

Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word

January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Annual Meeting Sunday

10:00 am - Worship

❧ Welcome to Plymouth ❧

We are delighted you have come to worship with us if you are here for the first time or one-thousandth time. At Plymouth you are welcome just as you are! no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. We strive to fully live into our mission of "welcoming all, growing in faith, and working for justice and peace." Diversity is truly a gift to us here at Plymouth. It is a joy to worship together as one Body in Christ that may not think alike or look the same, understands Christianity and a life of faith in a variety of ways, and loves differently.

Sunday Worship is a sacred blend of the traditional and the modern. We seek to nourish mind, body, and spirit through our singing, praying, preaching, and teaching. We strive to make the ancient story come alive for the soul of the modern world.

You are invited to join us for Community Time for coffee, tea, and refreshments in Memorial Hall after worship, attend another gathering listed below, take a tour of the church, and more. There are many opportunities to engage and connect with this community, nourish your soul, serve God in this place and in the world, grow in faith, work for justice and peace.

Opportunities to Grow and Serve

Following Worship This Morning:

- Annual Meeting, 11:30am, Sanctuary

MESSY CHURCH – Messy Church returns February 3 for a muddy—yes, really, dirt and water muddy—exploration of the theme "The Real Me" as we prepare for Transfiguration. In addition to mud, we'll use lots of glitter and complete a special relay race that encourages children and adults alike to value themselves for the unique beloved person they are—and to see others in the light of God's transformative love. As always, we begin with a community meal at 2 pm. To sign up to assist with kitchen prep or as a greeter at the door, email Tara at tsandlin@plymouthsy.org. Let's get exceptionally messy together this February!

The Annual Meeting will take place TODAY immediately following worship this morning.

Grab a snack at the back of the sanctuary and return to your seat. Agenda packets, to include budget and ballot, will be distributed. There are a limited number of hard copies of the Annual Report and Safe Church Policy on the back table for those who need them. Audio from the meeting will be streamed 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#

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.

JAZZ AND JUSTICE returns on Monday, February 5, 2024 at 5:30pm in Memorial Hall for a Community Meal with the first set beginning at 5:50pm. February is Black History Month and the Plymouth Rocks Band will offer soulful expressions from the African American Spirituals.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS The Brazilian Ensemble is back again this year for the Mardi Gras Potluck at Plymouth on Sunday, February 11, 2024. Stay tuned for more details in the next bulletin.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

Mon. January 29	Food Pantry, 2pm — 4pm
Thur. February 1	Bell Choir, 5pm, Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 7pm, Memorial Hall
Sat. February 3	Messy Church, 2pm, Kirtland Hall.
Sun. February 4	Worship, 10am, in-person in the sanctuary, and livestreamed on Facebook, YouTube, and via telephone on Zoom** Learning Community (during worship)

** 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**

**Please rise if you are able*

❧ Order of Worship ❧

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

Arr. J. Downing

Plymouth Bells

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

*OPENING HYMN 547

“Amazing Grace”

insert, pg. 9

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Les Wright

One: God comes into a world filled with uncertainties and darkness.

Many: God seeks out the voids of belief and conviction.

One: God embraces the wounded and broken.

Many: God knocks down the walls of division and strife.

One: God is the candle shining in the darkness of our days.

Many: God is the light of our lives.

One: God is the one who makes all things new.

All: Praise be to God, now and forevermore!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*unison*)

God Beyond our Knowing and yet right here in our midst, loosen the bondage that ensnares our spirits and keeps us from healing and wholeness. Guide us, Holy Spirit, Nudge us, Teacher Jesus. Love us, Holy One. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Rev. Dr. Eric Jackson

“We acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation, Firekeepers of the Haudenosaunee, the Indigenous People, on whose ancestral land Plymouth Church now stands.”

