Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word
March 3, 2024
Third Sunday in Lent
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:

- Community Time, Memorial Hall
- Lenten Study, Parlor

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

Mon. March 4	Food Pantry, 2pm — 4pm
	Jazz & Justice 5:30pm, Memorial Hall
Thur. March 7	Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5.30pm, Sanctuary
	Choir Rehearsal, 7pm, Memorial Hall
Sun. March 10	Worship 10am, in-person in the sanctuary, and livestreamed on Facebook, YouTube, and via telephone on Zoom**
	Learning Community (during worship)

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

JAZZ & JUSTICE: The JAZZ AND JUSTICE Celebration returns on Monday, March 4 at 5:30pm in Memorial Hall. The music, message, prayers, and service will celebrate the voices, stories, and contributions of women. Featuring Addie Flower, Giovanna Maropo, and Tara Sandlin. We will also be serving delicious Lasagna! SAVE THE DATE! We hope to see you there!

LEARNING TOGETHER WITH OUR NEIGHBORS: The 5th annual event will be held on Sunday, April 14 (1 - 7 pm, including dinner). This year's theme is "Through Another's Eyes: Being Other in America." Participants will gain a better understanding of what it means to be Muslim, Jewish, or African American today. **Please contact the church office to sign up**.

Remember to turn your clocks AHEAD Saturday night before you go to bed, as Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 10. Otherwise, you'll be late for Sunday worship.

Order of Worship

GATHERING UP

PRELUDE "Ich Ruf' Zu Dir, Herr Jesu Christ" J. S. Bach

*HYMN **43** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" *insert, pg. 9*

*WORDS OF WELCOME AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT Michael Chellis

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

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WHAT'S UP

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)* Michael Chellis

God of restoration and rebuilding,
we are here today seeking resurrection and renewal
for our tired and worn-out bodies
and the body of this community.
In this moment of quiet, we lift up to you
those things we'd like to give up for good...
for the sake of The Good.

*THE SILENCE

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.
All:And, also with you.

*SONG "YOU RAISE ME UP" Lovland & Graham

All sing the refrain.

You raise me up so I can stand on mountains.
You raise me up to walk on stormy seas.
I am strong when I am on your shoulders.
You raise me up to more than I can be.

Verse – (choir)

When I am down and oh, my soul, so weary,
When troubles come and my heart burdened be,
Then I am still and wait here in the silence
Until you come and sit a while with me.

Refrain – All singing:

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

* *Please rise if you are able*

FILLING UP

WHAT'S UP? With Children and Children at Heart

SONG "Up to Something Good" Nancy Honeytree

I'm gonna believe that you are up to something good
I'm gonna believe that you are up to something good
When I can't understand the things that happen in my life,
I'm gonna believe that you are up to something good.

Following the Story for All Ages, children preschool through grade 5 will depart for Learning Community

THE WORD UPLIFTS John 2:13-22 Michael Chellis

ANTHEM "Is There Anybody Here Who Loves My Jesus" arr. Lena McLin

SERMON *"The True Temple"* Rev. Dr. J. Mark Lawson

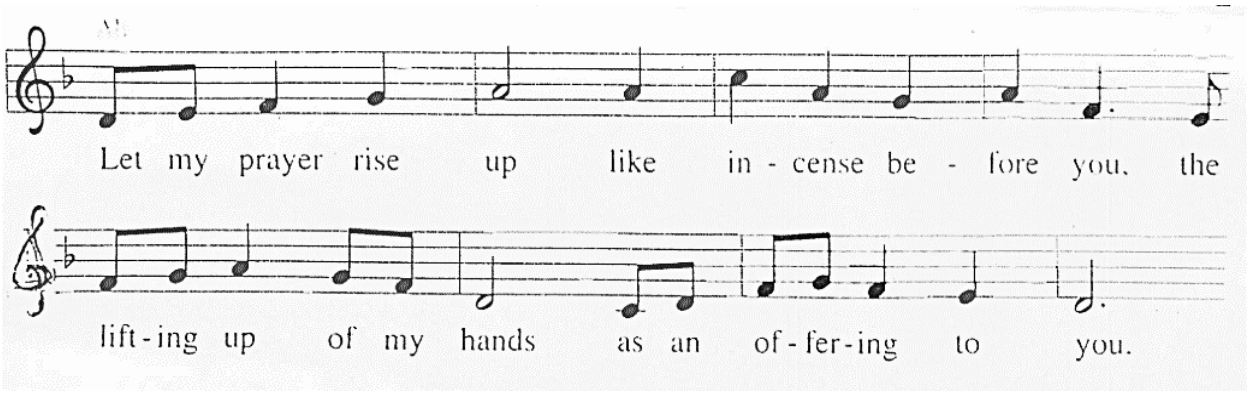
*HYMN **582** O God of Earth and Altar *insert, pg. 10*

