



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word
June 27, 2021
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Pride Sunday
10:00 am

PRELUDE

“In Christ Alone”

arr. Bill Ingram

*Plymouth Bells – Carole Brzozowski, Kirsten Hubel,
Judy O’Rourke, Sarah Whitton*

WORDS OF WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Eric Jackson

One: Peace be with you.

All: And, also with you.

Please share a physically distanced 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

Jim Tschudy

One: We come today, representing all the majesty of creation

All: Diverse and beautiful, blessed and beloved, all made in the image of the Creator of all things.

One: We come today, called to this time and this place by an infinite God

All: Who hears our cries and responds with love and mercy.

One: We come today, Transgender, Nonbinary, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Intersex, Gay, Queer, Ally.

All: We come today, knowing you will listen and answer our needs.

One: We come today, to deliver our joined prayers of hope.

All: We come today, a people mourning still our losses, still recovering from the ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic and the pandemic of institutionalized racism that has plagued our world for too many centuries.

One: We come today, knowing you care for us.

All: We come today, knowing that even when others reject us, your arms are open to offer comfort. We come.

One: The Sacred is with us. Let us worship and be transformed.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God, when you called each of us into being, you delighted in your works. You gifted us with differences that illuminate the breadth of beauty, wisdom, and practices of love in your creation. In whatever ways we still struggle to accept and celebrate our own unique offerings, free us from narrow thinking that confines, constrains, or condemns your good work in us. Amen.

**Please rise if you are able*

**God of change and glory, God of time and space,
When we fear the future, give to us your grace.
In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise.**

Refrain (sung after each verse):

**Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
One Giver, one Word, one Spirit, one God known in many ways,
Hallowing our days. For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!**

**God of many colors, God of many signs,
You have made us different, blessing many kinds.
As the old ways disappear, let your love cast out our fear.**

**Freshness of the morning, newness of each night,
You are still creating endless love and light.
This we see, as shadows part, many gifts from one great heart.**

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Luke 18:9-14

One: He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“Variation I”
Plymouth Bells

Bill Ingram

SERMON

“Do You Need an ‘I’ Exam?”

Pastor Marcus Jackson-Curtis

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

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

CLOSING HYMN

“In the Bulb There is a Flower”

No. 433

**In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,**

Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BLESSING

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”
Plymouth Choir

Peter Christian Lutkin



We welcome Pastor Marcus Jackson-Curtis to the pulpit today to offer the sermon. Rev. Jackson-Curtis is the eldest of seven siblings. Having been raised in a military family, Marcus received his education in New England, graduating undergrad at Catholic University in Washington DC. He served as a Calvary Scout in the United States Army and has had numerous articles published on the subjects of mass incarceration and gun violence. Marcus is the Founding Pastor of Hope Memorial Community Church, Executive Director of the Phoenix Group, and member of the Clergy Emergency Response Team.



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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
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- **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.

☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☞

LITURGIST: Jim Tschudy **DEACON ON DUTY:** Therese Howington

GREETER: Sarah Whitton

WORSHIP ZOOM COORDINATOR: Tom Zorn

☞ Some Things You Ought to Know ☞

After worship THIS Sunday you are invited to bring a snack and a beverage for a special Plymouth Forum with Pastor Marcus Jackson-Curtis as he shares his story of life and leadership living in the intersections of identifying as members of both the LGBTQIA+ and African American community. The forum will take place on the “point” shortly after worship concludes.

Outdoor In-person Worship planned for June and July: 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 at the “Point” at Plymouth as a first step toward being together again. Worship will continue to be streamed live on Facebook and available by phone via Zoom:

*In the event of rain, please check your email Sunday morning at 8am
or listen to the church voicemail’s message for the plan for that particular Sunday*

In order to help us plan and to worship safely together, please:

- 1) Register by calling the church office or signing up [HERE](#);
- 2) Chairs will be provided, but feel free to bring your own if you wish. Please sit socially distanced from those not in your household;
- 3) Wear a mask when moving about (there are some adults in our community and all children under 12 who have not been vaccinated)

Greeters and Ushers Needed for Outdoor Worship: A sure signal that things are returning to normal is the need for greeters and ushers. Greeters say hello as people arrive and help direct them to the worship space. Ushers can distribute the bulletin and help collect the offering once we are back in the sanctuary.

If you are excited to see people again and can assist with worship, please sign up on the Plymouth website <https://www.plymouthsyr.org/> under the Get Involved tab. It isn’t difficult and you can pick your date. Or call or email Kathy in the church office to sign up.

GATHERING IN-PERSON SURVEY: Your input is important as Plymouth makes decisions regarding gathering in-person for worship and other activities. A survey has been distributed via email and mailed to those without technology. Please take a moment to complete it as soon as possible. If you did NOT receive the survey, contact the church office. Deadline for responding is Sunday, July 4.

You Grew ‘em, Now Share ‘em! In July and August, members and friends are invited to bring flowers from their home gardens or yards as an offering of beauty to God. Bring them in your own vase, and place them on the communion table (on the point in July and in the sanctuary in August.)

Sue de Lima Memorial Service: All are invited to celebrate the life of long-time active member Sue de Lima, who died on January 1, in the Plymouth sanctuary on Friday, July 9 at 11am.

Church Council Approves Six Grants from the Justice Fund: At the June 15 meeting, Church Council approved the recommendation of the Deacons to fund six organizations with grants from the Plymouth Justice Fund. Eleven proposals were received, with a total of around \$100,000 in requests. (Several did not ask for a specific amount.) More information about these groups was shared in the weekly e-newsletter on June 18 and will be published in the up-coming July edition of *The Plymouth Story*.

- The Brady Market: \$5,000
- Center for Community Alternatives: \$2,500
- Connected Christian Church: \$4,500
- Hopps Memorial Church: \$8,000
- NAACP: \$5,000
- SIRDN: \$6,500

Most of the groups did not receive the full amount that was requested. The five organizations that were not funded had worthy proposals but for several different reasons, including funding they received from other sources, we didn't choose them. If the Justice Fund receives additional funding, we would propose to fully fund the proposals of the chosen six, and/or make grants to some of the organization on this list.

Many thanks to the Deacons who met to review these proposals, discuss their merits and challenges, and decide how to allocate the funds. They are Adam King, Susan Hawks, Frank Leonard and Kailyn Wright, in consultation with Pastor Eric Jackson.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. June 28 Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm
- Sun. July 4 Worship and Communion, 10am, in-person outdoors at Plymouth on the “point”

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!