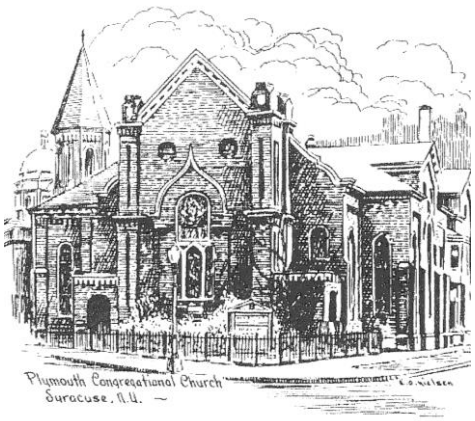

Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word
April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter
10:00am – Worship

Welcome to Plymouth

Worship Series: "The Kin-Dom Comes"

Based on the book *Slow Kingdom Coming*

This Week's Theme: Respect: The Golden Rule for Helping

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
- Inquirer's Gathering, 11:30am, Parlor

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

Mon. April 29	Food Pantry, 2-4pm
Tue. April 30	Board of Christian Formation Meeting, 7pm, Zoom
Wed. May 1	Evening Light Service with Communion, 6pm, Sanctuary
	Food Pantry, 2-4pm (New Schedule starting May)
Thur. May 2	Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, Sanctuary
	Choir Rehearsal, 7pm, Memorial Hall
Sun. May 5	Worship with Holy Communion, 10am, in-person in the Sanctuary, and livestreamed on Facebook, YouTube, and via telephone on Zoom**

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

EVENING LIGHT: You're invited to be refreshed by the light of God's presence during this Easter season with a service of evening prayer. We will experience God's presence with meditation, silence, prayers, and Holy Communion at 6pm in the Sanctuary of Plymouth Church starting every Wednesday from April 3 until May 15, 2024.

INQUIRER'S GATHERING TODAY: Sunday, April 28 at 11:30am in the Parlor with Pastor Eric and some of the Deacons. This is for people who are new to Plymouth to learn more about our Church and for us to learn more about you. New Members will be received on Sunday, May 19 in worship. Contact Pastor Eric to attend.

JAZZ & JUSTICE: Jazz and Justice returns on Monday, May 6 at 5:30pm in Memorial Hall. Sarah Nahar Ph.D. Student in Religion at Syracuse University will be our guest speaker and the Plymouth Rocks band will lead the music

MESSY CHURCH UPDATE: Messy Church returns on Saturday, May 4 at 2 PM with a focus on the book of 1 John. Our theme is "Continuing in Easter Love" and we will explore what it means that Easter is a season during which we continue to celebrate new life. People of all ages and abilities are welcome to join us to interact with scripture through games, art, a message, and a spaghetti meal. Please contact Tara if you can help as part of the lunch crew at 1 PM!

MOUNTAIN GOAT RUN: The annual Mountain Goat Run will take place on May 5th, 2024, at 9am! Over 2,000 athletes and volunteers will gather in our city to participate in this challenging 10-mile run, pushing their physical and mental limits. Please be aware that Salina St. between Clinton Square and Jefferson St. will be closed from 6 AM until 2 PM for the race finish line festivities—feel free to join the celebration! Please visit mountaingoatrun.org for additional details and maps of the course.

RICHARD HAWKS MEMORIAL SERVICE: We will celebrate the life of Richard Hawks on Saturday, May 18, 2024, at 1:00pm in the Sanctuary at Plymouth. Reception to follow in Memorial Hall. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Plymouth Congregational Church and to the ESF College Foundation, Richard Hawks Fund for Scholarships.

SYRACUSE VOCAL ENSEMBLE CONCERT (SVE): The Syracuse Vocal Ensemble presents Kids' Stuff – including selections from Mother Goose, Alice in Wonderland, Goodnight Moon, and The Velveteen Rabbit – in two performances. Texts will be read by actors Michael and Susan Barbour, followed by vocal performances. Concerts are: 3pm Saturday, April 27, at May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society, 3800 E. Genesee St., Syracuse, and 3pm Sunday, April 28, at the Earlville Opera House, 18 E. Main St., Earlville. For the Saturday performance, tickets are $10 (under 18 free), available at the door. Ticket information for Sunday's performance can be found by contacting the Earlville Opera House: 315-691-3550. For more information, go to www.syracusevocalensemble.org.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE: Youth Group will meet on Saturday, May 11 at 2 PM for a fun afternoon of mini-golf at Fairmount Glen! Prices depend on the number in our group, and whether we offer carpool options depends on the needs of families, so please RSVP to Tara at tsandlin@plymouthsyr.org or 901-206-7074 if you plan to attend!

