



# Plymouth Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

**Service of Word and Sacrament**

**May 2, 2021**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**10:00 am**

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Elias Mannion

PRELUDE

“Sonata I: Adagio”

Felix Mendelssohn

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

Scott Kraemer

Come and dwell in us.

Satisfy us so that we might offer

Hospitality, food and rest

To the hungry and weary.

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Loving God, it is difficult to see children suffer, especially from hunger. We pray for us to appreciate the opportunity to eat when we are hungry. Today, we remember those who struggle to eat when they are hungry. Provide the food they need to grow and thrive. Pour out Your grace on hungry families, especially parents straining to feed their children despite dwindling resources. May our worship strengthen our awareness and commitment to ensuring all creation is nourished and filled. Amen.

\*OPENING HYMN

“Break Now the Bread of Life”

No. 321

**Break now the bread of life, Savior, to me,  
As you once broke the loaves beside the sea;  
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;  
My spirit yearns for you, O Living Word.**

**Bless now the truth, dear Christ, to me, to me,  
As you once blessed the bread by Galilee;  
Then shall all bondage cease, all shackles fall,  
And I shall find my peace, my all in all.**

*\*Please rise if you are able*

# THE GIFT OF THE WORD

## SCRIPTURE

Genesis 25:27-34

One: When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Matthew 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

SOLO Break Bread

"RMG"

*Ross Chua, rap; Julia Ross, drums*

SERMON

Eric Jackson

\*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.**

## **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 "debts" through the end of summer.*

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors, 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

"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"

No. 18

**Guide me, O my great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,  
Feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain, where the healing waters flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, ever be my strength and shield,  
Ever be my strength and shield.**

**When I reach the River Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on heaven's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever sing to you,  
I will ever sing to you.**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Medley: "Yes! We Have No Bananas" and "Food, Glorious Food"



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## **~ Plymouth Runs On YOU ~**

**LITURGIST:** Scott Kraemer   **ACOLYTE:** Elias Mannion  
**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](mailto:av@plymouthsyr.org)*

Rev. Eric Jackson, Pastor, [ejackson@plymouthsyr.org](mailto: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](http://plymouthsyr.org) ~ [office@plymouthsyr.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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 #

**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](mailto: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@twcnv.rr.com](mailto:shawks@twcnv.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.

**Strengthen the Church Offering:** This special offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Plymouth will collect this special offering throughout the month of May. Please send in your checks payable to Plymouth Church with STC in the memo line.

**Youth Bibles:** This year Plymouth is giving *all* of our youth in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade a Bible. Next year, we will start with the 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Please consider making a donation to provide the gift of a Bible for one or more youth this year. A donation of \$20 covers the cost of one Bible. Please make checks payable to "Plymouth Church" and write "Youth Bible" in the memo.

**ACTS (Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse) Virtual Spring Banquet:** The second of three events comprising the ACTS 2021 Spring Banquet is taking place the evening of Monday, Monday, May 17. More details to follow as they become available.

**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.](#)

### THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. May 3 Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm
- Tues. May 4 Racial Justice Working Group\*, 5pm via Zoom
- Sat. May 8 CF Board Retreat, 10am – 1pm, outdoors
- Sun. May 9 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

*\* 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!***

