



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

**Service of the Word
March 21, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Lent
10:00 am**

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Amelia Wright

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

Carlotta Ferrari (b. 1975)

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

Shiu-Kai Chin

We come to worship, to pray, and learn.
We come looking for Jesus in Scripture lessons,
in our own life experiences,
in helping our world,
in prayers for each other.
We seek to follow in the way of Jesus.
We lay bare before God and one another
our own wilderness journey
filled with some gladness and hope,
with reluctance and sorrow,
with fear and confusion.
O God, speak to us, show us, touch us with your presence!
Let our Lenten journey lead us to Jesus,
so that we may show Jesus forth
in our lives, our faith community, and our world.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of the journey, you invite us, the church, "to accept the cost and joy of discipleship" and "to be your servants in the service of others." In so doing, may your presence be our guide and Jesus our model. May we respond to you in loving faithfulness. Amen.

**Please rise if you are able*

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
 There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
 There's no place where earthly sorrow are more felt than in God's heaven;
 There's no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgment given.**

**For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds;
 And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
 If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word;
 And our lives would show thanksgiving for the goodness of our God.**

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

John 12:20-33

One: Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

SPECIAL MUSIC

Tomorrow
Tara Sandlin as Annie

Charles Strouse (b. 1928)

SERMON

Eric Jackson

*HYMN

Come O Fount of Every Blessing

No. 459

**Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
 Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.
 Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
 Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.**

**Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
 Come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
 Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
 Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.**

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

Throughout the month of March we will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Your OGHS contributions will be combined with those from several other Christian denominations to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. To contribute, please make a check out to Plymouth Congregational Church and write "OGHS" in the memo line.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

No. 547 (vs. 1-3)

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Passion Chorale

Johann Brahms (1833-1897)



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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

🎵 Plymouth Runs On YOU 🎵

LITURGIST: Shiu-Kai Chin **ACOLYTE:** Amelia Wright
VIRTUAL DEACON ON DUTY/COMMUNITY TIME HOST: Keith Giglio
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 #

A Special Congregational Meeting will take place THIS Sunday at **11:30am** via internet and phone 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.

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

By phone: Same dial-in instructions for worship noted in box above.

Lenten Film Fridays: Pastor Eric has planned his Lenten sermons around six different movies. The final film, *Annie*, will be shown at **6:00pm** on **Friday, March 19**. 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. 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.

The final session of “Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time” book study will be on 3/28 at 11:30am via zoom (no book study this Sunday). The focus will be chapter 6.

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

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.

NEXT SUNDAY IS PALM SUNDAY! Palms are available for pickup at the church throughout the week between 9am and 4pm. Stop by and ring the bell and we'll bring them out to you.

We want to see each other on Easter! The only way to do this is to include photos of everyone in a montage during our traditional singing of the “Hallelu ___ Chorus.” Take a picture of yourself or your family holding your “Allel ___!” sign (the special word we buried on February 14) and email it to office@plymouthsyr.org TODAY*. Let’s see as many smiling faces as we can as we visually shout out that special word that has been hidden so long. (* by doing so, you give Plymouth Church permission to use it on Easter Sunday, April 4th during worship on Facebook Live.)

Easter Flowers: Plans are underway to decorate the sanctuary for the virtual worship service on Easter Sunday with flowers from you! You can place your order for lilies, tulips or daffodils by clicking [HERE](#) or by calling the church office. DEADLINE for orders is end of day on Sunday, March 28.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH - Palms available for pickup all week – 9:00am – 4pm

- Mon. March 22 Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm
- Fri. March 26 “Las alfombras flower pickup for participating families, 1pm – 4:30pm at Plymouth
- Sun. March 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

HOLY WEEK AT PLYMOUTH	<u>Maundy Thursday</u>
	5:00pm: Family Service via Zoom
	6:30pm: Tenebrae Service with Communion via Zoom
	<u>Good Friday</u>
	12noon: Stations of the Cross via Zoom
6:00pm: The 7 Last Words of Jesus Christ service, via Hopps Memorial CME Church Facebook live https://www.facebook.com/hopps.hopps.967	
<u>Easter</u>	
10:00am: Worship with Communion via Facebook	

🌀 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.