



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word

January 22, 2023

Third Sunday after Epiphany

10:00 am - Worship

RINGING OF THE BELL

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

PRELUDE

“In the Beginning”

Franz Josef Haydn

*OPENING HYMN

“God is Truly with Us”

No. 68

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Linda Kraemer

One: The Lord is our light and our salvation—

All: why should we be afraid?

One: The Lord protects us from danger—

All: why should we worry?

One: For God’s house is our shelter and retreat.

All: It is here that we find peace in the midst of the storm and turmoil of our lives.

One: For God lifts us above the fray and sets us high on a rock, safely out of reach of those things that threaten to devour us.

All: So come, let us enter God’s presence with thanksgiving and praise, offering our worship with joy!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*unison*)

God of promises fulfilled, we gather as descendants of Abraham; we stand before you as faithful testimony to your covenant; we assemble as living proof that your love for humanity knows no limits. When we feel overwhelmed by the stresses of daily life, we need only look at the stars in the sky to remember your abiding faithfulness. When we are overcome with despair by the pain of war and poverty in our world, we need only see the light of a single candle to remember the one you sent as our light, our strength, and our salvation. We pray now in the name of that light, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dr. Jackson

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.

All: And, also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with those around you in any way you feel comfortable.

If you don’t want to shake hands, indicate that to others by smiling and offering your elbow or by crossing your arms over your heart and wishing them Peace.

**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

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

ANTHEM

“The Lord is My Light”

Frances Allitsen

Following the anthem, children preschool through grade 5 will depart for Learning Community.

SERMON

Dr. Jackson

*HYMN

“O Savior, Let Me Walk with You”

No. 503

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

THE PASTORAL 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 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 2023.

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. 775

The image shows a musical score for a prayer response. It consists of three staves of music in a treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes, and guitar chords are indicated above the staff. The lyrics are: "And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand." The chords are: D, Asus4, A, D, Em, A7, D, D7, G, A, Bm, F#m, Em, A7, D.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Let Us Walk in the Light”

Vicki Hancock Wright

*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

“God Be with You”

No. 81

*BENEDICTION

CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

“Gavotte”

Samuel Wesley



CALL TO MEETING

The regular Annual Meeting of Plymouth Congregational Church, UCC is hereby called for Sunday, the 29th of January 2023 immediately following the service of worship. The purposes of this meeting are to receive the annual reports, to fill elective offices, to set up plans for the coming year, and to transact such other business as may properly come before this meeting.

The meeting will take place in-person in the Plymouth Sanctuary. Audio from the meeting will be streamed via Zoom, but Zoom participants will not be able to speak or vote. Zoom participants may be able to comment via chat, but the primary focus for the meeting will be the in-person participants. Temporary exceptions enacted during the peak of the pandemic have been rescinded; New York State law regarding religious corporations does not permit hybrid voting.

The 2022 Annual Report of the Congregation has been emailed to those for whom we have email addresses. For those without access to email, hard copies are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☞

GREETERS: Laura Masuicca and Charlotte Vallejo **USHER:** Frank Leonard

LITURGIST: Linda Kraemer **DEACON ON DUTY:** Leslie Lawrence

FLOWERS given by Linda Milosky and Shiu-Kai Chin in memory and celebration of the life of Sean Huckins

COUNTERS: Susan Hawks and Sarah Whitton

ONLINE WORSHIP COORDINATORS: Tom Zorn

Rev. Dr. Eric Jackson, Pastor, ejackson@plymouthsyr.org

Dr. Joseph Downing, Director of Music

Tara Sandlin, Youth and Children's Ministries Coordinator

Kathy Ferro, Church Administrator

Mark Johnson, Sexton

plymouthsyr.org ☞ office@plymouthsyr.org

☞ Music Notes for Sunday, January 22, 2023 ☞

Our scripture reading for today is Psalm 27, which begins with the familiar phrase "The Lord is my light." For the **prelude** we hear the introduction to Haydn's oratorio *The Creation*. This begins with a passage designed to represent the chaos of the universe before the creation. It concludes with God commanding, "Let there be light!" and there was light.

Frances Allitsen (1848-1912) was born Mary Bumpus. Discouraged from studying music by her parents, she nevertheless appeared as a contralto soloist until her voice "failed her" and she began to compose and teach in order to support herself. She wrote over fifty songs, and even did a publicity tour of America to promote them. Today she is best remembered for our **anthem** – a setting of Psalm 27.

*The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom, then, shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life. Of whom, then, shall I be afraid?
'Though an host of men were laid against me, yet shall not my heart be afraid.
And, 'though there rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust in God.
For, in the time of trouble, God shall hide me in the tabernacle;
Yea, in the secret places of God's dwelling shall God hide me
And set me up upon a rock of stone.*

Vicki Hancock Wright most recently was teaching music at the Oak Hill private Christian school in Nashville, Tennessee. She has been active as a church musician for over 30 years, writing for choirs, children's voices, and handbells. Our **offertory anthem** was originally intended for children's voices.

*When the first sunrise awoke all creation, God smiled and declared, "This is good."
Sun bringing brightness, light spilling from heaven, God's love touching all that it could.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord; Feel God's love shining in us, around us and through us.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.
When you see someone who seems sad and lonely, and needing a friend just like you,
God gives you guidance to light up the darkness; God's love touching others through you.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord; Feel God's love shining in us, around us and through us.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.*

Samuel Wesley (1766-1837) was the son of the hymn writer Charles Wesley, and nephew of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. When he was 18, he converted to Roman Catholicism (his father dramatically penned the lines: While ready and resolved is he to plunge into the dark abyss

And cast his soul away, That poison of the Romish sect O let not his soul infect.) although his obituary made no mention of conversion. Our **postlude** is one of his best known works for organ.

