



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word
September 19, 2021
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 am

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Adena Giroux

PRELUDE

“Prelude in d minor”

attr. L. Krebs

*OPENING HYMN

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

No. 7

**All people that on earth do dwell, sing out your faith with cheerful voice;
Delight in God whose praise you tell, whose presence calls you to rejoice.**

**Know that there is one God, indeed, who fashions us without our aid,
Who claims us, gives us all we need, whose tender care will never fade.**

**Enter the sacred gates with praise, with joy approach the temple walls.
Extol and bless our God always as people whom the Spirit calls.**

**Proclaim again that God is good, whose mercy is forever sure,
Whose truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kathy Ferro

One: Welcome to a time of wonder

All: and music that calls us home.

One: Welcome to hear God’s words that inspire and challenge

All: and to reminders that we are offered holy hospitality –

One: hospitality that teaches us how to open our lives to others,

All: leading us to fully live open minds, open hearts, open doors.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*unison*)

God of the Widow at Zarephath, God of Joseph the Forgiver, God of the Good Samaritan, we stand in awe of people who showed hospitality in the midst of sacrifice and betrayal. Take us deep into the heart of hospitality. Help us to understand that the generosity the world needs often demands sacrifice on our part. Remind us, O God, that we are to set many tables, to speak blessings often, and to be your love in the world. In the name of Christ we pray. 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.

**Please rise if you are able*

**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

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kirsten Hubel

SCRIPTURE

Nehemiah 2:1-10, 11,17

One: In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was served him, I carried the wine and gave it to the king. Now, I had never been sad in his presence before. So the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This can only be sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid. I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my ancestors' graves, lies waste, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. Then I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor with you, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my ancestors' graves, so that I may rebuild it." The king said to me (the queen also was sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me, and I set him a date. Then I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may grant me passage until I arrive in Judah; and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, directing him to give me timber to make beams for the gates of the temple fortress, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy." And the king granted me what I asked, for the gracious hand of my God was upon me.

Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent officers of the army and cavalry with me. When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel.

So I came to Jerusalem and was there for three days.

Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, so that we may no longer suffer disgrace."

Luke 10:25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and

wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

"The Holy City"
Tara Sandlin, soprano

F.E. Weatherly and Stephen Adams

*Last night I lay a'sleeping there came a dream so fair.
I stood in old Jerusalem, beside the temple there;
I heard the children singing and ever as they sang,
Methought the voice of angels, from heaven in answer rang.
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, lift up you gates and sing,
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna to your King!*

*And then methought my dream was changed, the streets no longer rang.
Hushed were the glad Hosannas the little children sang;
The sun grew dark with mystery, the morn was cold and chill
As the shadow of a cross arose upon a lonely hill.
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, hark how the angels sing,
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna to your King!*

*And once again the scene was changed, new earth there seemed to be,
I saw the Holy City beside the tideless sea;
The light of God was on its streets, the gates were open wide,
And all who would might enter, and no one was denied.
No need of moon or stars by night, or sun to shine by day,
It was the new Jerusalem that would not pass away.
Jerusalem, Jerusalem! Sing for the night is o'er!
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna forevermore!*

SERMON

"Renewing Our Vows: Welcoming All"

Eric Jackson

*HYMN

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

No. 43

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, you are all compassion; pure, unbounded love impart.
Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
Let us all in you inherit, let us find your promised rest;
Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, almighty to deliver, let us all your life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing, love you as your angels love,
Pray and praise for your unfailing, wounded arms outstretched above.**

**Finish, then, your new creation; pure and spotless may we prove;
 Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you;
 Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
 Crowned as saints, we ever shall be lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

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.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO

“Jerusalem, My Happy Home”

Virgil Thomson

*Jerusalem, my happy home, When shall I come to thee?
 When shall my sorrows have an end, thy joys when shall I see?
 O happy harbor of the Saints! O sweet and pleasant soil!
 In thee no sorrow may be found, no grief, no care, no toil.
 Thy ways are made of precious stones, thy bulwarks of diamonds square;
 They gates are of right Orient pearl, exceeding rich and rare.
 Thy turrets and thy pinnacles with carbuncles do shine;
 Thy very streets are paved with gold, surpassing clear and fine.
 Quite through the streets, with silver sound, the flood of life doth flow,
 Upon whose banks on every side the wood of life doth grow.*

There trees forevermore bear fruit, and evermore do spring.

