



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word
August 29, 2021
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 am

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

PRELUDE

“We Plough the Fields”

Johann A. P. Shulz

Carole Brzozowski, soprano

*We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the ground,
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand.
God sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft, refreshing rain.*

*All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above,
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all this love.*

*God only is the maker of all things near and far;
God paints the wayside flower. God lights the evening star.
The winds and waves obey God. By God the birds are fed.
Much more, to us, God's children, God gives our daily bread.*

*OPENING HYMN

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

No. 12

**I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of our God that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good.
Oh, how your wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye:
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!**

**On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glory known.
The clouds arise and spread their showers by order from your throne.
All life is but a gift from you and ever in your care;
Wherever people gather, you, O God, are present there.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kailyn Wright

One: Lord, we lift our voices, open our hands, and open our minds to worship you.

All: All good and perfect gifts are from you.

One: Lord, we offer ourselves to one another in the spirit of your love.

All: All good and perfect gifts come from you.

One: Lord, we are thankful for your grace.

**Please rise if you are able*

All: Lord, you are majestic. We thank you for your perfect gifts of scripture, prayer, song, dance, poetry, and other expressions of love you have blessed us with. We use them to praise and worship you!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*unison*)

**We come into this place of worship to offer all of ourselves in praise. During this time of Pentecost, we continue to celebrate your power and our purpose as believers who both listen and respond to your call to justice. Gather us as one, we pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Jackson

* *Please rise if you are able* Eric

*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

**Glorify 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

James 1:17-27

One: Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Eric Jackson

**Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;
Let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life;
Words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.**

Refrain (sung after each verse):

**Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.**

**Christ, the blessed one, gives to all wonderful words of life;
Sinner, wake to the loving call, wonderful words of life;
All so freely given, our sure hope of heaven.**

**Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life;
Offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior, keep me with you forever.**

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.**

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

*Creator of beauty and giver of light,
Who set the stars shining in dark sacred night;
We offer our music with hearts full of praise,
With joyful thanksgiving for all of our days.*

*In pastures of heaven, where green valleys sing,
And high mountains echo our prayers to our king,
May this song a gift forever be found,
Now offered with grace, and eternity bound.*

*The journey of each soul remains in your care,
Your guidance and faithfulness, always you share
Your spirit, within us, each strength that you send
Returned to your glory, a world without end.*

*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.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN

“I Love to Tell the Story”

No. 522

**I love to tell the story of unseen things above.
Of Jesus’ radiant glory, of Jesus’ endless love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it’s true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.**

Refrain (sung after each verse):

**I love to tell the story; and when I am in glory
I’ll tell the old, old story of Jesus’ endless love.**

**I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
Than all the golden visions of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, I tell it now to you
Because I want to share it, because I know it’s true.**

**I love to tell the story; it’s pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God’s own holy Word.**

**I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when I sing in glory, I know the new, new song
Will be the old, old story that I have loved so long.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Menuett”

Arcangelo Corelli



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✧ Plymouth Runs On YOU ✧

LITURGIST: Kailyn Wright **DEACON ON DUTY:** Frank Leonard

COUNTERS: Susan Hawks and Keith Jakway

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 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/XLaoeZ6PCeqqATr7>.

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 on page 11 of this bulletin.

Rally Day – Sunday, September 12:

- **Blessing of the Bags:** All are invited to bring backpacks, purses, briefcases, diaper bags – anything you carry with you on a regular basis – to be blessed during worship on Sunday, September 12. If you plan to worship with us virtually and would like a blessing tag sent to you prior to that service, please contact the church office by September 7.
- **Lunch on the Point following worship:** We'll have a chance to celebrate our recommitment to the Plymouth community over boxed lunches on the point. If you plan on staying for lunch, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE contact the church office or sign up [HERE](#) by **September 8** so that our gracious lunch preparers, Joe Downing and Carole Brzozowski, can plan accordingly.

Drivers needed: Now that we are worshipping in the sanctuary, there are members of the Plymouth community who need a ride to church. Please contact the church office if you are willing to be put on a “Sunday morning ride” list. This is another way to act out our mission of being welcoming to all.

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.

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. More details are also available in the weekly e-newsletter.

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.

Flowers in Worship: Our Sanctuary is beautiful, but you can make it even more so for the glory of God and in honor of whatever or whomever you choose. Simply reserve a Sunday for placing flowers in church by [CLICKING HERE](#) or sign up on the flower chart located in the bell tower entry no later than the Monday of the week of your choosing. Send in a check for \$25 to Plymouth Church with "flowers" noted in the memo line. (We order the flowers for you!). You can provide a short dedication to be included in that week's bulletin.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. August 30 Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm
- Wed. September 1 Safe Church Working Group, 7pm via Zoom
- Sun. September 5 Worship with communion, 10am, in-person in the sanctuary and
livestreamed on Facebook

Rescue Mission Emergency Shelter Supply List

Food & Recreation:

- Snacks!!! (individually wrapped)
- Board games
- Card games
- Art & craft supplies

Hygiene:

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Soap
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Body lotion
- Feminine hygiene products
- Underwear (youth & adult sizes)

School Supplies:

- #2 Pencils
- Colored Pencils

- Pencil Sharpeners
- Pens: Red, Blue, Black
- Rulers
- Pocket Folders
- 3-Ring Binders
- College Ruled Loose Leaf 3 Hole Paper
- Spiral Notebooks
- Sticky Notes
- Highlighters
- Markers
- Weekly Planners
- Backpacks
- Lunchboxes
- Hand sanitizer
- Glue sticks
- Pencil cases
- Staplers
- Scissors

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 Syracuseans 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 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.

**Please rise if you are able*