



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word
October 31, 2021
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints Sunday
10:00 am

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Adena Giroux

PRELUDE

“Litany: Rest in Peace, All Souls”

Franz Schubert

*OPENING HYMN

“For All the Saints”

No. 299

**For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**You were their rock, their refuge, and their might:
You, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
‘Mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold,
Live as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And share with them a glorious crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine,
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet in your love our faithful lives entwine. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
Then hearts are brave again, and faith grows strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Michael Chellis

One: In all our weakness and strength, with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies,

All: we come to be your people, O God.

One: Strong in faith and eager with questions, singing our praise and whispering our prayers,

All: we come to be your people, O God.

One: Filled with saintly determination yet mindful of our human limitations,

All: we come to be your people, O God.

One: Made strong in your endless love for us, we know ourselves to be yours and

All: we come to be your people, O God.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*unison*)

Holy God, Creator of Life, you call us out of our dark places, offering us the grace of new life. When we see nothing but hopelessness, you surprise us with the breath of your spirit. Call us out of our complacency and routines, set us free from our self-imposed bonds, and fill us with your spirit of life, compassion, and peace. In the name of Jesus, your anointed one, 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.

*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

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Joe Downing

(Children will depart for Learning Community following the story)

SCRIPTURE

John 11:32-44

One: When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

“Let Us Now Praise Famous Ones”

Ralph Vaughan-Williams

Michael Chellis, bass

*Let us now praise famous ones, and the parents who begat us,
Such as did bear rule in their kingdoms, those renowned for their power.
Leaders of the people by their counsels and by their knowledge.
Such as found out musical tunes, and recited verses in writing:
All these were honoured in their generations and were the glory of their times.
And some there be which have no memorial;
Who are perished, as though they had never been.
Their bodies are buried in peace; but their name liveth for evermore.*

SERMON

Eric Jackson

*HYMN

“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

No. 295

**I sing a song of the saints of God,
... faithful their whole lives through,
Who bravely labored, lived, and died
For the God they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
And another a shepherd in pastures green:
They were saints of God, if you know what I mean.
God, help me to be one, too.**

**They loved their God and they lived that love.
It was loving that made them strong.
They did what was right, for Jesus' sake,
Lived justly their whole lives long.
And one was a prophet, and one was a priest,
And another was slain by a fierce wild beast:
There is no earthly reason, none in the least,
Why I shouldn't be one, too.**

**They lived not only in ages past,
There are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is filled with living saints
Who choose to do God's will.
You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea,
In a church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea:
For the saints are folk like you and like me,
And I mean to be one, too.**

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

RECALLING THE SAINTS

TOLLING OF BELL AND READING OF THE NAMES

**Susan deLima
Charles Goodrich
William Hanley**

A PRAYER FOR ALL SAINTS AND 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.**

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

STEWARDSHIP WITNESS

Alice and Norman Hatt

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER (*unison*)

Holy and merciful God, and Jesus Christ the Son,

Let me be ever ready as Your hands on earth. I and all who know You and Your commandments and example cannot shirk our responsibilities:

- Where people are poor, and prevailing social and political currents do not care enough;
- Where people are hungry and sick;
- Where people live in awful and dangerous domiciles, or have no home at all, or fear that their home as it is may not be theirs tomorrow;
- Where people have no clothing other than that which they are wearing;
- Where people are injured and in despair;
- Where the Earth and all its creatures and creation cry out for deliverance from human destruction;
- Where people know mostly darkness and sadness and try to maintain hope.

I pledge my Stewardship gift when fulfilled to reach these difficult but not overwhelming needs, and also to support the ministries of Plymouth Congregational Church and the maintenance of its physical structure.

I will pray for all this, and I know that with Your abiding help my pledged gift will put my prayer into action. As You are my Lord and Savior, AMEN.