*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*

On the Edge of Tomorrow

Theme Song for Worship Design Studio's worship series

"Bread, Bath & Beyond"

www.worshipdesignstudio.com/beyond

Words and Music by Ken Medema

Stan-ding on the edge of to-mor - row, Stan-ding on the edge of ad-ven - ture,

5 Stan-ding in the place of dis-cov - 'ry, Lear-ning ev-'ry step on the way, -

9 Thank-ful for the path-ways be-hind us, Look-ing to the fu-ture be-fore us,

13 Guid-ed by the Spir-it a-mong us, Stand-ing at the dawn of the day,

17 Stand - ing at the dawn of the day.

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY FOR ALL AGES

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:29-39

SERMON

“Get Out of Here”

Rev. Dr. Eric Jackson

ANTHEM

“Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit”

Carol Doran

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

**Please rise if you are able*

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

Anne Frank
Larry Kinner
James Vedder

Mike Chellis
Leslie Archer
Shiu-Kai Chin

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF BLESSINGS

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 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!**

**Please rise if you are able*

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.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Dona Nobis Pacem”

arr. Roberta Bitgood

*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 604 “Hush, Hush, Somebody’s Calling My Name”

insert, pp. 10 & 11

*BENEDICTION

CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

“Peace I Leave with You”

J. Varley Roberts

Following worship, please grab a snack from the back of the sanctuary and return to the pews for the Annual Meeting.



✧ Plymouth Runs On YOU ✧

USHER: Frank Leonard and Jim Black **LITURGIST:** Les Wright

DEACON ON DUTY: Gert Danzy and Norman Hatt

COUNTERS: Patty Brannan and Susan Hawks

GREETERS: Charlotte Vallejo and Laura Masuicca

FLOWERS: Esther Zorn

In recognition of Tom Zorn’s day of birth, the 27th and his good work.

With Love,

Esther et al.

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

Pratiksha Koirala, Church Administrator

John Baxter, Sexton

plymouthsyr.org ○ office@plymouthsyr.org

✿ Music Notes for Sunday, January 28, 2024 ✿

The original text to *Jesus the Very Thought of Thee* is attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux (c.1090-1153.) The most familiar translation was by Edward Caswell (1814-1979.) The text begins:

*Jesu dulcis memoria
Dans vera cordis gaudia
Sed super mel et omnia
Ejus dulcis praesentia.*

*Jesus, the very thought of thee
With sweetness fills my breast.
But sweeter still thy face to see,
And in thy presence rest.*

Our **anthem** begins with rather jarring chords, reflecting the brute wildness of the possessed man. Carol Doran (b.1936) has had a distinguished career in church music, including positions on the faculty of the Eastman School and the Virginia Theological Seminary. The text was written by her long-time collaborator, Thomas Troeger (1945-2022.)

*“Silence! Frenzied, unclean spirit!” cried God’s healing Holy One.
“Cease your ranting! Flesh can’t bear it. Flee as night before the sun!”
At Christ’s voice, the demon trembled from its victim madly rushed,
While the crowd that was assembled stood in wonder, stunned and hushed.

Lord, the demons still are thriving in the gray cells of the mind:
Tyrant voices, shrill and driving, twisted thoughts that grip and bind,
Doubts that stir the heart to panic, fears distorting reason’s sight,
Guilt that makes our loving frantic, dreams that cloud the soul with fright.

Silence, Lord, the unclean spirit, in our mind and in our heart.
Speak your word that when we hear it, all our demons shall depart.
Clear our thought, and calm our feeling; still the fractured, warring soul.
By the power of your healing, make us faithful, true and whole.*

Dona Nobis Pacem is a round familiar to most of us, but sometimes the most familiar music has the least-traceable origins. The piece was known in Germany in the seventeenth – or possibly the sixteenth – century. The simple text, *Give us peace*, has such a universal message that it is no surprise that this round was sung in churches and outdoors in 1989 during the reunification of Germany.

Traditionally, the **postlude** is full (loud), rich, organ music that is supposed to inspire and encourage the congregation to go forth and live the gospel. This week, we break with that norm with a choir anthem which share Jesus’ gift of peace 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!

