



# Plymouth Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

Service of the Word  
November 14, 2021  
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
Stewardship Sunday

10:00 am

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Lulu Myers

PRELUDE

“Praludium und Fuga“

Dieterich Buxtehude

\*OPENING HYMN

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

No. 28

**For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,**

*Refrain (sung after each verse):*

**God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,**

**For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,  
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed,**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 16 and Hebrews 10:22-25)

Esther Zorn

One: Come, bless the Lord,  
in whom we find our refuge and safety.

All: **You are our God;  
all the good things come from You alone.**

One: Let us praise God together and open ourselves to the power of the Holy Spirit

All: **That we may encourage and support each other  
to love our neighbors as ourselves  
and to be God’s instruments of grace.**

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*unison*)

**In you, O God, we find refuge from the ills of the world. Through you, we work each day  
to bear witness to your justice in all we do. The path to true peace is long, but we try to  
move closer to it each day. Renew in us the strength, faith, and courage we need to  
persevere until that day comes when truly Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
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

Sarah Cowles

*(Children will depart for Learning Community following the story)*

SCRIPTURE

Mark 13:1-8

One: As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"My Lord, What a Mourning!"

Spiritual

*My Lord! What a mourning when the stars begin to fall.  
You'll hear the trumpet sound to wake the nations underground.  
You'll hear the sinner cry to wake the nations underground.  
You'll hear the Christian shout to wake the nations underground.  
Looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.*

SERMON

'Who Is That?'

Eric Jackson

\*HYMN

"There is a Balm in Gilead"

No. 553

***Refrain (sung after each verse):***

**There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,  
There is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.**

**Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.**

**Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,  
Who, if you ask for knowledge, will never fail to lend.**

**If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus, who died to save us all.**

# 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

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.**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “He That Shall Endure To the End Shall Be Saved”

Felix Mendelssohn

\*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

“Born of God, Eternal Savior”

No. 542

**Born of God, Eternal Savior, source of life, of truth and grace,  
Human One, whose birth incarnate hallows all our human race,  
Come again, in all your glory; come to us, inspire and lead;  
Fill us with your loving kindness; heal our wrongs, and help our need.**

**Christ, as you have lived for others, so may we for others live;  
Freely have your gifts been granted, freely may your servants give.  
All the wealth that we may gather is for use in causes just.  
We are stewards of the bounty loaned to us in solemn trust.**

**Come, O Christ, and reign among us, granting love and joy and peace;  
Hush the storm of strife and passion, bid its cruel discords cease.  
By your patient years of toiling, by your silent hours of pain,  
Quench our fevered thirst for pleasure, shame our selfish greed for gain.**

**See the Christ-like host advancing, high and lowly, great and small,  
Linked in bonds of common service, answering the Savior’s call.  
Jesus Christ, we hear your pleading that your people should be one.  
Grant, O grant our hope’s fruition: here on earth, your will be done.**

\*BENEDICTION

CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

“Ciacona”

Dieterich Buxtehude



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## ☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☞

**USHERS:** George Bain and Kailyn Wright   **ACOLYTE:** Lulu Myers  
**LITURGIST:** Esther Zorn   **DEACON ON DUTY:** Kailyn Wright  
**COUNTERS:** Susan Hawks and Keith Jakway  
**WORSHIP ZOOM COORDINATOR:** Tom Zorn

## ☞ Music Notes for November 14, 2021 ☞

Both of our anthems today relate to our apocalyptic scripture passage. Our Anthem is a spiritual. Interestingly enough, it appears often with both forms of the homonyms *mourning* and *morning*. You can decide which interpretation best fits your own theology. ☺

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) was born into a prominent Jewish family that had converted to Christianity. (His grandfather, Moses Mendelssohn, was a prominent Jewish theologian who promoted integration of the Jewish community into the larger community.) Our Offertory Anthem comes from his oratorio *Elijah*.

The prelude and postlude are both sections of a work by Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707) who was the organist at St. Mary's Church in Lubeck, then Denmark, but now Germany. Bach walked 200 miles to study with Buxtehude, and might have succeeded him in Lubeck had the job requirements not also included marrying Buxtehude's daughter. (Handel turned down the position for the same reason!) Typical of the Fantasia style then popular in northern Europe, the piece begins with a rather free section which sounds almost improvised, followed by a couple of "fugued" sections, where one voice begins with a solo idea which is then imitated by the other voices. I'll stop the prelude after these little fugues, and for the postlude, I'll play the concluding section, which consists of variations over a short passage repeated in the pedal.



## ☞ 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/>.

**TODAY IS STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY:** Prayerfully consider the gifts of time, talent, and money you can give to Plymouth in 2022. We will receive pledge cards during worship. They can also be offered through the mail or in writing via email to George Bain at [georgesbain@gmail.com](mailto:georgesbain@gmail.com).

**Stained Glass Window restoration:** Thanks to the generosity of members of the Plymouth community, the beautiful stained glass windows on the western wall in the right balcony will be removed, restored and receive protective glazing over the next couple months. Please note that the balcony will not be accessible for worship during this time.

**The Food Pantry needs gifts of WARM GARMENTS** - hats, gloves/mittens, scarves and socks - for our clients now that the bitter cold has set in. Please bring in new or gently-used garments to the collection basket in the back of the church or you can call or text Christine Herb for pick up from your home: 315-877-4512. We so appreciate your care and compassion. Thank you. We will be collecting from now through December.

**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](http://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

**Get happy for the holidays!** We're looking for some creative people who want to share their gifts by helping decorate the Plymouth sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season. We have wreaths, garlands, lights, and bows. New ideas are welcome. We can meet in November to look at what we have and decide if we need to purchase supplies. Also needed are helpers who just want to fluff greenery and hang bows. Please contact the church office at 315 474-4836 or Susan Hawks at 315 481-2198 or [shawks@twcny.rr.com](mailto:shawks@twcny.rr.com).

**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.

### THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. November 15      Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm  
Deadline for December *Plymouth Story*
- Tues. November 16      Bell Choir Rehearsal, 10am, Kirtland Hall  
Church Council\*, 5:30pm via Zoom  
Board of Christian Formation\*, 7pm via Zoom
- Thurs. November 18      Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6pm, Kirtland Hall  
Choir Rehearsal, 7pm, Memorial Hall
- Sun. November 21      Worship, 10am, in-person in the sanctuary and  
livestreamed on Facebook  
Learning Community

*\* 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.*

- **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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!***

