



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of Word and Sacrament

March 7, 2021

Third Sunday of Lent

10:00 am

Amistad Sunday

The Amistad

In worship this morning, we join with UCC congregations to reflect on the Amistad incident, an important moment in the history of the U.S. and the United Church of Christ. In 1839, 55 Africans who had been captured in the slave trade struck out for their freedom while being transported out of Havana, Cuba, on a schooner called La Amistad. The captives successfully took over the ship and ordered the crew to sail back to Africa, but weeks later the ship ended up far north, at the tip of Long Island, New York. U.S. officials boarded the ship, arrested the captives and jailed them in Connecticut. There they were befriended by Christian abolitionists, many belonging to churches that are now part of the United Church of Christ. The abolitionists hired lawyers, including former President John Quincy Adams, to appeal the case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which declared the captives free in 1841. This abolitionist victory helped create momentum for the formation in 1846 of the American Missionary Association. This interracial agency's work in education, discipleship and justice eventually became part of the national mission structure of the UCC which continues to this day.

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Elias Mannion

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

PRELUDE

The Passion Chorale

Johann Peter Kellner (1705-1772)

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

Leela George and Maria Polsinelli

Our lips sing praise and our whole selves rejoice
in the God who makes us free.

We gather, recognizing that not all human beings

**Please rise if you are able*

have known this freedom.
The divine will was made known in Eden and in Egypt;
in Gettysburg and in Cape Town.
Born in freedom, redeemed from slavery,
our destiny in Christ is liberty.

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Thankful are we for all the blessings of this life; love, freedom, bounty and beauty. The joy we know is beyond our words to speak. We can only imagine the suffering and pain of human slaves, past and present, which yearn from the depths of their souls to know the freedom we enjoy. We celebrate this day the heritage we have in the cause of human freedom.

We celebrate this day our spiritual ancestors who worked for the freedom of the Mendi people on the slave ship, Amistad. May that ship, like the cross, remind us of the ever present possibility of human evil. And may that ship, like the cross, remind us of the power of divine love. May we, through divine love, shed the false, un-neighborly, covetous and dishonorable desires of the lives we sometimes live and keep the commandments and walk in the way that brings justice and life to all persons. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Every Time Feel the Spirit

No. 282

Refrain (sung after each verse):

**Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.**

**Upon the mountain my God spoke, out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me; looked so fine; I asked my God if all were mine.**

**Oh, Jordan river, chilly and cold, it chills the body, not the soul.
There's only one train on this track; it runs to heaven, then right back.**

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

John 2:13-22

Common English Bible

One: It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple those who were selling cattle, sheep, and doves, as well as those involved in exchanging currency sitting there. He made a whip from ropes and chased them all out of the temple, including the cattle and the sheep. He scattered the coins and overturned the tables of those who exchanged currency. He said to the dove sellers, "Get these things out of here! Don't make my Father's house a place of business." His disciples remembered that it is written, *Passion for your house consumes me.*

Then the Jewish leaders asked him, "By what authority are you doing these things? What miraculous sign will you show us?"

Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple and in three days I'll raise it up."

The Jewish leaders replied, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and you will raise it up in three days?" But the temple Jesus was talking about was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered what he had said, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

DUET

Come So Far (Got So Far to Go) Mark Shaiman, Scott Whittman,
Sarah Gross and Tara Sandlin

SERMON

Eric Jackson

*HYMN

O for a World

No. 575

**O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.**

**O 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.**

**O 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

Today we receive a special offering for Plymouth's Good Samaritan Fund. This fund is used for direct ministries of mercy and benevolence with Plymouth members and our neighbors. To contribute, please make out a check to Plymouth Congregational Church with the words "Good Samaritan Fund" in the memo line.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

DISTRIBUTION OF BREAD AND CUP

Bring your host and cup. We will eat the host and drink the cup respectively at the same time.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*CLOSING HYMN

Glory, Glory

No. 2

Glory, glory, glory, glory, since I laid my burdens down.

Glory, glory, glory, glory, since I laid my burdens down.

I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.

I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.

Feel like shouting “Glory, glory,” since I laid my burdens down.

Feel like shouting “Glory, glory,” since I laid my burdens down.

I am dancing Miriam’s dance now, since I laid my burdens down.

I am dancing Miriam’s dance now, since I laid my burdens down.

I am climbing Jacob’s ladder, since I laid my burdens down.

I am climbing Jacob’s ladder, since I laid my burdens down.

Every round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burdens down.

Every round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burdens down.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Passion Chorale

Johann Christian Bach (1735-1782)



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☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☜

A special thanks to Joe Steiner for the gift of the handcrafted “Sankofa Bird.” The bird is a symbol of the principle of Sankofa which reminds us to be intentional about carefully reviewing the past, gathering good lessons, and using them to inform future directions in our work together to understand the legacy of white supremacy culture and stand against racism.

The statue is made primarily from “wenge wood”, a dark black wood with brown streaks, which comes from the heart of Africa. Like the base of the Plymouth hymn board this wood is unique and special in its beauty, strength and utility.

LITURGISTS: Leela George and Maria Polsinelli

ACOLYTE: Elias Mannion

VIRTUAL DEACON ON DUTY/COMMUNITY TIME HOST: David Cowdery

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, March 5**, *Hairspray*, will be shown at **7:00pm**. 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.

"Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time" book study, continues on Sundays at 11:30am via Zoom. Chapter 3 will be the focus on 3/7, Chapter 4-5 on 3/14 and Chapter 6 on 3/28 (no book study on 3/21).

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

Registration deadline is Monday, March 8 for Learning Together with Our Neighbors which will take place via Zoom on **Sunday, March 21 from 1pm – 4:15pm**. Sign up today via [Learning Together Registration](#) or by calling the Church Office. 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?" More information is available in the March *Plymouth Story*.

Church Council calls for a Special Congregational Meeting to be held via internet and phone on **March 21 at 11:30am** to consider and take action on the following proposals: a) Authorize the establishment of the "Plymouth CARES Fund," which will be used to provide financial assistance to individuals through Plymouth's ministries (including the Food Pantry and the Good Samaritan Fund) and to organizations in the Central New York region; b) Commit \$31,366.25 from the Church's Operating Reserve Fund as the initial balance of the Plymouth CARES Fund; and c) Adopt policies, procedures, criteria and guidelines for disbursement of Plymouth CARES funds.

One Great Hour of Sharing, the UCC's special offering to support disaster relief, refugee initiatives and more, will be collected throughout the month of March. Put OGHS on the memo line on your check.

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).

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. March 8 Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm
- Tues. March 9 Board of Trustees, 6pm via Zoom*
Board of Deacons, 6:30pm via Zoom*
- Fri. March 12 Lenten Film Friday – “Soul,” 6pm via Zoom
- Sat. March 13 **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS** - Set your clocks FORWARD an hour before going to bed!
- Sun. March 14 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
Christian Formation Webpage Birthday Party, 11:30am 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 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.