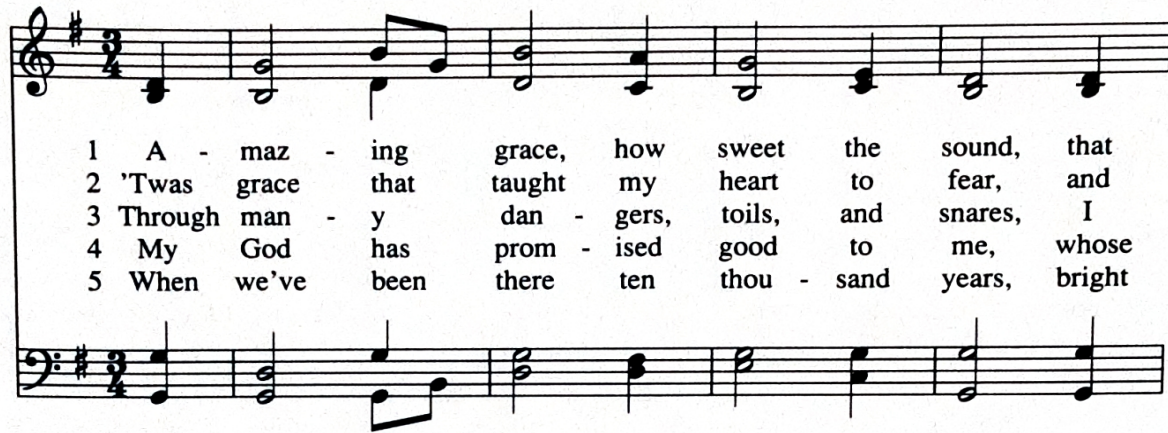
- **Resources for Children:** Worship Activity Kits are available for children ages 3 - 5th grade on the shelves in the back of the sanctuary. We ask that your children put their names on the blank label on the box the first time they use a kit, take that kit each week, and return it at the end of worship.
- **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.
- **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.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

547

St. 1-4, John Newton, 1779; alt.

St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.
 (NEW BRITAIN)

Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829
 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

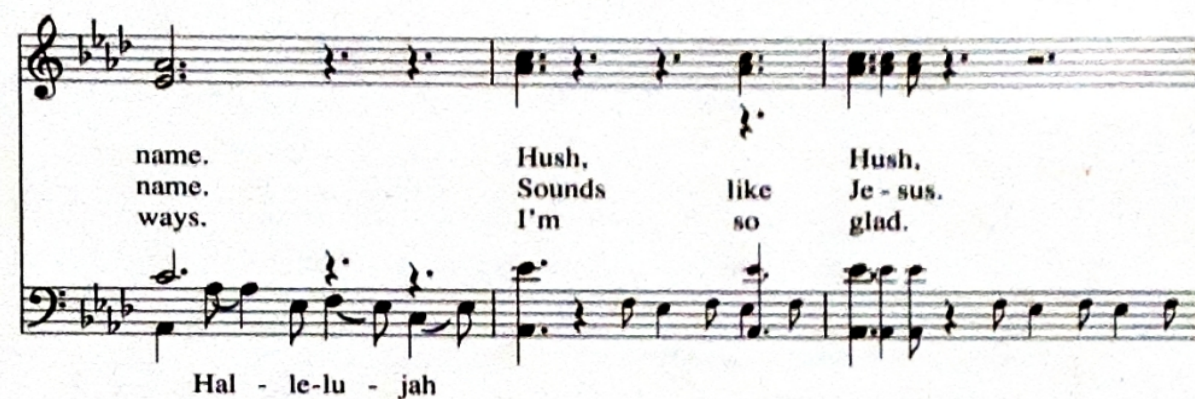
604 Hush, Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name

