



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of the Word
March 23, 2025
Third Sunday in Lent
10:00 am – Worship

🌀 Weekly Wisdom 🌀

“Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink—
even if you have no money!
Come, take your choice of wine or milk—
it’s all free!
Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength?
Why pay for food that does you no good?
Listen to me, and you will eat what is good.
You will enjoy the finest food.”

(Isaiah 55:1-2, New Living Translation)

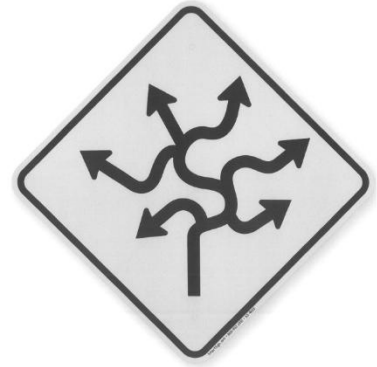
“We traditionally ‘give something up for Lent.’
The real purpose of that is not necessarily self-discipline,
but feeding on the ‘rich food’ that really nourishes our souls
instead of the junk we often consume,
giving up the activities that drain us and turning to ones that feed us.

Maybe instead of fasting for Lent we should feast.
What is the bread that satisfies? What truly nourishes your soul?
Have some!”

(Steve Garnaas-Holmes)

Order of Worship

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



RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

“Meditation”
Plymouth Bells

Barbara B. Kinyon

GREETING

Craig French

INTROIT 793

“Santo, Santo, Santo”

insert, pg. 6

CALL TO WORSHIP (*by Wild Goose Group*)

Barb Genton

One: From Bethlehem to Nazareth, from Jordan to Jericho,
from Bethany to Jerusalem, from then to now . . .

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

One: To heal the sick, to mend the brokenhearted,
to comfort the disturbed, to disturb the comfortable,
to cleanse the temple, to liberate faith from convention . . .

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

One: To carry the cross, to lead the way,
to shoulder the sin of the world and take it away . . .

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

One: Today . . . to this place . . . to us . . .

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

*HYMN 8

“Praise to the Living God”

insert, pg. 7

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*by Thomas Merton*)

Barb Genton

**All: My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end,
nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.**

**Please stand as you are able.*

**Therefore, I will trust you always,
though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.**

A TIME OF SILENCE

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.*

SCRIPTURE

Luke 13:1-9

Barb Genton

ANTHEM

“Jesu Dulcis Memoria”

Tomas Luis de Vittoria

MESSAGE

“Gossip and the Gospel”

Craig French

*HYMN

“When We Are Called to Sing”

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

“Almighty God, Who Hast Me Brought”

Thomas Ford

*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 547

“Amazing Grace”

insert, pg. 9

*BENEDICTION

CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

“Fuga XX”

J. S. Bach

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

✉ Plymouth Runs on YOU ✉

USHER: Frank Leonard **LITURGIST:** Barb Genton
DEACONS ON DUTY: Heather Evans and Frank Leonard
NURSERY CAREGIVER: Isabel Fontaine
COMMUNITY TIME: Laura Masuicca and Charlottee Vallejo
COUNTERS: Elaine Wolf and Susan Hawks
FLOWERS: Esther and Tom Zorn in memory of
Clarabel Mertie Harrington Fisk Booth
ONLINE WORSHIP COORDINATOR: Tom Zorn

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Today Community time (after worship), Memorial Hall
Walking the Labyrinth, Kirtland Hall
Lenten book discussion: *A Full-Hearted Life* (Parlor)
Session 3: Chapter 5
- Tues. March 25 Christian Formation Board, 7pm, Parlor*
- Wed. March 26 Food Pantry, 2-4pm
- Thur. March 27 Bell Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary, 5:30pm
Choir rehearsal, Memorial Hall, 7pm
- Sun. March 30 Worship, Sanctuary and online, 10am
Preacher: Rev. Rick Cowles
Lenten book discussion, Parlor, 11:15am
(*A Full-Hearted Life*) Session 4: Chapter 6
Walking the Labyrinth, Kirtland Hall

Please join us after the service in Memorial Hall for Community Time. Grab a cup of coffee and join our Lenten book discussion in the Parlor.

