



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word
April 25, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Easter
10:00 am

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Abby Otte

PRELUDE

“The Water ... Like Glass”

Joseph Gentry Stephens

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

Cindy Perrine

Siblings, let us rejoice in the vision of John:
I saw a new heaven and a new earth!
The old heaven and the old earth and the sea had disappeared.
Then I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, descending from God
out of heaven, beautiful as a bride adorned for her husband.
A great voice thundered from heaven:
“See, God is making God’s home with mortals!
God will live with them. They will be God’s people.
God will wipe every tear from their eyes.
There will be no more death, or sorrow, or crying, or pain.
All of this – gone forever!”
Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Eternal God, our Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end, we have gathered in this time and at this place to worship You. In Your time, You created all things, and wove into their fabric a yearning for fulfillment in You. It is this yearning within us which has pulled us here this morning. Take these moments, O Lord of time and space, and complete them in us, through Your Holy Spirit. May our labor bring forth a new creation in You. This is Your hour, Christ Jesus, help us to make the most of each precious moment. For in Your name we have gathered, and we pray. Amen.

**Please rise if you are able*

**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 GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 21:1-6

One: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

ANTHEM

“That’s Good”
Tara Sandlin, soprano

Natalie Sleeth

SERMON

Eric Jackson

*HYMN

“Morning Has Broken”

**Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rains new fall sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!**

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

**To you, O God, all creatures sing, and all creation, everything
Sings your praises, alleluia!
Your burning sun with golden beam, your silver moon with softer gleam
Sing your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Your wind that blows the tempest by, your clouds that sail across the sky
Sing your praises, alleluia!
Your morning rises with a song, and lights of evening sing along,
Sing your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Your flowing waters, crystal clear, make melodies for you to hear,
Sing your praises, alleluia!
Your fire, ...bountiful and bright, remembering your warmth and light,
Sings your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**To you, O God, day after day, your planet earth in every way,
Sings your praises, alleluia,
As savory fruit and fragrant flower show forth your glory and your power,
Singing praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“The Glory of God in Creation”

Ludwig van Beethoven



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☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☜

LITURGIST: Cindy Perrine **ACOLYTE:** Abby 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*

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 #

Pastor Eric Jackson will be on vacation this coming week - April 26 – May 1: Emergency pastoral concerns may be brought to the attention of Rev. Andrew McTyre, at 315-430-2353 or pastor@parkcentralchurch.org. Rev. McTyre is pastor of our neighbor, Park Central Presbyterian Church, and has been a colleague of Plymouth's pastors for many years.

New Deadline for Justice Fund Grant Recommendations: In an effort to increase our reach into the community, a Request for Proposal (RFP) has been written and will be sent to a number of local organizations, including the NAACP and ACTS. The groups that have been nominated will also be sent the RFP. This is a "friendly" RFP; it summarizes the purpose of the Justice Fund, requests information about the organization and intended project, and states Plymouth's mission. To give groups sufficient time to respond, the **deadline for submission has been changed to May 19, 2021.**

Members of the congregation can still send their nominations by mail to the church office at 232 E. Onondaga St., Syracuse, 13202 or by email to deacons@plymouthsyr.org. As established by the Congregation, the Plymouth Justice Fund "shall be used exclusively and entirely for the benefit of those who have suffered economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic and/or the benefit of communities of Black, Indigenous and People of Color that continue to deal with historic economic inequity due to systemic and institutional racism." Please include the name of the organization and a brief reason why you have chosen it. If you have a personal connection or knowledge of the group, please include that information. This will help the Deacons in their deliberation. If you would like to forward the RFP directly to a group that you would like to recommend, you can access it via the link in the weekly email or request a copy from the church office.

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Hawks at 315-481-9148 or shawks@twcnny.rr.com.

Save the Date! Pastor Eric's long-anticipated Service of Installation will take place via Zoom on **Sunday, May 23** at 3pm. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

Bystander Intervention Training to stop anti-Asian/American and xenophobic harassment is being offered throughout April and May through *hollaback!* [Click here for more information.](#)

American Red Cross seeking blood transport volunteers: Learn more and submit your application at redcross.org/volunteer or contact Ned Bloom, 570-417-5608 or Ned.Bloom@RedCross.org.

Senior services through PACE CNY: PACE CNY (**P**rogram of **A**ll-inclusive **C**are for the **E**lderly), a non-profit, is a part of the Loretto Family of Care. Based on a national model known as PACE, it

provides an alternative to placement in a nursing home. PACE CNY is particularly helpful to families desiring to keep their aging loved ones at home. At two Loretto PACE Centers (one in North Syracuse and one in East Syracuse) and their own place of residence, participants receive the home care, medical, rehabilitative, social, transportation, and support services needed to remain at home. For more information or to make a referral, please call Ginny Turley, Intake Specialist, at (315) 452-5800 and visit our website at www.pacecny.org.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. April 26 Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm
 WOW (Widening Our Welcome) session #3, 5:30pm via Zoom
- Sun. May 2 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
 Youth Group, 12pm outdoors (weather permitting)

☞ 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.