There evermore the Angels sit, and evermore do sing.

*There David stands, with harp in hand, as master of the choir;
Ten thousand times that man were blest that might this music hear.*

*Our Lady sings: "Magnificat," with tones surpassing sweet;
And all the virgins bear their part, sitting about her feet.*

*There Magdalene hath left her moan, and cheerfully doth sing
With blessed Saints whose harmony in every street doth ring.*

*Jerusalem, my happy home. Would God I were in thee!
Would God my woes were at an end, thy joys that I might see!*

*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 JOINING AND CELEBRATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Havilah Carroll Joshua Carroll Bonita H. Siegel

Luis Morales and Bob Watrous

LITANY OF INTENT

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

Many: They have been led by the Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the Christian church.

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

Many: They are here, as we are here, to endeavor to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. God help us.

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

Many: We give thanks for every community of faith which has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your 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?

Those joining: We promise, with the help of God.

Many: 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?

Those joining: We promise, with the help of God.

One: We welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church, and we offer to you the hand of Christian love.

*CLOSING HYMN

“Blessed Be the Tie That Binds”

No. 393

**Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.**

**Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.**

**We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,
And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.**

**When we are called to part it gives us inward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Fugue in d minor”

attr. L. Krebs



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• **Resources for Worship:**

- Worship Activity Kits are available for children ages 3 - 5th grade on the shelves in the back of the sanctuary. We ask that your children put their names on the blank label on the box the first time they use a kit, take that kit each week, and return it at the end of worship.
- 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.

- **Visiting for the First Time?** We are so glad to meet another member of our extended global family. To add your name to our mailing list so we can know how to best serve you, please fill out the card found in the pew and place it in the offering plate or email office@plymouthsyr.org.

- **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 during the morning offering, or by mailing a check to 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. To add a name to our Prayer List, fill out the card found in the pew and place it in the offering plate or contact office@plymouthsyr.org.

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

☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☞

ACOLYTE: Adena Giroux **USHER:** Gert Danzy
LITURGIST: Kathy Ferro **DEACON ON DUTY:** Keith Giglio
COUNTERS: Patty Brannan and Sarah Whitton
WORSHIP ZOOM COORDINATOR: Tom Zorn

☞ About Our New Members ☞

Joshua and Havilah Carroll:

Josh and Hava married in December 2020 and purchased a home on the east side of Syracuse. Coming from an evangelical background, they are very happy to have found the progressive community at Plymouth Church and are excited to meet everyone. They love hiking in the Adirondack Mountains, and are aspiring 46ers with hopes to finish their last 16 mountains by the end of next summer.

Bonita H. Siegel:

Bonnie grew up in Jamesville, NY. Her parents were both from the area, her mother from Jamesville and her father from Tipperary Hill. She attended Jamesville Federated Church as a youth and choir member, becoming the Music Director at that church as a young adult. She graduated from SU with a BS in Chemical Engineering in 1979 and began her working life at GE in Liverpool. After three years there, she returned to SU for a Master's degree in Materials Science. Ultimately, she made a career change and pursued an MD degree, practicing neurology for a number of years outside of Central New York, before returning to this area to live near family in retirement in July 2015.

Bonnie loves music and people. Church brings all of her passions together in one place, including Jesus' mission of social justice! She began her association with Plymouth Congregational Church in the latter part of 2015 and looks forward to becoming a full member.

☞ 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/>.

Memorial Service for William Hanley: The life of William Hanley will be celebrated this afternoon at 1pm in the Plymouth sanctuary. William was a longtime organist and choir director who substituted on Plymouth's organ and sang with the choir. All are welcome.

BUILDING A CULTURE OF REPAIR: Reparations and a Faithful Response to Systemic Racism: Beginning THIS AFTERNOON, 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://vimeo.com/602135413>.

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.

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@twcnj.rr.com.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. September 20 Church Office CLOSED – staff vacation
Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm
Deadline for October *Plymouth Story*
- Tues. September 21 Church Council*, 5:30pm via Zoom
Board of Christian Formation*, 7pm via Zoom
- Thurs. September 23 Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, Kirtland Hall
- Sun. September 26 Worship, 10am, in-person in the sanctuary and
livestreamed on Facebook
Learning Community during worship (children age 3-5th grade)
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

***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 the rights of immigrants, indigenous people, workers, women, and LGBTQ folk; 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!