**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.*

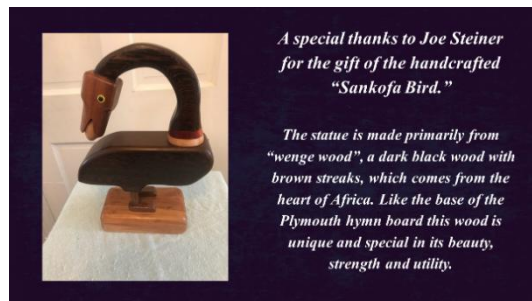
All Hands-on Deck! The Food Pantry needs volunteers this Saturday, March 29, 10am, to help move the food from the second floor to the pantry's new home in the basement. Some lifting is involved; we need to pack up all canned food and move it to the basement. The 8 shelving units and 3 tables need to be moved down also. This is a great way to support our food pantry who serves families in need. Reach out to Heather Evans at plymouthchurchfoodpantry@gmail.com if you are available to help or if you have any questions.

We are also looking for volunteers to help move the Sanctuary furniture after worship on Sunday, March 30 in preparation for the NYS Baroque performance of Monteverdi Vespers of 1610. The concert will be on Friday, April 4, 7:30 pm. A pre-concert talk starts at 6:45pm. For ticket information, go to nysbaroque.com

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.

What is this pretty bird on the Altar?

The Sankofa bird is a mythical bird that represents the importance of learning from the past to create a better future: The bird is a symbol of the principle of Sankofa which reminds us to be intentional about carefully reviewing the past, gathering good lessons, and using them to inform future directions in our work together to understand the legacy of white supremacy culture and stand against racism



Since we are a Welcoming congregation: Please wear your name tag during the Service and at Community Time. Let's get into the habit of letting people know who we are, whether they are new or just visiting.

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

Music Notes for Sunday, March 23rd, 2025

Last week we sang music by Palestrina, considered to be the greatest composer of the Renaissance period. But almost equal in stature was Tomas Luis de Vittoria (c.1548-1611) who was born in Spain but spent an almost equal amount of time in Italy. In fact, he may have studied with Palestrina. Vittoria (whose mother spelled the name Vitoria, while he preferred the latinized Victoria) was an ordained priest who was held in high regard in his own time, eventually receiving an appointment from the King of Spain which allowed him to compose, perform and travel as he wished.

*Jesu dulcis memoria,
dans vera cordi gaudia
Sed super mel et omnia
Ejus dulcis praesentia.*

*Sweet is the memory of Jesus
giving true joys to the heart
but above honey and all things
His sweet presence.*

Thomas Ford (c. 1580-1648) was a musician in the court of the Prince of Wales, son of James I, and eventually worked for Charles I. These were the days just after England had vacillated wildly from being Catholic, to Anglican (under Henry VIII) to Catholic (under Mary I) and back to Anglican under Elizabeth I. Believe it or not, one of the major contentions in worship was how many notes should be sung with one syllable. You'll recall the Palestrina anthem last week had a very short text, with the choir singing whole phrases of music (10-20 notes) with one syllable. Under Anglican rule, this was forbidden. Here are the 1571 rules from Winchester Cathedral: Item, *that in the quire no note shall be used in song that shall drown any word or syllable or draw out in length or shorten any word or syllable otherwise than by the nature of the word as it is pronounced in common speech, whereby the sentence cannot be perceived by the hearers. And also, the often*

reports or repeating of notes with words or sentences whereby the sense may be hindered in the hearer shall not be used. A second bone of contention was language; in Catholic times, Latin was to be used. In Anglican times, English. So, our **offertory anthem** is a typical example of Renaissance English Anglican music: One note per syllable, and in English:

*Almighty God, who hast me brought in safety to the present day,
Keep me from sin in heart and thought and teach me what to do and say.*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) wrote 24 Preludes and Fugues – one on each of the twelve notes on a keyboard in a major key, and another in a minor key. And then he did it again. He did it because keyboards were not tuned with each note the same distance apart as they are today, and he wanted to make sure that keyboards would be tuned in such a way that all keys would sound acceptable. Our **postlude** is from the second book of this “Well Tempered Keyboard” collection.

