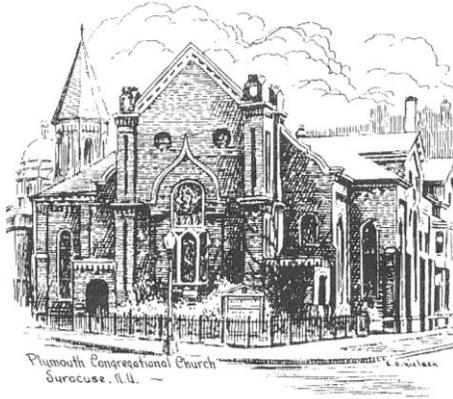


# Plymouth Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*



**Service of the Word**  
**July 18, 2021**  
**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**10:00 am**

PRELUDE

“The Water is Wide”

Appalachian tune  
arr. Howard Helvey

WORDS OF WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Bishop Colette Matthews-Carter

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 (*Psalm 23, adapted*)

Mack Richardson

One: As God is our shepherd, we need nothing else.

**All: We rest in green pastures and walk by still waters,  
which renews and refreshes our spirits.**

One: God guides us along paths of righteousness

**All: And walks with us through shadowed valleys so we are not afraid.  
The shepherd’s staff comforts us.**

One: God sets the banquet table for us in the presence of our enemies.  
There, we’re anointed with oil and our cup overflows.

**All: Goodness and mercy shall never depart from us  
as long as we dwell in the house of God.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Caring and Gracious God, you are the shepherd who gathers us together today to celebrate with grateful thanksgiving the community in which we live. We are nourished by its diversity, brought about by the unique gifts each person contributes. Be with us in this time of worship and encourage us to never cease welcoming the strangers we meet and accepting the gifts they bring. Grant that they will enrich our lives and will be a reminder of the joy that comes when all will be one in you. Amen.

*\*Please rise if you are able*

**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.**

**THE GIFT OF THE WORD**

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 3:12-14

*King James Version*

One: Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”  
*Duet: Tara Sandlin, Nick Peta*

Spiritual  
arr. Lloyd Larson

SERMON

Bishop Colette Matthews-Carter

HYMN

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

No. 28

**For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,**

*Refrain (sung after each verse):*

**God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,**

**For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,  
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed,**

# 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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CLOSING HYMN

“Guide My Feet”

No. 497

**Guide my feet while I run this race, guide my feet while I run this race,  
Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**Hold my hand while I run this race, hold my hand while I run this race,  
Hold my hand while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**I'm your child while I run this race, I'm your child while I run this race,  
I'm your child while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**Stand by me while I run this race, stand by me while I run this race,  
Stand by me while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Welsh Hymn  
arr. Howard Helvey



- **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).

*We are grateful for the music leadership of member **Alice Dickerson Hatt** while Joe Downing is on vacation.*

*This morning we welcome the worship leadership of **Bishop Colette Matthews-Carter** while Pastor Jackson is on vacation. Service, faith and grace are the hallmarks of her life and ministry. Bishop Carter has served in the pastorate for almost 25 years. She is the senior pastor of the Zion Hill World Harvest Baptist Church in Syracuse and prelate of the Covenant Fellowship of Churches Inc.*

*A community advocate and civic leader, Bishop Carter serves as the President of the NAACP (Syracuse Onondaga). She is passionate about the work of social justice and racial equity. A former government official, she is currently employed as the Director of The El-Hindi Center for Dialogue and Action for Inter Faith Works CNY.*

*She is a graduate of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, and completed graduate work at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. She is the recipient of numerous leadership awards and commendations including the New York State Senate “**Woman of Distinction**”, the Delta Sigma Theta “**Marjorie Dowdell Fortitude Award**”, and the Omega Psi Phi “**Citizen of the Year Award**.” Additionally, she is the 2021 recipient of the “**Clergy Leadership Award**” from the Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse. She was also honored by “City and State New York” who listed her among the “**2021 Upstate Power 100**.” Bishop Carter subscribes to “whom much is given, much is required”. She strives to embody the ideals of the “Beloved Community.”*



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

**LITURGIST:** Mack Richardson   **DEACON ON DUTY:** Adam King  
**USHER:** Gertrude Danzy  
**WORSHIP ZOOM COORDINATOR:** Tom Zorn

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)



### **~ Some Things You Ought to Know ~**

**Pastor Eric Jackson is on vacation through July 31.** From July 10 – July 24, emergency pastoral concerns may be brought to the attention of David Pasinski, 315.663.1330, [dpasinki@verizon.net](mailto:dpasinki@verizon.net). From July 25 – July 31, emergency pastoral concerns may be brought to the attention of Rick Cowles, 315.382.1975, [rcowles48@gmail.com](mailto:rcowles48@gmail.com).

**Next Sunday:** Please allow extra time to get to church NEXT Sunday as East Onondaga, Montgomery and East Jefferson Streets are closed for the Arts and Crafts Festival. There is on-street parking on Madison, Harrison and Warren Streets as well as in the OnCenter parking lot.

**July Worship:** We continue in-person worship outdoors at the “Point” at Plymouth during July. The service will also 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)

**Beginning Sunday, August 1 we invite you attend worship in person in the Sanctuary of Plymouth Church.** Our worship services in August will be broadcast live to Facebook and help us to prepare for our official re-gathering celebration that will be held on Sunday, September 12th. Throughout the month of August, we ask that you wear a mask and practice physical distancing with those who do not live in your household since there are those 11 years of age and younger as well as other individuals who are not able to be vaccinated.

**Flowers for Summer Worship:** 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.)

**Greeters and Ushers Needed for 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.

**A Garland of Blessing for the Looney's Growing Family:** The Christian Formation Board invites you to bless **the Looney Family (Kim, Scott, and Miles)** as they anticipate the birth of their newest family member in September. Individuals and/or families are **invited to craft a blessing in this way:**

1. Trace the outline of a 14.5oz can on a piece of paper
2. Write or draw your blessing inside the circle using second-person pronouns (e.g. “May you...” “May God grant you...” “You are...”).
3. Sign your name and cut out the circle
4. Drop off your blessing(s) in the church office OR place your blessing(s) in an envelope and mail to Carly Alicea **no later than August 16<sup>th</sup>** at:

Carly Alicea, 573 Autumn Breeze Lane, Ontario, NY 14519

More details are available in the weekly enewsletter and upcoming August *Plymouth Story*.

**SAVE THE DATE - Inquirers’ Gathering:** Are you new to Plymouth and want to know more? Are you interested in taking the “next step?” If the answer to either or both of these questions is “yes,” please plan on attending the next Inquirers’ Gathering at 11:30am on Sunday, August 15. Join Eric Jackson to learn more about Plymouth, our United Church of Christ, and the meaning of membership. Call the church office if you are interested. More details to follow.

## **THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH**

- Mon. July 19      Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm  
Deadline for August *Plymouth Story*
- Tues. July 20      Church Council\*, 5:30pm via Zoom  
Board of Christian Formation\*, 7pm via Zoom
- Wed. July 21      Family Games, 4pm at Thornden Park for families with children and youth
- Thurs. July 22      Board of Christian Formation Retreat #2, 7pm via Zoom
- Fri. July 23      Youth Group Pool Party, 5pm at the home of Gary Allen
- Sun. July 25      Worship, 10am, in-person outdoors at Plymouth on the “point”

*\* 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!***