



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

**Service of the Word
May 23, 2021
Pentecost Sunday
10:00 am**

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Alice Dunne

PRELUDE

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song
Tara Sandlin, soprano

Peter Cutts

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

Gary Allen

Here we gather for song and scripture, seeking comfort and hope, seeking to be inspired as well as challenged. Here we gather to retell the ancient tales and wonder how God's story continues to unfold. Today we tell the story of Pentecost, the story of the Holy Spirit rushing in like a wild wind and dancing like flames upon each of the disciples, and we ask ourselves where we see the Holy Spirit present in our world today. Today we tell a story of the Holy Spirit igniting hope again. We will hear Peter claim his identity, tell his story, and inspire others to see the Holy at work in the world.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy Spirit, we come to this place with all questions, doubts, wonders, and find here an invitation to experience something ancient and something new. May we be open to the Spirit. May we be open to learning and learning from one another. May we grow in faith, hope, and love. Amen.

**Please rise if you are able*

Refrain (sung after each verse):

**Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

**You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
Then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
And over the eons you called to each thing,
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."**

**You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
And you goaded your people with a law and a land;
When they were confounded by their idols and lies,
Then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.**

**You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
Then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
And down in the city you called once again,
When you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.**

**You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
From the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams;
Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.**

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:1-21

One: When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

‘In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

and your young men shall see visions,
 and your old men shall dream dreams.
 Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
 in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
 and they shall prophesy.
 And I will show portents in the heaven above
 and signs on the earth below,
 blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
 The sun shall be turned to darkness
 and the moon to blood,
 before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

SOLO

“Come, Holy Spirit”
Christine Richardson, contralto

Edvard Grieg

SERMON

Eric Jackson

*HYMN

“Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow”

No. 271

**Wind who makes all winds that blow— gusts that bend the saplings low,
 Gales that heave the sea in waves, stirrings in the mind's deep caves—
 Aim your breath with steady power on your church, this day, this hour.
 Raise, renew the life we've lost, Spirit God of Pentecost.
 Fire who fuels all fires that burn— suns around which planets turn,
 Beacons marking reefs and shoals, shining truth to guide our souls—
 Come to us as once you came: burst in tongues of sacred flame!
 Light and Power, Might and Strength, fill your church, its breadth and length.**

**Holy Spirit, Wind and Flame, move within our mortal frame.
 Make our hearts an altar pyre. Kindle them with your own fire.
 Breathe and blow upon that blaze till our lives, our deeds, and ways
 Speak that tongue which every land by your grace shall understand.**

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.

**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 “Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether” No. 337

**Draw us in the Spirit’s tether, for when humbly in your name,
Two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now your garment’s hem.**

**As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Giver, break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! So now bind our friendship up.**

**All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of you,
That by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We may serve with faith anew.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Les Moissonneurs” François Couperin



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☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☞

LITURGIST: Gary Allen **ACOLYTE:** Alice Dunne
VIRTUAL DEACON ON DUTY/COMMUNITY TIME HOST: Luna Bogucz
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's Installation Service is THIS Sunday, May 23 at 3pm via Zoom! Sign on to Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84515641445> by 2:45pm to join this celebration of our covenant with Eric. You can also join the celebration via telephone:

- Dial 1-646-876-9923
- You will hear "Enter your meeting ID followed by pound." Enter 845 1564 1445 #
- You will hear "Enter your participant ID followed by pound, otherwise just press pound to continue." Press #

If you missed it the first time, here's your chance to be wowed!! The Racial Justice Working Group is offering one more opportunity to participate in the **Widening Our Welcome (WOW) workshop!!** These "make-up" sessions are for people who missed the 3-part WOW workshops that took place November – April. Dates for these sessions are:

- Session 1: Sunday, June 6 - 12:30pm – 1:30pm
- Session 2: Sunday, June 13 – 12:30pm – 1:30pm
- Session 3: Sunday, June 27 – 12:30pm – 2:00pm

All three sessions will take place on Zoom via this link [THIS LINK](#) (Meeting ID: 930 3696 4468; password: 838992.) **Contact the church office to register** so that you can be sent materials ahead of each session. If you plan to participate by phone please make sure to have the materials printed and with you so you can follow along. PLEASE NOTE: Each session builds on the previous one so **commitment to all three sessions is important.**

Outdoor In-person Worship planned for June: As Plymouth continues the journey of determining how and when it is safe to re-open the physical church, plans are in place for in-person worship outdoors as a first step toward being together again. Worship will take place at 10am at **Onondaga Lake Park** as well as being streamed live on Facebook on the following Sundays – stay tuned for more details:

- June 6: Sawmill Creek Shelter (rain plan: streamed live on Facebook)
- June 13: Bayview Shelter (rain plan: via Zoom)
- June 20: Sawmill Creek Shelter (rain plan: streamed live on Facebook)

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 this **Monday, May 24 at 6:30pm** for an exciting evening that will include: 1) **Guest Speaker: Sarhia Rahim**, ACTS Youth Council member and one of the founding members of Raha Syracuse; 2) **Folk Music** performed by Colleen Kattau, legendary song writer and singer for social justice; 3) **Presentation of the Community Social Justice Leadership Award** to ArtRage Gallery. For detailed event information and registration, please visit: bit.ly/MAYACTS.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. May 24 Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm
- Wed. May 26 Endowment Fund Committee Meeting*, 7:00pm via Zoom
- Sun. May 30 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!

- **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.