❧ 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

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 6/8. The music is written in a simple, homophonic style. Above the upper staff, the following chords are indicated: C, G7, C, F, C. The lyrics are written below the upper staff.

¡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

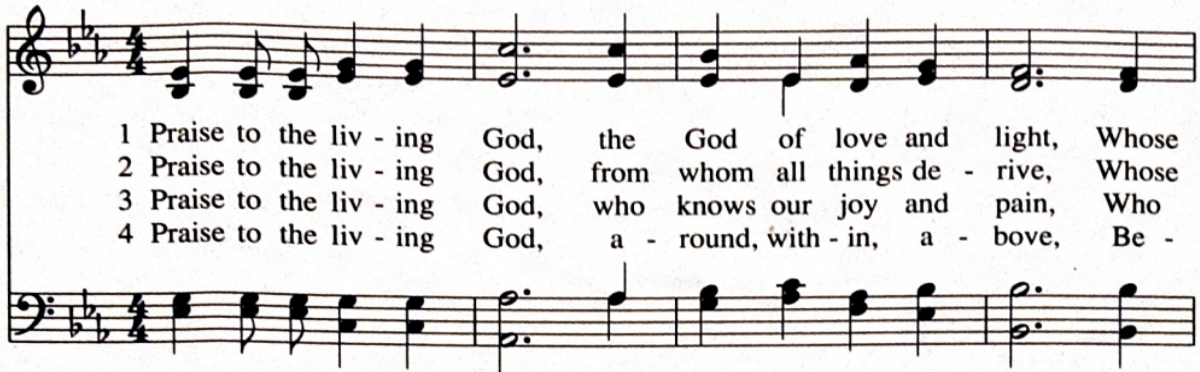
The second system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 6/8. The music continues from the first system. Above the upper staff, the following chords are indicated: F, C, Am, F, G7, C. The lyrics are written below the upper staff.

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.

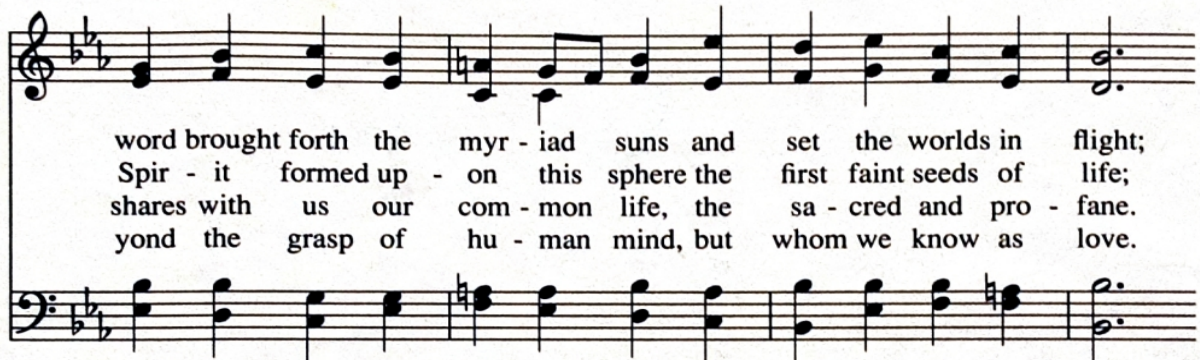
Praise to the Living God

Ps. 84:1-2

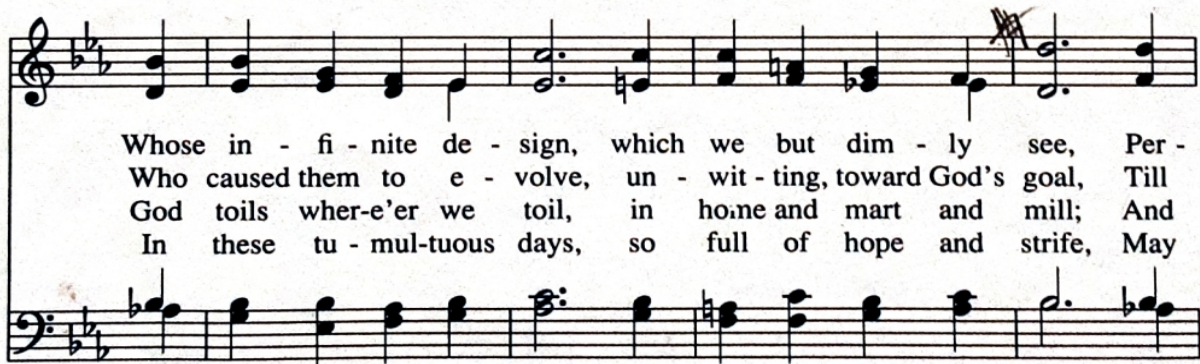
Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.



