



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word
March 9, 2025
First Sunday in Lent
10:00 am – Worship

🌀 Welcome to Plymouth 🌀

Wisdom of the Week (Ann Weems)

*The way to Jerusalem looks suspiciously like Highway 40,
and the pilgrims look suspiciously like you and me.
I expected the road to Jerusalem to be crowded with holy people ...
clerics and saints ... people who have kindness wrinkled in their faces
and comfort lingering in their voices,
but this is more like rush hour ...
horns blowing, people pushing, voices cursing....
This is not what I envisioned!*

*O God, I've only begun and already I've lost my way.
Surely this is not the road
and surely these are not the ones to travel with me.
This Lenten journey calls for holy retreat,
for reflection and repentance.*

*Instead of holiness,
the highway is crammed with the cacophony of chaos.
Is there no back road to Jerusalem?
No quiet path where angels tend to weary travelers?
No sanctuary from the noise of the world?
Just this?
Can this hectic highway be the highway to heaven?*

Order of Worship

SCENIC
OVERLOOK



RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

Be still ... and aware of God's presence ... in you and around you.

PRELUDE	Adagio in c minor	Miriam Reveley
GREETING		Craig French
INTROIT 793	"Holy, Holy, Holy"	<i>insert, pg. 6</i>
CALL TO WORSHIP (<i>from South Africa, adapted</i>)		Kathleen Waters

One: For rebirth and resilience,

All: Blessed be God.

One: For the spiritually humble, contrite, and uncertain,

All: Blessed be God.

One: For all who hunger and thirst for justice,

All: Blessed be God.

One: For all who are punished for speaking the truth,

All: Blessed be God.

One: For all who triumph over their bitter circumstance,

All: Blessed be God.

One: For all who risk reputation, livelihood, and life itself for Christ's sake,

All: Blessed be God.

*HYMN **490** "I Want Jesus to Go with Me" *insert, pg. 7*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

A PRAYER FOR LENT (*Donna Sinclair*)

God of the wilderness,

be with us as we wander through the desert of our lives.

Keep us from running back

to the safety of old assumptions,

and walk with us

as we learn to live the life abundant.

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF GRACE AND COMFORT

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY FOR ALL AGES Emily Evans

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

*Please stand as you are able.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 8
Luke 4:1-13

ANTHEM

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days “

Eric Meyer

MESSAGE

“Road Signs on the Way to Life: Alluring Views”

Craig French

*HYMN

“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”

insert, pg. 8

PRAYER & BLESSING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

*(This is one of several versions that we rotate through the year.
You may pray this or other wording familiar to you.)*

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come; your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

CALL TO ACTION

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Call to Remembrance, O Lord”

Richard Farrant

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God throughout these forty days;
Praise Jesus Christ, whom God did raise;
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God’s love in Christ into our hearts.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN

“Jesus, Tempted in the Desert”

insert, pg. 9

*BENEDICTION

CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

“Reflection on Kingsfold”

Maureen Howell

Rev. Craig French, Bridge Pastor
Dr. Joseph Downing, Director of Music
Emily Evans, Youth and Children’s Ministries Coordinator
Lori A Forrester, Church Administrator
Isabel Fontaine, Nursery Worker
Office ✉ office@plymouthsyr.org

☞ Plymouth Runs on YOU ☞

USHER: George Bain **LITURGIST:** Kathleen Waters
DEACONS ON DUTY: Kathy Ferro and Nancy Gwin
COMMUNITY TIME: Heather Evans
COUNTERS: Elaine Wolf and Keith Jakway
FLOWERS: Esther and Tom Zorn
ONLINE WORSHIP COORDINATOR: Tom Zorn

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Today Community time (after worship), Memorial Hall
Lenten book discussion: Memorial Hall, 11:15am
A Full-Hearted Life Session 1: Chapter 1
- Mon. March 10 Trustees, 6pm, Parlor*
- Tues. March 11 Deacons, 7pm, Parlor*
- Wed. March 12 Food Pantry, 2-4pm
- Thur. March 13 Bell Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary, 5:30pm
Choir rehearsal, Memorial Hall, 7pm
- Sun. March 16 Worship, Sanctuary and online, 10am
Lenten book discussion, Memorial Hall, 11:15am

(A Full-Hearted Life) Session 2: Chapters 3 & 4

Please join us after the service in Memorial Hall for Community Time and our Lenten book discussion.

**Board meetings are open to all; please contact the Church Office to be put in contact with the Chair who can receive your request and share meeting information with you.*

Welcome: to our New Nursery Worker, Isabel Fontaine. Welcome aboard, Isabel.

Parking Reminder: If you are using the Diocese parking lot, please be respectful of where you park. Do not park in front of the garages; there are vehicles that may be needed at any time. Also, please don't park in unmarked spaces. If it is not a designated parking place, then it is to be used to get to another area in the parking lot. If you park there, you will be blocking someone in or out of legitimate parking spaces. Thank you.

Music Notes for Sunday, March 9th, 2025

Today, in addition to celebrating the first Sunday in Lent, we celebrate Woman Composer Sunday, which is an event which originated in England with the Society of Women Organists in conjunction with the Royal College of Organists and is now celebrated worldwide. In the USA, the American Guild of Organists created a competition for new works for this celebration, and our **prelude** and **postlude** were both winners this year.