BUILDING UP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE What Weighs Us Down and Lifts Us Up?

RESPONSE SONG *"Let My Prayer Rise Up"* *Marty Haugen*

(The choir will sing the refrain the first time and then all will repeat the refrain)



Refrain:

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you,
The lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

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.

UPLIFTING MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

CALL TO OFFERING

Today we receive a special offering for Plymouth's Good Samaritan Fund to support our weekly ministry to some of the most vulnerable in our community. To contribute, please write a check payable to Plymouth Church with the words "Good Samaritan Fund" in the memo line or note "Good Samaritan Fund" on the offering envelope in the pews or click on the "Donate" link on Plymouth's website and choose "Good Samaritan Fund" from the drop-down menu.

OFFERTORY "I Love You Lord" Laurie Klein

*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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

DISTRIBUTING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Please walk to the front of the sanctuary where deacons will offer you the bread and the cup. Sealed packets of the elements are also available - just let the server know if you prefer that option. When everyone has returned to their pews with the elements, we will eat and drink together.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*CLOSING HYMN **407** "How Firm a Foundation" *insert, pg. 11*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Toccata per l'Elevazione" Girolamo Frescobaldi

Pastor Eric is away at the United Church of Christ Board of Directors Meeting. We are grateful for the worship leadership of Rev. Dr. J. Mark Lawson.

The Rev. Dr. J. Mark Lawson retired from local church ministry in 2022. He served for 27 years as pastor of the United Church of Christ in Bayberry in Liverpool. Lawson is an adjunct professor of religion and theology at LeMoyne College, where he has taught for 30 years; a faculty member in the New York School of Ministry of the New York Conference, UCC; and a spiritual director at the Spiritual Renewal Center in Syracuse. He is the author of *Cracking the Book: How to Start Reading the Bible* and *Fully Free: Rejecting Racism, Renouncing Christian Nationalism, and Renewing American Christianity*, which will be released by Smyth and Helwys Publishers later this year.

Plymouth Runs On YOU

USHERS: Barbara Genton **LITURGIST:** Mike Chellis
DEACONS ON DUTY: Esther Zorn and Frank Leonard
COUNTERS: Susan Hawks and Sarah Whitton
FLOWERS: Bernie Peterson
In memory of Geraldine Sophia Pasternacki and Franklin Delano Peterson.
ONLINE WORSHIP COORDINATORS: Kirsten Hubel and George Lawrence

Rev. Dr. Eric Jackson, Pastor, ejackson@plymouthsyr.org
917-804-2459
Dr. Joseph Downing, Director of Music
Tara Sandlin, Youth and Children's Ministries Coordinator
Pratiksha Koirala, Church Administrator
plymouthsyr.org office@plymouthsyr.org

Music Notes for Sunday, March 3rd, 2024

Lent is a penitential season, so our thoughts turn to more serious music. We begin worship today with a chorale prelude by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750.) The text of the chorale is:

Unto Thee I cry, O Lord Jesus. I beg thee to hear my complaint.
Bestow grace upon me and let me not be discouraged.

The melody of the chorale, which would have been familiar to Bach's congregations, is played in plaintive notes in the top voice. The bass line is twice as fast, and the middle voice is twice as fast as the bass. This was actually the first real organ piece I learned, and I was overwhelmed with the coordination to get these three parts together. At my second lesson, my teacher drew some stops, and, with great concentration I began to play. When I got to the end of the first phrase, I noticed that there was no sound for the middle (fastest) voice. I had been playing that part on a manual (keyboard) that had no stops drawn. With a bemused look, my teacher said, "Let that be your first lesson: Always listen to what you're playing."

