



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of Word and Sacrament
September 5, 2021
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 am

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

PRELUDE

“Second Sonata ii) Larghetto”

Alexandre Guilmant

*OPENING HYMN

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

No. 86

**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!**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Geri Hall

One: Lord, open our hearts this morning to hear your words of compassion.

All: Lord, help us to truly listen to you.

One: Lord, open our spirits this morning to strengthen our faith.

All: Lord, help us to work for you.

One: Lord, make us ready to serve.

All: Lord, make us ready to witness to your healing love. AMEN.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*unison*)

You are the center, holy God. Your love is where we find balance, your word is where we find inspiration, your song is where our hearts sing. Bring us here and now into your holy presence, God of all, let us worship in the freedom that you bring to all souls. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Eric Jackson

**Please rise if you are able*

*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

Mark 7:24-30

One: From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Hide and Seek"

Eric Jackson

*HYMN

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

No. 23

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There's no place where earthly sorrow are more felt than in God's heaven;
There's no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word;
And our lives would show thanksgiving for the goodness of our God.**

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 the different versions over the course of a year. We will pray the prayer with "sins" through the end of 2021

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us, 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

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.

OFFERTORY MUSIC "The Blind Man Stood on the Road and Cried" Spiritual
Michael Chellis, bass

*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

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

DISTRIBUTING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*CLOSING HYMN "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" No. 160
(Jesus, the Light of the World)

**Hark! the herald angels sing, Jesus, the light of the world;
Glory to the Christ-child bring, Jesus, the light of the world.**

Refrain (sing after each verse):

We will follow the light, beautiful light.

**Come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright,
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the light of the world.**

**Joyful, all you saints arise, Jesus, the light of the world;
Join the triumph of the skies, Jesus, the light of the world.**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Jesus, the light of the world;
Christ, the everlasting Word, Jesus, the light of the world.**

**Hail the Bearer of God's peace! Jesus, the light of the world;
Hail the Sun of righteousness! Jesus, the light of the world.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Sortie" Nicolas Jacques Lemmens



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☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☞

GREETER: Sarah Whitton **USHERS:** Richard and Susan Hawks

LITURGIST: Geri Hall **DEACON ON DUTY:** Luna Bogucz

COMMUNION SERVERS: Luna Bogucz, Susan Hawks,
Frank Leonard, Kailyn Wright

FLOWERS are given by George Bain in loving memory of Caroline D. Bain,
September 3, 1922, to January 5, 2015

COUNTERS: Patty Brannan 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

- **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.

☞ Some Things You Ought to Know ☞

We continue to worship both in person and streamed live on Facebook: 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. The worship service can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/plymouthUCCsyracuse/>.

Plymouth likes to share its story! Photos are often taken during worship and at Plymouth events and are shared on the website, in social media and by partnering organizations. If you **DO NOT** wish your photo to be used, please contact the church office.

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 NEXT Sunday, September 12. They will be blessed in worship and delivered to the shelter. A comprehensive list of needed items is inserted in this bulletin.

NEXT SUNDAY is Rally Day:

- **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. Due to safety concerns, hymnals and Bibles are available on a cart in the back of the sanctuary. 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. September 6 Church Office Closed – Labor Day holiday
(No Food Pantry)
- Tues. September 7 Church Office Closed – Staff vacation
Racial Justice Working Group*, 5pm via Zoom
- Sun. September 12 Worship – “Rally Day”, 10am, in-person in the
sanctuary and livestreamed on Facebook
Celebration with boxed lunches on the Point

🌀 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!