✿ Christian Formation Notes ✿

Plymouth's Learning Community (ages 3 years to 5th grade) is exploring the lives of faithful people from across religious traditions who changed their communities for the better. This week's Holy Troublemaker or Unconventional Saint is **Bayard Rustin**.

Bayard Rustin (1912-1987) was a Black gay man who spent his life working for justice. He credited his Quaker faith and his grandparents for the values that inspired him. While working to end segregation, Bayard went to India to study nonviolence from the followers of Mahatmas Gandhi, who believed peaceful actions such as sit-ins, marches, and boycotts were a powerful way to change the world. When he went back to the U.S, he brought these lessons to the leaders of the Civil Rights movement. He became a trusted advisor to Martin Luther King, Jr, and was the organizer of the March on Washington, where Dr. King gave his famous speech that began, "I have a dream..." We often don't read about Bayard in our history books because he was often forced into the background for being gay. Bayard's own famous words inspired the title of the book *Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints*: "We need, in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers," he said. Angelic troublemakers committed to direct, nonviolent action to change unfair and unjust laws. Bayard went on to help others become angelic troublemakers for justice and peace in many other countries.

This week's Learning Community participants will also read *Let the Children March* by Monica Clark-Robinson, illustrated by Frank Morrison, which recounts the role of Birmingham's 1963 children's crusade in the nationwide struggle for Civil Rights.

✿ Some Things You Ought to Know ✿

2023 Budget Review THIS SUNDAY: The Board of Trustees will review the proposed 2023 budget this Sunday, January 22, following worship in Memorial Hall. This is the opportunity for YOU to study the budget and ask any questions prior to the vote at the Annual Meeting on January 29. The presentation will also be available via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6039333178> - Password: 13202

Via phone: 1-646-876-9923; meeting ID: 603 933 3178 #; participant ID: #;
Password: 13202#

Robust community time for the annual meeting: Instead of spending hundreds of dollars on take-out, we are asking people to bring a community time treat on Sunday, January 29th. We will have the food and beverage tables set up in the rear of the sanctuary. After the service you are invited to get a drink and snack, and find a seat for the meeting.

Updated Masking Policy: Effective Sunday, January 22, masking will be optional in the upstairs activity rooms for children and young people. Parents who are most comfortable with their own children wearing masks during Learning Community are welcome to reach out to Tara (tsandlin@plymouthsyr.org) to make our teachers aware, if you so choose.

Youth group (grades 6-12) is going bowling! On Saturday, January 28, meet us at Green Lakes Lanes in Fayetteville at 6pm or at Plymouth at 5:30pm to carpool. Pick up will be from the bowling alley at 8 and Plymouth at 8:30. We recommend sending about \$15 with your student for shoe rental and two rounds of bowling. Christian Formation will buy pizza, but students who might want more to eat should bring additional funds. If money is an issue, just reach out to Tara (tsandlin@plymouthsyr.org) and we will make sure your students are able to bowl. All students 6th-12th are welcome and are invited to bring their friends along!

Plymouth needs YOU to help us live out our mission of “Welcoming All”! Please sign up to greet, usher, provide flowers or host community time through Sign-up genius [by clicking here](#) or by clicking on the link on the *Get Involved* page on the Plymouth website (www.plymouthsyr.org). You can also sign up by contacting the church office or by signing up on the chart in the bell tower for Flowers or Community Time table for Community time.

What are Covenant Community groups? Why should I want to join one?

Covenant Communities are independent, autonomous groups of up to 12 people who meet monthly in homes to talk about topics proposed by members. They are a mix of ages and interests. What they have in common is a commitment to attend monthly meetings and maintain confidentiality about what is shared. Most people value the relationships they develop over the months of conversation on a wide range of topics. If you would like to get to know other Plymouth people in a small and confidential group setting, contact Susan Hawks at shawks@twcny.rr.com or Rich Jaeger at rgjaeger440@gmail.com. We can provide you with additional information and answer your questions. **Please let us know if you want to participate during 2023 by THIS Sunday, January 22 so groups can be formed and ready to meet in February.**

Food Pantry news: Car Enthusiasts! Are you planning to go to the Auto Show Charity Preview Feb 15th?? Your \$150 ticket price could go directly to our Plymouth Food Pantry. Please contact Christine Herb for details how! 315-877-4512 or her email is beabeaconoflove@gmail.com

Food Bank of Central New York is excited to partner with Syracuse Auto Dealers Association (SADA) again at their Charity Preview event on February 15, 2023. This event kicks off the Syracuse Auto Expo with a night filled with great food, new cars, and 100% of the funds raised will be donated back to our community. We invite you to join us in this wonderful fundraising opportunity for the Food Bank and your agency (our Plymouth Food Pantry)!

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. January 23 Food Pantry – 2pm – 4pm
- Tues. January 24 Board of Christian Formation*, 7:00pm
- Thurs. January 26 Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, Sanctuary
Choir Rehearsal, 7pm, Memorial Hall
- Sun. January 29 Worship, 10am, in-person in the sanctuary, and livestreamed
on Facebook, YouTube, and via telephone on Zoom**
Learning Community (during worship)
Annual Meeting, 11:15am, Sanctuary, and audio feed 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.*

**** Call: 1-646-876-9923; Meeting ID: 603 933 3178 #; Participant ID: #; Password: 13202#**

☞ 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 Syracuseans 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.