Our anthem is an arrangement of a spiritual. Lena McLin (1928-2023) lived with her uncle, Tommy Dorsey, from age 5. She eventually became a Chicago Public Schools teacher, and her students included Mandy Patinkin, R. Kelly, Chaka Khan, Jennifer Hudson, and many others. The Chicago Tribune called her the woman "who launched a thousand careers."

Is there anybody here who loves my Jesus? Anybody here who loves my Lord?
I want to know if you love my Jesus; I want to know if you love my Lord.

This world's a wilderness of woe, so let us all to glory go.
Religion is a blooming rose, and none that them who have it knows.

When I was blind and could not see, King Jesus trought the light to me.
When every start refuse to shine, I know King Jesus will be mine.

Laurie Klein was at a depressing time of life when she wrote this song in 1978. Since then, at least seven vocal artists have recorded the song, and it appears in more than thirty hymnbooks!

I love you, Lord, and I left my voice to worship you; O my soul, rejoice!
Take joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643) was an Italian composer and virtuoso keyboardist of the early baroque who eventually became organist at St. Peter's Basilica. He was one of the first truly great keyboard artists, and was a major influence of the composers of Flanders, the Netherlands and Germany who would follow. Although most of his music was meant for court life, our postlude is part of a mass he wrote specifically for church use. It originally would have been played when the priest lifts the host high for the congregation to see.

Women's History Month: Celebrating the Unheard Stories

Grace Campbell

Grace P. Campbell (1883-1943) was a Black intersectional activist whose work stemmed from a deep love of her Harlem community. After graduating from Howard University, Campbell worked with the National League for the Protection of Colored Women to meet Black women immigrants as their boats arrived in the United States and guide them through the visa process. She founded and used her own salary to run the Empire Friendly Shelter, a shelter for Black single mothers; co-founded the People's Educational Forum; and worked to support co-operative stores operated by working class Harlemites. Campbell was also the first woman to run for state political office in New York State, receiving a groundbreaking 10% of votes during her 1920 run for NYS assembly. Along with other activists, she served as a charter member of the Harlem Unitarian Church (originally named the Harlem Community Church), a publicly inter-racial church that implemented a forum format to hear from many voices about social justice and activism issues. Campbell's historical influence has gone unacknowledged due in part to the infrequency with which she spoke publicly or published writings. Today, we can recognize Campbell as both an exceptional individual and a contributor to the collective whose strengths complimented her better-known partners and supporters such as Ida B. Wells and Ella Baker. From her faith community to civil service to participation in more radical political organizations, Campbell's work drew out the resonances between justice campaigns for women, Black people, immigrants, poor folks, and more–a true example of solidarity.

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.

