



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of Word and Sacrament

August 1, 2021

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am

PRELUDE

Andante

Antonio Vivaldi

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

Dick Mace

One: Gather around, you are welcome here,

All: To hear the good news

One: Gather around, in this space that was so far away for so long

All: To be in community with one another

One: Gather around, for worship

All: To sing, pray, laugh, cry, and grow in faith together.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Welcoming God, who has been with us through all that this covid-19 pandemic has brought upon us. We celebrate your still-speaking presence as we gather for worship today in our building for the first time in a long time. May this time of worship bless, inspire, and nourish us to faithfully walk into this next chapter of being the body of Christ. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

We Gather Together

No. 421

**We gather together to ask for God's blessing,
To live in community, seeking God's will.
We come now, as sisters and brothers, confessing
The sins that divide and the wrong in us still.**

**Beside us, forgiving, enabling, sustaining,
You call us, O Savior, to life that is new.
You draw us away from self-centered complaining.
You lead us and guide us in ways that are true.**

**All praise to the Spirit, provider, defender.
You offer us freedom, to follow or stray,
Empowering all by the hope you engender.
Grant wisdom and courage to follow your way.**

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Acts 3:1-16

One: One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. All the people saw him walking and praising God, and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's Portico, utterly astonished. When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Concerto for Two Trumpets: i) Allegro

Antonio Vivaldi

SERMON

Eric Jackson

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.**

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

Today we receive a special offering for Plymouth's Good Samaritan Fund. This fund is used for direct ministries of mercy and benevolence with Plymouth members and our neighbors. To contribute, please make out a check to Plymouth Congregational Church with the words "Good Samaritan Fund" in the memo line.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

DISTRIBUTING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

Concerto for Two Trumpets ii) Largo iii) Allegro

Antonio Vivaldi



We express our appreciation to our musicians today: Kyle Jones, Aaron Dubois, trumpets; Julia Ross, timpani

This will be the last Sunday that Kyle and Julia are with us. Kyle is off to pursue a Masters degree in trumpet performance at McGill University in Montreal, and Julia is beginning a doctoral program in percussion at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. Both have served as musicians at Plymouth for multiple years, and we thank them for their contributions.

Aaron Dubois is a friend of Kyle's. Aaron just completed his undergraduate degree in trumpet performance at Rice University and will begin graduate studies this fall at Northwestern University. Thank you for playing today, Aaron.



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~ Plymouth Runs On YOU ~

LITURGIST: Dick Mace **DEACON ON DUTY:** Frank Leonard
GREETER: Sarah Whitton **COUNTERS:** Keith Jakway and Sarah Whitton
FLOWERS are given by Sarah Whitton in loving memory of
Martin S. and Beatrice M. Whitton
COMMUNION SERVERS: Luna Bogucz, Frank Leonard,
David Palladino-Cowdery, Cindy Perrine
WORSHIP ZOOM COORDINATOR: Tom Zorn

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 ~

We have resumed in-person worship! Our worship services in August will also 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. Registration is encouraged as well at <https://forms.gle/XLaoeZ6PCekekA7>.

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.

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. August 2 Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm
- Tues. August 3 Church Office Closed – Staff Vacation
Racial Justice Working Group*, 5pm via Zoom
- Wed. August 4 Church Office Closed – Staff Vacation
Pastoral Relations Committee, 5:30pm via Zoom
- Sat. August 7 Justice Work at Haven at Skanda for families with children and youth, 10am – 12noon
- Sun. August 8 Worship, 10am, in-person in the sanctuary and livestreamed on Facebook

* 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.