



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

“Here I am, Lord”

arr. John Carter

Piano Duet with Rosey Oaks-Lee and Alice Dickerson Hatt

WORDS OF WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Richard W. Cowles, Jr.

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 51:15, 10-12)

Sarah Whitton

One: Open our lips, O Lord,

All: And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

One: Create in us a clean heart, O God,

All: And renew a right spirit within us.

One: Cast us not away from your presence,

All: And take not your Holy Spirit from us.

One: Give us the joy of your saving help again,

All: And sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

O God of the morning and of the evening hours, let your Spirit come on us gathered here. This is the holy place where we, your people, call on you in faith, joining heart and voice in thanksgiving and praise to your name. Amen.

LITANY OF PRAISE *(adapted from Psalm 145:10-18)*

One: We give thanks to you, O LORD, and in faith we offer prayers of blessing to you.
You are faithful in all your words, and gracious in all your deeds.

All: You uphold us when we fall and raise us up when we are bowed down.

One: We look to you, and you give us food in due season.

All: You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

One: God you are just in all your ways, and kind in all your doings.

All: O God, you are near to all who call on you, to all who call on you in truth. We praise and thank you, O God, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

**Please rise if you are able*

**When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries, may Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer, one purpose I declare: may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**New strength comes night or day when from the heart we say, may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let sin and evil fear, when this sweet chant they hear: may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Discordant humankind, in this your concord find, may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound: may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine, may Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the-eternal song, through all the ages long: may Jesus Christ be praised!**

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

John 6:1-15

One: After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?”

He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.”

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“Gift of Finest Wheat”
Summer Choir

arr. Gary Daigle

SERMON

“Rejoicing in What We Have”

Rick Cowles

HYMN

“Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us”

No. 583

**Like a mother who has borne us, held us close in her delight,
Fed us freely from her body, God has called us into life.**

**Like a father who has taught us, grasped our hand and been our guide,
Lifted us and healed our sorrows, God has walked with us in life.**

**Though as children we have wandered, placed our trust in power and might,
Left behind our brothers, sisters, God still calls us into life.**

**When we offer food and comfort, grasp our neighbor's hand in love,
Tread the path of peace and justice, God still walks with us in life.**

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

“My Life Flows on in Endless Song”

No. 476

**My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I hear the sweet, thought far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul – how can I keep from singing?
What though my joys and comforts die? My Savior still is living.
What though the shadows gather 'round? A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging;
Since Love command goth heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?**

☞ Some Things You Ought to Know ☞

Pastor Eric Jackson is on vacation through July 31. Emergency pastoral concerns may be brought to the attention of Rick Cowles, 315.382.1975, rcowles48@gmail.com.

Beginning NEXT Sunday, August 1 we invite you to 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.

Please Keep Current with Your Pledge Payments: Treasurer Dave Michel sends this reminder: “During the pandemic, even though in-person worship has been limited, the financial commitment of Plymouth members and friends has been outstanding. However, because of lost income due to building use restrictions and unanticipated building expenses, 2021 expenses are exceeding income. It is important, if at all possible, that members keep up their pledge payments. Payments can be mailed to the office (232 East Onondaga St., Syracuse 13202) or made online through PayPal or by setting up an automatic bill pay service through your bank. Thank you for your continued commitment to Plymouth.”

Flowers for Summer Worship: In 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. You also have the option of providing flowers by signing up for a specific Sunday and sending in a check for \$25 to Plymouth Church with “flowers” noted in the memo line. (We order the flowers for you!). Sign up by **CLICKING HERE** or call the church office no later than the Monday of the week of your choosing. You can provide a short dedication to be included in that week’s bulletin.

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 16th at: Carly Alicea, 573 Autumn Breeze Lane, Ontario, NY 14519 More details are available in the weekly e-newsletter 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 26 Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm
- Sun. August 1 Worship and Communion, 10am, in-person in the sanctuary

❧ 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 Syracuseans 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!