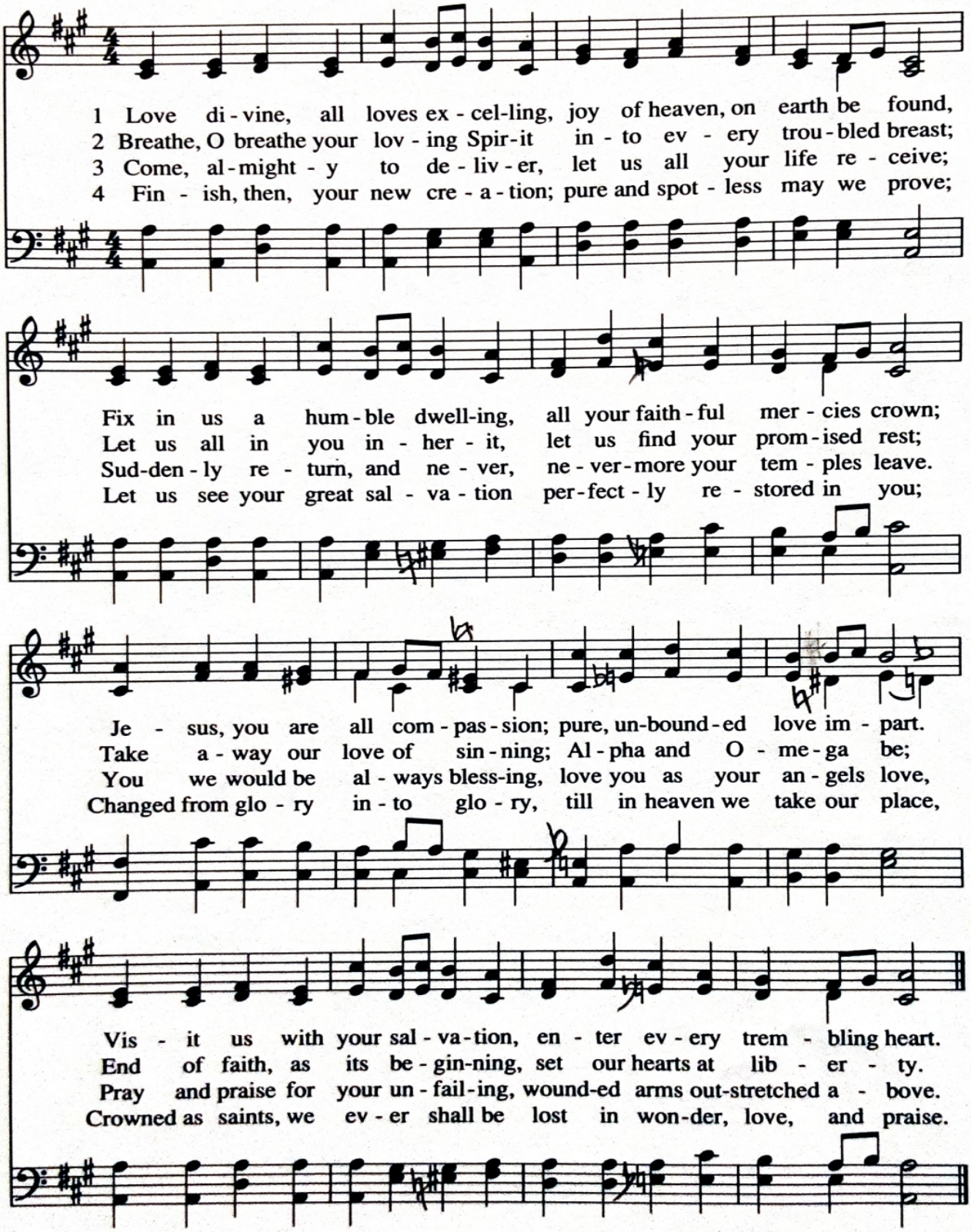
Our faith is over 2,000 years old; our thinking is not!

- **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 worshiping 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.

43 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.



This hymn is said to have been suggested by a "Song of Venus" from Dryden's King Arthur. *It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley, the "sweet singer of Methodism," who was skilled at interweaving literary and scriptural images.*

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
John Zundel, 1855
Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL
For another harmonization, see 368, 495

582 O God of Earth and Altar

St. 1–2, Gilbert K. Chesterton, 1906; alt.
St. 2, alt. Jane Parker Huber, 1985
St. 3, Jane Parker Huber, 1985

G. K. Chesterton of England was a prolific journalist, lecturer, and author of some one hundred literary works. This hymn has been updated by Jane Parker Huber to "incorporate contemporary concerns for the church's mission."

Tune: LLANGLOFFAN 7.6.7.6.D.
Traditional Welsh melody
Harm. David Evans, 1927

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407 How Firm a Foundation

Isa. 43:2–5; 2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 13:5

"K" in John Rippon's Selection of Hymns, *1787; alt.*

In 1787, John Rippon, English Baptist clergyman, identified the author of this hymn as "K"; no one has yet verified a complete name. The pentatonic melody has been known by several names since it first appeared in Funk's Genuine Church Music *(1832).*

Tune: FOUNDATION 11.11.11.11.
Early United States melody from Funk's Genuine Church Music, *1832*
Alternate tune: ADESTE FIDELES