

# Plymouth Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

Service of the Word

January 16, 2022

Second Sunday after Epiphany

10:00 am

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Emily Otte

PRELUDE

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

spiritual arr. Joe Utterback

\*OPENING HYMN

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

No. 593

**Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of faith that the harsh past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.**

**Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,  
Come to the place for which our people sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

**God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
God who has brought us thus far on the way;  
God, who by your might, led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you;  
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,  
True to our God, true to our native land.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Stacey Otte

One: “When Israel was in Egypt’s land” ...

All: **Let my people go!**

One: “Oppressed so hard they could not stand” ...

All: **Let my people go!**

One: So spoke God to Moses.  
**All: So spoke Moses to Pharaoh.**

One: So spoke Jesus in his hometown.  
**All: So spoke Martin Luther King  
to the entrenched powers of American society.**

One: So God calls to us in this time and place  
**All: to continue the work of redeeming—setting free—raising up  
all God’s children,**

One: not in some far-off imagined heaven  
**All: but in the here and now  
for all to see and celebrate.**

One: Come, let us worship the God  
**All: whose goodness, promises and blessings  
extend from generation to generation.**

*\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)*

**Wonder-working Jesus, as once you turned water into wine, astounding wedding-goers  
by reviving the party, so turn the water of our sweat and tears into the wine of gladness;  
then embolden us to follow your example by doing everything we can to renew, repair,  
restore those who’ve known only the dregs and disappointment and draining of life, until  
all can freely taste the sweetness of life. 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*

No. 760

**Amen, we praise your name, O God. Amen, we praise your name, O God.  
Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen, we praise your name, O God.**

**THE GIFT OF THE WORD**

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

*(Children return to their seats following the story)*

SCRIPTURE

John 2:1-11

One: On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first,

and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

SOLO

“He Turned the Water Into Wine”  
*Michael Chellis, Bass*

Johnny Cash

SERMON

Eric Jackson

\*HYMN

“Glory, Glory Hallelujah”

No. 2

**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

One: God be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

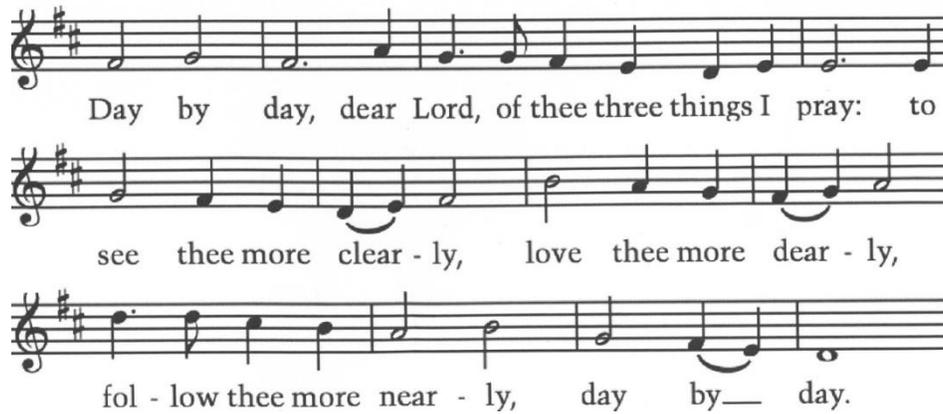
Many: **We lift our hearts to God.**

One: Let us pray...

### THE PASTORAL PRAYER

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**



Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray: to  
see thee more clear - ly, love thee more dear - ly,  
fol - low thee more near - ly, day by— day.

**OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS**

OFFERTORY MUSIC

OFFERTORY ANTHEM      “Go Down In The Lonesome Valley”      Spiritual  
*Michael Chellis, Bass*

\*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      “We Shall Overcome”      No. 570

**We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome some day;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome some day.**

**We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in hand some day;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we'll go hand in hand someday.**

**We are not afraid, we are not afraid, we are not afraid today;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we are not afraid today.**

**Our God will see us through, our God will see us through, our God will see us  
through some day;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, our God will see us through some day.**

**The truth shall make us free; the truth shall make us free, the truth shall make  
us free some day;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, the truth shall make us free someday.**

**We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace, we shall live in peace someday;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall live in peace someday.**

\*BENEDICTION

CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT



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## ✿ Plymouth Runs On YOU ✿

**USHER:** Gertrude Danzy **ACOLYTE:** Emily Otte  
**LITURGIST:** Stacey Otte **DEACON ON DUTY:** Therese Howington  
**FLOWERS** given by Gertrude Danzy in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
 and freedom for all peoples of color  
**COUNTERS:** Patty Brannan and Sarah Whitton  
**WORSHIP ZOOM COORDINATOR:** Tom Zorn