Slowly, with feeling

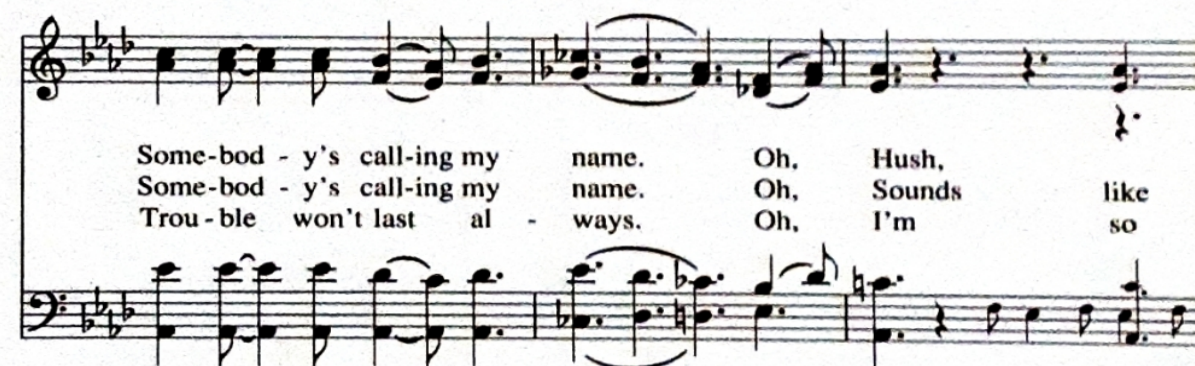
African-American spiritual



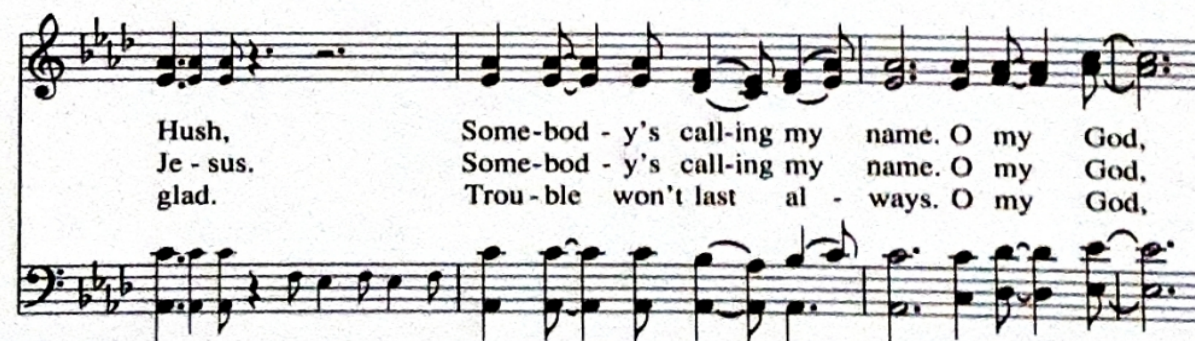
1 Hush, Hush, Some-bod - y's call-ing my
 2 Sounds like Je - sus. Some-bod - y's call-ing my
 3 I'm so glad, Trou - ble won't last al -



name. Hush, Hush,
 name. Sounds like Je - sus.
 ways. I'm so glad.
 Hal - le-lu - jah



Some-bod - y's call-ing my name. Oh, Hush,
 Some-bod - y's call-ing my name. Oh, Sounds like
 Trou - ble won't last al - ways, Oh, I'm so



Hush, Some-bod - y's call-ing my name. O my God,
 Je - sus. Some-bod - y's call-ing my name. O my God,
 glad. Trou - ble won't last al - ways. O my God,

ETERNAL LIFE

The musical score is written on two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the top staff.

O my God, what shall I do? What shall I do?
O my God, what shall I do? What shall I do?
O my God, what shall I do? What shall I do?

This spiritual is an example of the call to personhood that Jesus was able to evoke within the hearts of the enslaved. It suggests that the inward "call" also anticipated physical freedom. Jeffrey Radford has served as Director of Music at Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago.

Tune: African-American spiritual
Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993