Order of Worship

PRELUDE "Antiphon III" Marcel Dupré

WORDS OF WELCOME Rev. Dr. Eric Jackson

*OPENING HYMN **7** "All People That on Earth do Dwell" *insert, pg. 8*

*CALL TO WORSHIP Shiu-Kai Chin

One: God is love!
Many: God is love!
One: God is love in us!
All: God is love in us!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION *(unison)* Shiu-Kai Chin

Living God, we embrace your presence in our lives. Help us to grow stronger together in your garden of love. Plant us together in your peace. Root us together in your hope. Transform us together by your equal justice for all. In your loving presence, we pray. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.

All: And, also with you.

*SONG OF PRAISE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT *(Unison)*

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

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY FOR ALL AGES

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

**Please rise if you are able*

SCRIPTURE	Acts 8:26-40	Shiu-Kai Chin
ANTHEM	"Not for Jerusalem and Jew Alone"	Christopher Tye
SERMON		Rev. Dr. Eric Jackson
*HYMN **391**	"In the Midst of New Dimensions"	*insert, pg. 9*

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

CALL TO PRAYER

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

SINGING OUR LORD'S PRAYER — Mark Miller and Laurie Zelman

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OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY	"The Promise Which Was Made"	Edward Bairstow
*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 **539** "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant" *insert, pg. 10*

*BENEDICTION (a Golden Rule Oath for Respect from *Slow Kingdom Coming*)

One: I will

Many: Pay close attention to the implications of every word and act for justice, while acknowledging I can't know all the implications.

One: I will

Many: Keep my eyes open to the damage I can do when I try to help others.

One: I will

Many: Be an apprentice.

One: I will

Many: Respect people in the way I visit, listen, begin partnerships, continue those relationships, and share stories about my experiences with them.

One: I will

Many: Do my best to understand other people's situations, while realizing I can never fully understand them or their circumstances.

One: I will

Many: Stand up, to the extent it is wise, and I am able, for the rights of those I seek to help and will challenge whoever or whatever encroaches on those rights.

One: I will

Many: Apply Jesus' Golden Rule to all my work for the kingdom. First, with people being exploited. Then also with those who are making mistakes or are malicious. Always the goal is moving together toward God's kingdom through the ways of the kingdom.

One: I will

Many: Submit my goals to the goals of people I'm trying to help. I will not play God in other people's lives but seek to humbly participate in God's story of bending the arc of history towards justice.

POSTLUDE "Antiphon V" Marcel Dupré

Plymouth Runs On YOU

USHER: Frank Leonard **LITURGIST:** Shiu-Kai Chin

DEACON ON DUTY: Andrea Abbott and Nancy Gwin

COUNTERS: Patty Brannan and Sarah Whitton

FLOWERS:

ONLINE WORSHIP COORDINATORS: Tom Zorn

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, April 28, 2024

Did racism originate in America? No, the roots of racism extend even into the bible. Today our reading concerns Philip who is confronted by an Ethiopian eunuch. There is some confusion about whether this African can even be a candidate for membership in the church, but Philip baptizes him. I grew up in a racist church, which did not grant equal membership to all men until 1978 (and women are still not allowed full equality) so it refreshing to see both Philip (and Solomon) resisting racist discrimination more than two thousand years ago.

Our **prelude** is one of 15 "Antiphons" that Marcel Dupré (1886-1971) wrote based on texts from the Song of Solomon. Antiphon III is based on the text, "I am black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem," which is attributed to the Queen of Sheba, when she came to visit Solomon. Our **postlude** is Solomon's response: How Fair and Pleasant Art thou. (You can read his entire response in Chapter 7. Warning: it's pretty erotic writing!) Dupré was a child prodigy who performed the entire organ works of Bach from memory in a series of ten recitals in 1920. He taught at the Paris Conservatoire, and wrote an organ method book which, although considered dated today, was my first textbook in learning to play organ. Christopher Tye (c.1505-1573) wrote a series of motets entitled *The Actes of the Apostles*, from which our **anthem** comes. The original English is dated and somewhat awkward, so we are using modern texts by theologian and hymnist Jaroslav Vajda (1919-2008).

Not for Jerusalem and Jew alone did Jesus die.
Go Philip, greet the African and give him God's reply.
Isaiah pictures God's meek Lamb for sinners sacrificed,
And sinners recognizing him would ask to be baptized.

O Spirit of the risen Christ, O Savior, Victor, Friend,
O smiling Father, ever our Beginning and our End,
Untie our song of worship with Your angel choirs that when
We reach your presence, we may join their glorious Amen.

Our **offertory anthem** is by English cathedral organist Edward Bairstow (1874-1946.)

The promise that was made unto the fathers,
God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children
In that he raised up Jesus again. Aleluia!
For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth,
And the time of singing of birds is come.