Miriam Reveley is the junior organ scholar at Jesus College, Cambridge, England, where she is in her second year. Reveley began her musical career as a Chorister at Ely Cathedral in 2016, and she began studying organ in 2017. Her Adagio in c minor is based on the Trio Sonatas of J. S. Bach.

Maureen Howell is a native of Virginia, currently serving as Organist at First Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from The College of William and Mary and a Masters in Church Music from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The tune *Kingsfold* is a traditional English

melody which became famous when Ralph Vaughan Williams harmonized in in 1906 for a new hymnal. It is now the preferred tune for several hymn texts.

Our **anthem** uses the tune *Consolation* which was composed by A. Davisson in 1816. Erik Meyer is organist at Abington Presbyterian Church and adjunct faculty at Temple University.

*Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.*

*As thou with Satan didst contend and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.*

*As thou didst hunger bear and thirst, so teach, gracious Lord
To die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.*

*And through these days of penitence, and through thy passiontide,
Yea, evermore, in life and death, Jesus, with us abide!*

*Abide with us, that so this life of suffering overpast
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.*

We will be singing a lot of Renaissance music through Lent. Our **offertory anthem** by Richard Farrant (c.1525-1580) was written following the English law (!) of the time that anthems could only have one syllable per note, and one note per syllable. The text is Psalm 25:5-7.

🌀 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 in to 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.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)

793

Text and music: Anon., Argentina

C G7 C F C

¡San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 6/8. The music consists of chords and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staves, with syllables aligned with the notes. The first staff ends with a fermata over the final note.

F C Am F G7 C

cor - a - zón te sa - be de-cir: san - to e - res Dios.
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.

Detailed description: This system contains the second two staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 6/8. The music consists of chords and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staves, with syllables aligned with the notes. The second staff ends with a fermata over the final note.

I Want Jesus to Go with Me

*African-American spiritual; alt.**Unison*

1 I want Je - sus to go with me;
 2 In my tri - als, O com - fort me;
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, O stay with me;

I want Je - sus to go with me;
 In my tri - als, O com - fort me;
 When I'm in trou - ble, O stay with me;

All a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 When my heart is al - most break - ing,
 When my head is bowed in sor - row,

O I want Je - sus to go with me.
 O I want Je - sus to com - fort me.
 O I want Je - sus to stay with me.

Most spirituals were congregational songs, but such "sorrow songs" as this convey the image of a lone person singing prayerfully to God. The solemnity of this particular spiritual reminds us of the oppression and tragedy with which slavery afflicted so many lives.

Tune: African-American spiritual 8.8.8.9.
 Harm. J. Jefferson Cleveland
 and Verolga Nix, 1981

2112 Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

B \flat /F F F B \flat B \flat F

1. Je - sus walked this lone - some valley; he had to walk
 2. We must walk this lone - some valley; we have to walk
 3. You must go and stand your tri - al; you have to stand

F C C F⁷ F⁷

6
 - it by him - self. Oh, no - bod - y else could walk it
 - it by our - selves. Oh, no - bod - y else can walk it
 - it by your - self. Oh, no - bod - y else can stand it

11 B \flat Gm⁷ F/C F/C C⁹ F F

for him; he had to walk it by him - self.
 for us; we have to walk it by our - selves.
 for you; you have to stand it by your - self.

Congregation: Unison

The Faith We Sing 2112

WORDS: American folk hymn

MUSIC (LONESOME VALLEY 88.10 8): American folk hymn

1. Je - sus, tempt - ed in the des - ert,
 2. Je - sus, tempt - ed at the tem - ple,
 3. Je - sus, tempt - ed on the moun - tain
 4. When we face temp - ta - tion's pow - er,

lone - ly, hun - gry, filled with dread: "Use your power," the
 high a - bove its an - cient wall: "Throw your - self from
 by the lure of vast do - main: "Fall be - fore me!
 lone - ly, strug - gling, filled with dread, Christ, who knew the

tempt - er tells him; "Turn these bar - ren
 loft - y tur - ret; an - gels wait to
 Be my ser - vant! Glo - ry, fame, you're
 tempt - er's ho - ur, come and be our

rocks to bread!" "Not a - lone by bread," he an - swers,
 break your fall!" Je - sus shuns such emp - ty mar - vels,
 sure to gain!" Je - sus sees the daz - zling vi - sion,
 liv - ing bread. By your grace, pro - tect, pre - serve us

"Can the hu man heart be filled. On - ly by the
 feats that fick - le crowds re - quest: "God, whose grace pro -
 turns his eyes an - oth - er way: "God a - lone de -
 lest we fall your trust be - tray. Yours, a - bove all

Word that calls us is our deep - est hun - ger stilled!"
 tects, pre - serves us, we must nev - er vain - ly test."
 serves our hom - age! God a - lone will I o - bey!"
 oth - er voice - es, be the Word we hear, o - bey.

WORDS: Herman C. Stuempfle, Jr. (Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13)
 MUSIC: Thomas J. Williams

EBENEZER
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