



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word
September 12, 2021
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 am

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Amelia Wright

PRELUDE

“Sonata #1: Adagio”

Felix Mendelssohn

*OPENING HYMN

“God is Truly with Us”

No. 68

God is truly with us; sing we and adore now:

Praise the One we come before now.

Here within this temple, here in sound and silence,

Worship God in deepest reverence.

You alone, God, we own, you, our God and Savior; praise to you forever.

God is truly with us; loud our praise resounding!

Echoes of the saints surrounding!

“Holy, holy, holy,” hear the hymn ascending,

Angels, saints, their voices blending!

Bow your ear to us here; here, O Christ, the praises that your Church now raises.

Source of every blessing, bless the ones who name you,

Let our words and deeds proclaim you.

Like the saints and angels praising you in glory,

May your servants sing your story.

And in all, great and small, may we do most nearly what you love most dearly.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sarah Wright

One: This is the day that our God has made.

All: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

One: This is the day that our God has made.

All: **Let us recommit ourselves to serving God and our world together.**

One: This is the day that our God has made.

All: **Let us welcome all, grow in faith, and work for justice and peace.**

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*unison*)

God, we are so happy to be together today; to see our church family, to feel the buzz of a new year and to dream about what the year might bring. The pandemic and flexibility of summer has caused us to fall out of some of our routines. May we begin this program year by centering ourselves in prayer, reconnecting with one another, and serving in community. In these times it's easy to forget that we are your blessed children, called to be in community and to bear witness to your love. Remind us, O God, that we are your children, the Body of Christ. Deepen our commitment to re-center our lives on you so our year can be an outward expression of your love together as one body. 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

THE BLESSING OF THE BAGS

Today we bless our children and their backpacks and diaper bags, and everyone else and the bags they carry with them every day. You are invited to tie the “blessing tag” (clipped to your bulletin) to your bag. Additional tags are available on the table behind the back pew. We also bless the supplies that we have been gathering for the Rescue Mission’s Emergency Youth Shelter over the last several weeks.

SCRIPTURE

Nehemiah 1:1-11

One: The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah. In the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, while I was in Susa the capital, one of my brothers, Hanani, came with certain men from Judah; and I asked them about the Jews that survived, those who had escaped the captivity, and about Jerusalem. They replied, “The survivors there in the province who escaped captivity are in great trouble and shame; the wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been destroyed by fire.”

When I heard these words I sat down and wept, and mourned for days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven. I said, “O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments; let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Both I and my family have sinned. We have offended you deeply, failing to keep the commandments, the statutes, and the ordinances that you commanded your servant Moses. Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples; but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are under the farthest skies, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place at which I have chosen to establish my name.’ They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great power and your strong hand. O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man!”

At the time, I was cupbearer to the king.

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

QUARTET

“Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy’s Sake”

Richard Farrant

Tara Sandlin, soprano; Nicholas Peta, countertenor; Richard Cowles, tenor; Liam Hines, bass

Glory, glory, hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.
Glory, glory, hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.

I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.
I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.

Feel like shouting “Hallelujah!” since I laid my burdens down.
Feel like shouting “Hallelujah!” since I laid my burdens down.

I am dancing Miriam’s dance now, since I laid my burdens down.
I am dancing Miriam’s dance now, since I laid my burdens down.

I am climbing Jacob’s ladder, since I laid my burdens down.
I am climbing Jacob’s ladder, since I laid my burdens down.

Every round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burdens down.
Every round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burdens down.

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

No. 769

Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -
cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

LITANY OF INTENT

One: Friends in Christ, we are all received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. You have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ.

All: We have been led by the Spirit to re-affirm our baptism and to claim in our presence our covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the Christian church.

One: We are here, to endeavor to love God with all our hearts, and all our souls, and all our minds. God help us.

All: We are here to endeavor to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. God help us.

One: Friends, we rejoice in our pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place.

All: We give thanks for every community of faith which has been our spiritual home, and we celebrate our presence in this household of faith.

One: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be a vital part of the family of Christ, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and Word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

All: We promise, with the help of God.

One: Do you promise, according to the grace given to you, to grow in the Christian faith? And do you promise, that so far as able, you will participate in the life of this church, by worshipping God with us, and offering your time, talent and means for the ministry of this church and for the larger church of which this is a part?

All: We promise, with the help of God.

One: We welcome you once again with joy as partners in the common life of this church, and let us extend our hands forward as a sign of Christian love to be partners in Christ's service together.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Have You Heard God's Voice?" Frederick Chatfield

*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 "Every Time I Feel the Spirit" No. 282

Refrain (sung after each verse):

**Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.**

**Upon the mountain my God spoke, out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me; looked so fine; I asked my God if all were mine.**

**Oh, Jordan river, chilly and cold, it chills the body, not the soul.
There's only one train on this track; it runs to heaven, then right back.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Every Time I Feel the Spirit" arr. John Carter



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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
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🌀 Plymouth Runs On YOU 🌀

USHERS: George Bain and Kailyn Wright **LITURGIST:** Sarah Wright

DEACON ON DUTY: David Palladino-Cowdery

FLOWERS are given by Kathy Ferro in memory of her parents Chuck and Leslyn Goodrich who would have celebrated their 65th anniversary on Sept. 10

COUNTERS: Susan Hawks and Keith Jakway

WORSHIP ZOOM COORDINATOR: Tom Zorn

🌀 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/>.

BUILDING A CULTURE OF REPAIR: Reparations and a Faithful Response to Systemic Racism Join us for a series of spiritually grounded, open conversations about transformative, faithful anti-racist action for reparation, restoration, and reconciliation.

We'll meet via zoom from 4:00-5:30 pm on Sundays Sept 19, Sept 26, Oct 3, Oct 10.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6039333178>, Password: 13202. These gatherings

are inspired by last year's Racial Justice Working Group WOW Workshops. All are welcome! Watch a brief video invitation here https://video.syr.edu/media/t/1_56tr5xu4

Clothes for Jail Ministry: Jail Ministry is taking up a collection for the Onondaga County Justice Center to provide clothes for people coming out of the Justice Center. Many inmates leaving may need different clothing than what they wore when they were arrested, due to seasons changing or their weight changes or damage to those clothes.

Jail Ministry will take new and slightly used clothing. If you focus on one item and brought a bag of them in that would be great. The need is for men's and women's clothes, and any donation helps. Items needed are

1. Socks
2. T-shirts, short sleeve and long sleeve
3. Sweatpants and sweat tops
4. Jeans
5. Flannel shirts
6. Fall and winter jackets
7. Sneakers and boots
8. New undergarments
9. Winter hats and winter gloves

Drop your donations off in the bins at the back of the Sanctuary. We will collect items through October 2. If you are going to do more than one item, please put different items in different bags. It is important for folks to have a decent set of clothes when they are released from the Justice Center so they feel like it is a bit of a fresh start.

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.

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.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. September 13 Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm
- Tues. September 14 Board of Trustees*, 6pm via Zoom
Board of Deacons*, 7pm via Zoom
- Thurs. September 16 Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, Kirtland Hall
- Sat. September 18 Oneida Association Fall Gathering, 9am via Zoom
- Sun. September 19 Worship, 10am, in-person in the sanctuary and
livestreamed on Facebook
Learning Community during worship (children age 3-5th grade
Memorial Service for William Hanley, 1pm, sanctuary
Conversations about Reparations, 4pm – 5:30pm via Zoom

** Board meetings are 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 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 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.