- **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.

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!

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

7

William Kethe, 1561
Adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992

Ps. 100

Old Hundredth is perhaps the best known and most widely used of all psalm tunes. It came into English use in 1561 with Kethe's paraphrase of Psalm 100 and has been associated with it ever since.

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH L.M.
Attrib. to Louis Bourgeois (c. 1510–c. 1561)
Trente quatre Pseaumes, *Geneva, 1551*

In the Midst of New Dimensions 391

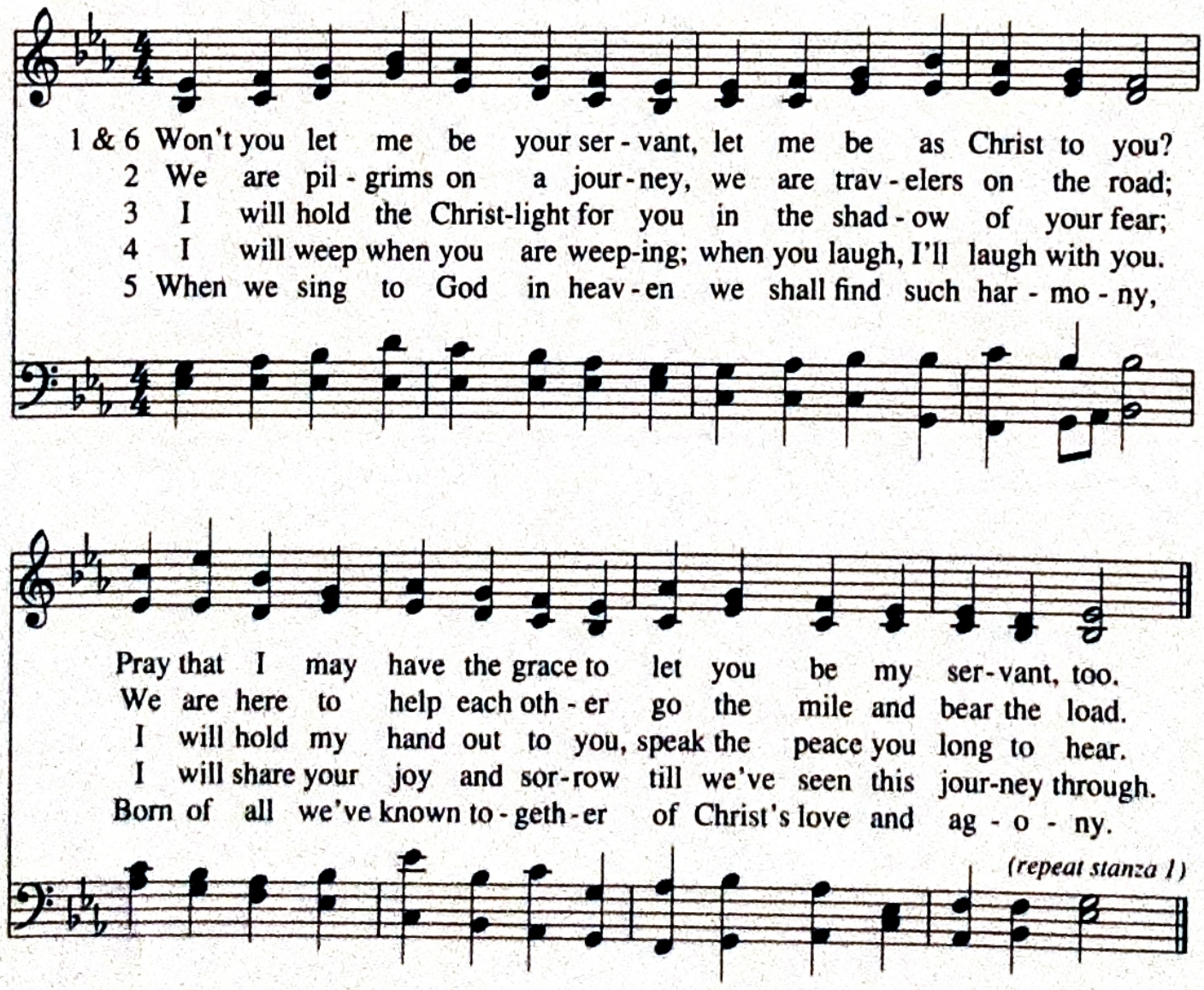
Julian Rush, 1985; alt. *Gen. 9:12–16; Exod. 13:21–22; Num. 14:14*

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
Julian Rush, 1985
Arr. The New Century Hymnal, *1994*

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant? 539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt. *Rom. 12:9–18; Col. 1:24–29*



Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
Richard Gillard, 1977
Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.