STEWARDSHIP HYMN

“Renew Your Church” (vs. 1)

No. 311

**Renew your church, its ministries restore: both to serve and adore.
 Make us again as salt throughout the land, and as light from a stand.
 'Mid somber shadows of the night, where greed and hatred spread their blight,
 O send us forth with power endued. Help us, God, be renewed.**

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Throughout October we receive the Neighbors in Need offering. This is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports the Council for American Indian Ministries and UCC Justice and Witness Ministries.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

“Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal”

Mark Schweizer

*Hark! I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore,
 As I near those swollen waters with their deep and solemn roar.
 Hallelujah, Praise the Lamb! Hallelujah! Glory to the great I Am!
 And my soul, 'though stained with sorrow, fading as the light of day,
 Passes swiftly o'er those waters to the city far away.
 Souls have crossed before me saintly to the land of perfect rest,
 And I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blest.*

*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

**O Savior, for the saints who strove in you to live,
Who followed you without complaint, our grateful hymn receive.**

**O Savior, for the saints who strove in you to die,
Who loved and served without restraint, accept our thankful cry.**

**They all in life and death, with you, O Christ, in view,
Learned from the Holy Spirit’s breath to suffer and to do.**

**For this, your name we bless and humbly pray anew
That we, like them, in holiness may live and die in you.**

*BENEDICTION

CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

“Toccatà in d minor”

Anonymous (attr. J. S. Bach)



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✧ Plymouth Runs On YOU ✧

USHERS: Richard and Susan Hawks **ACOLYTE:** Adena Giroux

LITURGIST: Michael Chellis **DEACON ON DUTY:** Cindy Perrine

FLOWERS given by Bernie Peterson in memory of his parents Franklin Delano Peterson and
Geraldine Sophia Pasternacki

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 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/>.

Next Sunday – Daylight Savings Time begins! Don’t forget to set your clocks BACK one hour before going to bed Saturday night.

Neighbors in Need Special Offering: This special mission offering of the United Church of Christ supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Plymouth will collect this offering throughout the month of October. Write a check payable to Plymouth Church with “NIN” noted on the memo line or make cash contributions in the special envelopes enclosed in your bulletin.

Ushers and Greeters are needed every Sunday so that we can continue our mission of “Welcoming all.” Greeters say hello as people arrive and help direct them to the worship space. Ushers distribute the bulletin and help collect the offering. Volunteer today by:

- 1) Signing up online (Visit our website: www.plymouthsyr.org; click on GET INVOLVED at the top of the screen, scroll down to GREETERS, USHERS and HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS, click on SIGN UP and follow the prompts OR
- 2) Contacting 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@twcny.rr.com.

Want to purchase a Plymouth pew? There are 4 pews stored on the first-floor elevator landing that are no longer needed and can be purchased for \$100, or best offer, with the proceeds going into the stained glass window restoration fund. The pews measure ten feet long (3) and eleven feet long (1), are “as is” and without cushions. If interested, please contact the church office. You must provide your own physical labor and vehicle for removal.

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.

Support for Afghan refugees settling in Syracuse: The Refugee Resettlement program of Catholic Charities at Northside CYO is urgently asking the community to offer donations for incoming refugee families including those from Afghanistan. Personal hygiene products, kitchenware, cleaning supplies, PPE, furniture, and household items are all welcome. Contact Samantha Lee at slee@ccoc.us or 315.967.9771.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. November 1 Bell Choir Rehearsal, 10am, Kirtland Hall
Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm
- Tues. November 2 Racial Justice Working Group*, 5pm via Zoom
- Wed. November 3 Endowment Committee*, 7pm via Zoom
- Thurs. November 4 Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6pm, Kirtland Hall
Choir Rehearsal, 7pm, Memorial Hall
- Sun. November 7 **Daylight Savings Time Ends**
Worship and Communion, 10am, in-person in the
sanctuary and livestreamed on Facebook

** Committee 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.*

- **Resources for Children:** 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.
- **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.

∞ 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!