Rev. Eric Jackson, Pastor, [ejackson@plymouthsyr.org](mailto: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](http://plymouthsyr.org) ✿ [office@plymouthsyr.org](mailto:office@plymouthsyr.org)

## ✿ Liturgy Notes ✿

### Second Sunday after the Epiphany Year C

*First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5 | Psalm: Psalm: 36:5-10  
 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 | Gospel: John 2:1-11*

The Second Sunday after Epiphany in Year C of our Revised Common Lectionary features texts about marriage imagery. In the First Reading from Isaiah (62:4) we read "but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married." The people, land, and God will be in unity. The Psalm offers an image of feasting. In the Second Reading from 1 Corinthians we read about gifts coming together as one body. Lastly, our Gospel Reading is the familiar passage where Jesus attends a wedding in Cana where he turns water into wine.

The Gospel Lesson is centered in today’s worship and will be the text for preaching. Also, this is the Sunday that we recognize Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Members of Plymouth attended the Grassroots Reparation Training where they engaged in a transformative journey on the topic of reparations. If we are to fully realize the vision of Dr. King then we cannot get there without repair. What does that repair look like? Is it money? Something else? Or both? What does Jesus turning water into wine have to do with reparations? Join us in worship as we explore these questions!

We offer thanks to Rev. Craig French who participated in the Grassroots Reparation Training for crafting our Call to Worship and Invocation that gives us a glimpse.

## ☞ 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 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/>.

**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](mailto:revgarysmith@icloud.com).

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

- 2022 Budget Review – Sunday, January 23, 2pm via Zoom:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6039333178>; Password: 13202
- 2022 Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 30, 2pm via Zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6039333178>; Password: 13202

**Reparations 101: Building a Culture of Repair – Beginning conversations about reparations for slavery and for systemic racism:** This series is open to the Syracuse community and is hosted by the **Center for Racial Justice**, led by members of **Plymouth**, and inspired by the **Grassroots Reparations Coalition**. Each session addresses a different topic. Gatherings will take place via zoom on four Mondays from 6:30pm – 8pm – Jan. 24, Jan. 31, Feb. 7, and Feb. 14. This experience is limited to 20 participants. Register online to reserve your spot at <https://bit.ly/3efzsHq>. (Registration deadline is Sun. Jan. 23.) For more info, contact Jim Watts at [PCCreparations@gmail.com](mailto:PCCreparations@gmail.com). In lieu of a registration fee, please consider making a donation of \$25 or more directly to the Grassroots Reparations Coalition via this link: <https://grassrootsreparations.org/donate>.

**Open Enrollment for Covenant Community Groups!** In January each year new members are welcomed into the Covenant Community Groups. These groups of eight to twelve committed listeners meet monthly in members' homes or via Zoom to discuss "life's big questions" and share whatever is on their hearts and minds. Groups are open to anyone affiliated with Plymouth – you don't need to be a member to be included.

If you are considering this wonderful opportunity to get to know other Plymouth people in a small and confidential environment, contact Susan Hawks (315-481-9148 or [shawks@twcny.rr.com](mailto:shawks@twcny.rr.com)) or Rich Jaeger ([rgjaeger440@gmail.com](mailto:rgjaeger440@gmail.com)). We can provide you with additional information and answer your questions. Please let us know if you want to participate during 2022 **by Sunday, January 23**, so groups can be formed and be ready to meet in February.

**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.

**Dr. MLK Jr. Virtual Celebration:** Join the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, InterFaith Works, Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse, and the Syracuse/Onondaga NAACP for a celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 17 at 6pm via Zoom: Meeting ID: 810 6090 1604; Passcode: MLK2022.

## THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. January 17      Food Pantry, 2pm – 4pm  
Deadline for February *Plymouth Story*  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED, MLK Holiday
- Tues. January 18      Bell Choir, 10am, Kirtland Hall  
Church Council\*, 5:30pm via Zoom  
Board of Christian Formation\*, 7pm via Zoom
- Thurs. January 20      Book Discussion, 11am, Adult Education Room  
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6pm, Kirtland Hall
- Sun. January 23      Learning Community, 9am via Zoom  
Worship, 10am, in-person in the sanctuary and livestreamed on Facebook  
2022 Budget Review, 2pm 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!*

- **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).