



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of Word and Sacrament

January 2, 2022

Second Sunday After Christmas

Epiphany Sunday

10:00 am

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

PRELUDE

“Pastorale on ‘In dulci jubilo’”
 (“Good Christian friends, rejoice”)

Johann Michael Bach
(1648-1694)

*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

Jonathan Preston

One: We gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

**All: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children,
in the wisdom of grandparents.**

One: We gather asking, 'Where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

**All: We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope,
where the oppressed are set free.**

One: We gather wanting to know, 'Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

**All: We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace,
where hatred is overwhelmed by love,
where all people are overwhelmed by joy.**

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*unison*)

**God of light, shining in darkness, through a little child, born in Bethlehem, you open to us
the treasure of your grace. Help us to search diligently for him, so that we may offer our
lives to you with thanksgiving, joy, and praise; through Jesus Christ, the rising
star. 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

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

(Children return to their seats following the story)

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-23

One: In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people, Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

“A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM “Tomorrow shall be my dancing day” Richard Shephard (1949-2021)

*Tomorrow shall be my dancing day, I would my true love did so chance
to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance;
Sing O my love, This have I done for my true love.
Then was I born of a virgin pure, Of her I took fleshly substance.
Thus was I knit to man's nature, to call my true love to the dance....
In a manger laid and wrapped I was, So very poor; this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, to call my true love to my dance....*

SERMON “A Matter of Time” Eric Jackson

*HYMN “As with Gladness Those of Old” No. 159

**As with gladness those of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.**

**As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before One whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet ever seek your mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at that manger plain and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.**

**Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
And when mortal things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.**

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

CALL TO PRAYER

One: God be with you.
Many: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
Many: We lift our hearts to God.
One: Let us pray...

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

There are several beloved versions of this 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 using "trespasses" through the first part of 2022.

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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

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.

If you are in need, or someone approaches you during the service who is in need, please see Pastor Eric after church.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"What star is this?"
arr. Richard Shephard

Tallis Canon

What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light?

'Tis sent announcing a new King, glad tidings of our God to bring.

*'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, "From Jacob shall a star proceed;"
and lo! The eastern sages stand, to read in heaven the Lord's command.*

*While outward signs the star displays, an inward light the Lord conveys,
And urges them, with force benign, to seek the giver of the sign.*

*O, while the star of heavenly grace invites us Lord, to seek thy face,
may we no more that grace repel, or quench that light which shines so well!*

To God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit, three in One,

May every tongue and nation raise an endless song of thankful praise!

(hymn text by John Chandler, 1807-1876)

**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

“Joy to the World”

No. 132

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth its praises bring;
Let every heart prepare Christ room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of God’s righteousness and wonders of God’s love,
And wonders of God’s love, and wonders, wonders of God’s love.**

*BENEDICTION

CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

“In dulci jubilo”

Dale Wood (1934-2003)



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☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☞

USHERS: Barbara Genton and Cindy Perrine

LITURGIST: Jonathan Preston **DEACON ON DUTY:** Frank Leonard

COMMUNION SERVERS: Adam King, Frank Leonard, David Palladino-Cowdery

COUNTERS: Keith Jakway and Sarah Whitton

WORSHIP ZOOM COORDINATOR: Tom Zorn

We are grateful for the music leadership of member Alice Dickerson Hatt while Joe Downing is away.

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

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 due to the rise in COVID infections and since people of all ages are not able to be vaccinated. The worship service can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/plymouthUCCsyracuse/>.

Stewardship Effort Reaches \$241,800: We have received 78 stewardship pledges for \$241,800 toward Plymouth Church's 2022 budget. This total is significantly below where pledges were one year ago. Since pledges make up more than 80 percent of Plymouth's income each year, a decline in pledges will mean a less expansive budget for 2022. Your pledge commitments will make the difference in how much Plymouth can accomplish next year. Pledge cards may be placed in the offering plate Sunday, mailed to the church office or submitted via email to George Bain at georgesbain@gmail.com.

Star Words: Everyone will receive a Star Word during worship this Sunday, January 2. If you'll be worshipping with us online and would like to receive a Star Word, contact the church office and one will be mailed to you.

2021 donations: In order to facilitate the closing of the 2021 financial books, members are encouraged to submit checks they want credited to 2021 no later than January 10, 2022.

Food Pantry Update: VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to staff the weekly Food Pantry. The hours are 1:30pm to 4pm on Mondays. You can commit to one week a month or as many weeks as you wish. Please contact Christine Herb (315-877-4512) for more information or to volunteer so that we can keep this vital ministry open and running.

And thanks to all who donated warm items over the past month. Men's gloves and men's socks are still needed. They can be placed in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.

SAVE THESE DATES:

- 2022 Budget Review – Sunday, January 23, details TBA
- 2022 Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 30, 2pm via Zoom

Weekly Book Discussion begins Thursday, January 20 11am – 12noon at Plymouth: You are invited to explore and challenge racial bias, privilege, and white supremacy as we gather weekly to discuss the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestseller *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla F. Saad. This eye-opening book challenges all of us to do the essential work of unpacking our biases, and it helps white people take action to dismantle the privilege within themselves so they can stop inflicting damage on people of color, and in turn, help other white people also do better. Please register for this discussion by January 17 so we know how many people to expect. Simply call Gary Smith at 607-423-6456 (leave message) or send an email to revgarysmith@icloud.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.

Home communion: If you are unable to be in church on communion Sunday and want to receive communion, Keith Jakway will be happy to bring it to you – just contact Keith or 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.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. January 3 Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm
- Tues. January 4 Bell Choir, 10am, Kirtland Hall
Racial Justice Working Group, 5pm via Zoom
- Wed. January 5 Endowment Committee, 7pm via Zoom
- Thurs. January 6 Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6pm, Kirtland Hall
- Sun. January 9 Worship, 10am, in-person in the sanctuary and
livestreamed on Facebook
Learning Community

☞ 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!

- **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.