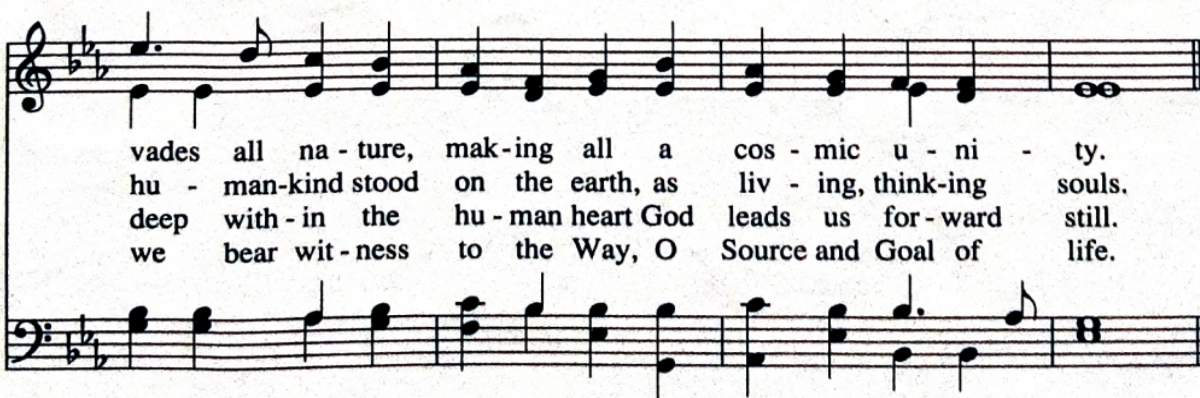
1 Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, Whose
 2 Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, Whose
 3 Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, Who
 4 Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, Be -



word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.



Whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, Per -
 Who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, Till
 God toils wher-e'er we toil, in ho - me and mart and mill; And
 In these tu - mul - tuous days, so full of hope and strife, May



vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.
 hu - man-kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

Curtis Beach, born into a family of several generations of ministers, was educated at Harvard University, the Boston University School of Theology, and the University of Southern California. A minister in the United Church of Christ, Beach authored The Gospel of Mark: Its Making and Meaning.

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.
 George J. Elvey, 1868

When We Are Called to Sing Your Praise 2216



1. When we are called to sing your praise with
 2. When we are called to sing your praise and
 3. When we are called to sing your praise and



hearts so filled with pain that we would rath - er
 can - not find our voice, be - cause our los - ses
 life a - head looks grim, still give us faith and



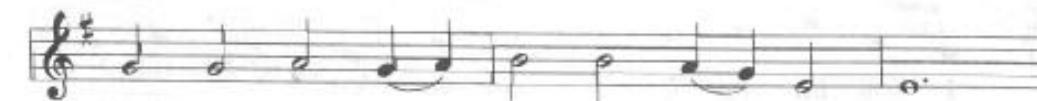
sit and weep or stand up to com - plain, re -
 leave us now no rea - son to re - jice, re -
 hope e - nough to break forth in a hymn, a



mind us, God, you un - der - stand the
 mind us, God, that you ac - cept our
 thank - ful hymn, great God of Love, that



bur - dens that we bear; you, too, have walked the
 sad la - ments in prayer; you, too, have walked the
 you are ev - ery - where; you walk the shad - owed



shad - owed way and known our deep de - spair.
 shad - owed way and known our deep de - spair.
 way with us and keep us in your care.

WORDS: Mary Nelson Keithahn
 MUSIC: Trad. English melody

KINGSFOLD
 CMD

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