 Join with all nature in manifold witness
 To your great faithfulness, mercy, and love.**

**Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,
 Your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
 Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
 Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.**

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 22:1-11, 22-31
Common English Bible

Barbara and Craig French

One: My God! My God,
 why have you left me all alone?
 Why are you so far from saving me—
 so far from my anguished groans?
 My God, I cry out during the day,
 but you don't answer;
 even at nighttime I don't stop.
 You are the holy one, enthroned.
 You are Israel's praise.
 Our ancestors trusted you—
 they trusted you and you rescued them;
 they cried out to you and they were saved;
 they trusted you and they weren't ashamed.

But I'm just a worm, less than human;
 insulted by one person, despised by another.
 All who see me make fun of me—
 they gape, shaking their heads:
 "He committed himself to the LORD,
 so let God rescue him;
 let God deliver him
 because God likes him so much."

But you are the one who pulled me from the womb,
 placing me safely at my mother's breasts.
 I was thrown on you from birth;
 you've been my God
 since I was in my mother's womb.

Please don't be far from me,
because trouble is near
and there's no one to help.

I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;

I will praise you in the very center of the congregation!
All of you who revere the LORD—praise him!
All of you who are Jacob's descendants—honor him!
All of you who are all Israel's offspring—
stand in awe of him!

Because he didn't despise or detest
the suffering of the one who suffered—
he didn't hide his face from me.
No, he listened when I cried out to him for help.

I offer praise in the great congregation
because of you;
I will fulfill my promises
in the presence of those who honor God.
Let all those who are suffering eat and be full!
Let all who seek the LORD praise him!
I pray your hearts live forever!

Every part of the earth
will remember and come back to the LORD;
every family among all the nations will worship you.
Because the right to rule belongs to the LORD,
he rules all nations.

Indeed, all the earth's powerful
will worship him;
all who are descending to the dust
will kneel before him;
my being also lives for him.
Future descendants will serve him;
generations to come will be told about my Lord.
They will proclaim God's righteousness
to those not yet born,
telling them what God has done.

The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

STORY FOR ALL AGES

ANTHEM

SERMON

Up, Up and Away
Tara Sandlin

Rev. Gary T. Smith
Jimmy Webb (b. 1946)

Kim Looney

**Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
 I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
 Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
 Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
 When my life is almost gone,
 Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:
 Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When the shadows appear and the night draws near,
 And the day is past and gone,
 At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
 Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

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

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

No. 393

**Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.**

**Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.**

**We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,
And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.**

**When we are called to part it gives us inward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Passion Chorale

Anonymous (Germany, 18th c?)



This morning we welcome our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, Kim Looney, to the pulpit to offer the sermon, and Plymouth member and Racial Justice Coordinator for the NY Conference of the UCC, Rev. Gary T. Smith, who offers the Story for All Ages.

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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

- **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.

☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☞

LITURGISTS: Barbara and Craig French and Kaleigha Spinner

ACOLYTE: Abigail Otte

VIRTUAL DEACON ON DUTY/COMMUNITY TIME HOST: Kailyn Wright

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*

☞ 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 #

Pastor Eric Jackson will be in school this coming week, pursuing his doctorate. Emergency pastoral concerns may be brought to the attention of Rev. John Hottenstein at 315-263-0609.

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 26, Up**, will be shown at **6:00pm**. 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. Chapter 2 will be the focus on 2/28, and Chapter 3 on 3/7.

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

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. March 1 Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm
- Tues. March 2 Racial Justice Working Group, 5pm via Zoom*
- Fri. March 5 Lenten Film Friday – “Hairspray,” via Zoom, time TBA
- Sun. March 7 Climbing the Mountain: Exploring the Beatitudes, for children in 5th grade and younger, 9am via Zoom
Worship and Communion, 10am via Facebook followed by community time on Zoom
“Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time” book study, 11:30am via Zoom
Youth Group, 7pm 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!