



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word
May 9, 2021
Sixth Sunday of Easter
10:00 am

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Amelia Wright

PRELUDE

“Canon #2”

Robert Schumann

Augustine Sobeng, organ

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

Gert Danzy

With open hearts, with open minds, and with open hands let us receive the welcome of our God who meets us here. This is the day our God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of light, shining in darkness, through a little child, born in Bethlehem, you open to us the treasure of your grace and extravagant welcome. Help us to search diligently for him, so that we may offer our lives to you and extend your welcome to others with thanksgiving, joy, and praise; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

“Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?”

No. 539

**Won’t you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I’ll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we’ve seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we’ve known together of Christ’s love and agony.**

Repeat Stanza 1

**Please rise if you are able*

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-15

One: In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

SOLO You, the Christ

Ian Callanan

Sarah Gross, voice/guitar

SERMON

Eric Jackson

*HYMN

“Just As I Am”

No. 207

**Just as I am, without one plea but that your blood was shed for me,
And that you called inviting me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, you will receive, will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because your promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, your love unknown has broken every barrier down;
Now to be yours, and yours alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

CALL TO PRAYER

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Throughout the month of May we are receiving the Strengthen the Church Offering, a special UCC offering that supports leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Checks can be made payable to Plymouth Church with STC in the memo line.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN

“This Little Light of Mine”

No. 524

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Everywhere I go...

All--through the night...

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Prelude from Trois Pièces, Op. 29 - No. 1”

Gabriel Pierné



We welcome Augustine Sobeng as organist this morning while Joe Downing is away. Augustine, a native of Ghana, is completing his master's degree at SU's Setnor School of Music and will be pursuing doctoral studies at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester this fall.

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✧ Plymouth Runs On YOU ✧

LITURGIST: Gert Danzy **ACOLYTE:** Amelia Wright
VIRTUAL DEACON ON DUTY/COMMUNITY TIME HOST: Susan Hawks
WORSHIP ZOOM COORDINATOR: Tom Zorn

*To give feedback and ideas about worship video production, you can contact our technician
Ben Cooper at av@plymouthsyrr.org*



Rev. Eric Jackson, Pastor, ejackson@plymouthsyrr.org
Dr. Joseph Downing, Director of Music
Kim Looney, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries
Kathy Ferro, Church Administrator
Mark Johnson, Sexton
plymouthsyrr.org ✧ office@plymouthsyrr.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.plymouthsyrr.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 #

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: deacons@plymouthsyrr.org. Please include the name of the organization and a brief reason why you have chosen it. You may forward the RFP directly to that organization by accessing it via the link in the weekly email or requesting a copy from the church office.

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

Save the Date! Pastor Eric's long-anticipated Service of Installation will take place on **Sunday, May 23** at 3pm. The service will be streamed live via Facebook and accessible by telephone via Zoom.

Youth Bibles: This year Plymouth is giving *all* of our youth in 6th-12th grade a Bible. Next year, we will start with the 6th 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.

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.

Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse (ACTS) May Virtual Event: Join fellow members of ACTS on **Monday, May 24 at 6:30pm (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)** for an exciting evening that will include:

- **Guest Speaker: Sarhia Rahim**, ACTS Youth Council member and one of the founding members of Raha Syracuse
- **Folk Music** performed by Colleen Kattau, legendary song writer and singer for social justice
- **Presentation of the Community Social Justice Leadership Award** to ArtRage Gallery

For detailed event information and registration, please visit: bit.ly/MAYACTS

please ensure to read event information page prior to registering

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. May 10 Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm
Confirmation/Faith Formation Sunday Planning Meeting, 6pm
via Zoom
- Tues. May 11 Board of Trustees*, 6pm via Zoom
Board of Deacons*, 7pm via Zoom
- Sun. May 16 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
Racial Justice mini-visioning-mini-strategic-planning-session
for WOW participants, 11:30am via Zoom
Confirmation, 3pm at Thornden Park (weather permitting)
Beatitudes Celebration, for children in 5th grade and younger,
3pm at Thornden Park (weather permitting)
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 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.