



# Plymouth Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

Service of the Word  
August 22, 2021  
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
10:00 am

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

PRELUDE

“Steal Away to Jesus”

Spiritual

\*OPENING HYMN

“Come, We Who Love God’s Name”

No. 382

**Come, we who love God's name, and let our joys be known;  
Together God's great love proclaim, together God's great love proclaim,  
And thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.**

*Refrain (sung after each verse)*

**We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
We're marching to Zion, the beautiful city of God.**

**Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;  
But we our thanks and praise will bring, but we our thanks and praise will bring  
For love so deep and broad, for love so deep and broad.**

**God's grace on earth is found, the seeds of glory sown;  
Celestial fruits on earthly ground, celestial fruits on earthly ground  
From faith and hope have grown, from faith and hope have grown.**

**The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets  
Before we reach the heavenly fields, before we reach the heavenly fields,  
Or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets.**

**Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;  
We're traveling through Emmanuel's ground, we're traveling through Emmanuel's  
ground  
To greater worlds on high, to greater worlds on high.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Gary Smith

One: If you are hungry for food or hungering for justice,

**All: Come feast on the bread of heaven.**

One: If you are thirsty for drink or thirsting for righteousness,

**All: Come and dine at the table that brings us into right relationship.**

One: All who are hungry to share the presence of Christ,

**All: Come and share in the promise of life eternal.**

One: Come, let grace find you. Come, let love fill you!

*\*Please rise if you are able*

**All: Come and worship! Come and dine!  
Source of new life, come and feed until we want no more!**

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*unison*)

**Bread of Heaven, may we feast on your teachings so fully and absorb your words so completely that our hearts become like yours. Let your love live so fully in us until it becomes like our flesh and bone. Let your abundant life live so fully in us until we live your will and your way. Amen.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Eric Jackson

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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.**

### **THE GIFT OF THE WORD**

SCRIPTURE

John 6:56-69

One: Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The Word of God for the People of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Bread That’s Hard to Swallow”

Eric Jackson

**In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,  
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?**

*Refrain (sung after each verse):*

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey  
Now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.**

**Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,  
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?**

**As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,  
Grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams.**

**We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,  
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.**

**Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,  
May your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.**

**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.**

**OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS**

CALL TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC AT THE OFFERING

“The Call”

Ralph Vaughan Williams

*Come my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
Such a Way as gives us breath;  
Such a Truth as ends all strife;  
Such a Life as killeth death.*

*Come my Light, my Feast, my Strength:  
Such a Light as shows a feast;  
Such a Feast as mends in length;  
Such a Strength as makes his guest.*

*Come my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
Such a Joy as none can move;  
Such a Love as none can part;  
Such a Heart as joys in love.*

-George Herbert

**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.**

\*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

“Trumpet Tune in D”

David Johnson



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### **🎶 Plymouth Runs On YOU 🎶**

**LITURGIST:** Gary Smith **DEACON ON DUTY:** Kailyn Wright  
**USHER:** Frank Leonard  
**COUNTERS:** Keith Jakway and Sarah Whitton  
**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 🎶**

**We have resumed in-person worship!** Our worship services in August will also be broadcast live to Facebook and help us to prepare for Rally Day, which includes Blessing of the Bags and Backpacks, that will be held on Sunday, September 12th. Rally Day is a time for us to renew our commitment to our faith community in these perilous times. We ask that you wear a mask when inside Plymouth and to 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>.

**The Books are Back:** Some people enjoy singing the parts of the hymns or reading along with the Bible in their hands. After a conversation at the Church Council meeting about safety concerns, it was determined that the best way to make hymnals and Bibles available is to stack them on a cart in the back of the sanctuary during worship. You are invited to take them to your seat in the pew to use during the service. Please return them to the cart as you leave. We look forward to returning the hymnals and Bibles to the pews sometime in the future.

**Donations needed for the Rescue Mission Emergency Youth Shelter:** The long-anticipated opening of the Rescue Missions Emergency Youth Shelter will be this fall! Plymouth gave \$50,000 to support the shelter and our youth have helped renovate the house. We can continue our involvement by donating snacks and recreation, hygiene, and school supplies to help the youth feel welcome and comfortable. Drop your donations off in the bins at the back of the sanctuary by September 12. They will be blessed in worship that Sunday – Rally Day - and delivered to the shelter. A comprehensive list of needed items is enclosed in this bulletin.

**Call for Counters:** The deposit of donations and payments to Plymouth Church is prepared every week by volunteers. We have a core of experienced counters and we are looking to expand the group. No special experience is needed. It usually takes less than 30 minutes and is done directly after worship. This is an important ministry and contributes to the smooth operation of Plymouth. If you feel you could take on this important job, or if you would like more information, please contact Susan Hawks at 315-481-9148 or [shawks@twcny.rr.com](mailto:shawks@twcny.rr.com). More details are also available in the weekly e-newsletter.

**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 add your name to the chart in the belltower, 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.

**“Celebrate Diversity, Replace Columbus”:** The City of Syracuse under Mayor Ben Walsh has been engaged for over a year in reimagining Columbus Circle for a design change in the fall of this year. In June 2020, Plymouth’s Church Council members voted unanimously to support the removal of the Columbus monument. The new plan is for the circle to become a Heritage Park to represent all peoples and cultures that contribute to our city. Any members of the congregation who would like to support the redesign by displaying a lawn sign reading: "Celebrate Diversity, Replace Columbus," please contact Elinor Cramer at [elinorcramer@verizon.net](mailto:elinorcramer@verizon.net) or call 315-469-7987 voice only.

## THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. August 23 Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm
- Sun. August 29 Worship, 10am, in-person in the sanctuary; livestreamed on Facebook

## **Welcome to Plymouth**

232 E. Onondaga Street | Syracuse, NY 13202 | 315-474-4836

*For an online and interactive worship experience*

## ***We are an Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Immigrant Welcoming, Progressive Christian, and Sanctuary Congregation.***

Plymouth was founded in 1853 by a group of Syracusans who wanted to create a Christian abolitionist bulwark fighting slavery. Since then, we continue to live our faith by standing against racism, white supremacy culture, poverty, and war; standing up for immigrants', indigenous people's, workers', LGBT, and women's rights; and seeking to be agents of mercy in a hurting world. We believe in beauty, laughter, the struggle for peace with justice, taking risks for building a diverse, equitable, and inclusive Beloved Community in God, and the Way of Jesus Christ which is love and compassion for ourselves and our neighbors.

### ***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](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).