



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of Word and Sacrament

April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:00 am – Worship

🌀 Weekly Wisdom 🌀

Sometimes in our ... rush toward the cross
we overlook the poignancy of the story of Mary anointing Jesus.
Powerful people are out to get Jesus.
He faces a certain death, he knows.
His disciples clearly don't get it.
How lonely he must feel!
But Mary gets it. She understands death.
She's seen her brother Lazarus die,
and she's seen Jesus share her grief.
And she knows what he faces.
So, she does something extraordinary:
she does something kind for Jesus—
the only kind thing anybody does for him.

Certainly, there is much in her action that is dramatic:
the extravagance of the gift, the fragrance of the perfume,
the radical intimacy of the gesture.
There is some heavy theological symbolism in her act:
preparing him for burial,
accepting the cross,
honoring him as the ruler of her heart.
Her act is pretty loaded.
But maybe what's most remarkable is simply its kindness.
Maybe faith is not as complicated as all that theological stuff,
but simply being kind.
Maybe the fragrance of our kindness
fills the house where Jesus is.

(Steve Granaas-Holmes)

Order of Worship

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



RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE "Prelude on the Passion Choral" Hans Leo Hassler
GREETING Rev. Craig French
INTROIT 793 "Santo, Santo, Santo" *insert, pg. 8*
CALL TO WORSHIP (*adapted from enfleshed.com*) Rev. Kathleen Waters

One: The Holy One does great things for us!
Like water in the wilderness and rivers in the desert ...
All: God meets us in times of trial.
One: Like the companionship of close friends ...
All: God draws near to us when we need it most.
One: Like the satisfaction of a joyous feast ...
All: God nourishes us on the journey.
One: With joy, let us trust the promises of God and seek the way of Love.

*HYMN "The Lone, Wild Bird" *insert, pg. 9*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*by John van de Laar*)

One: In the midst of grief, we choose to celebrate ...
**All: because it reminds us of hope
and brings comfort to our broken hearts.**
One: In the midst of poverty, we choose to celebrate ...
**All: because it speaks of wealth beyond material things
and gives dignity to our humbled hearts.**
One: In the midst of conflict, we choose to celebrate ...
**All: because it turns us to peace
and restores humanity to our angry hearts.**
One: In the midst of suffering, we choose to celebrate ...
**All: because it lightens our darkness
and inspires strength in our fragile hearts.**
One: In the midst of injustice, we choose to celebrate ...
**All: because it defies evil
and renews determination in our compassionate hearts.**
One: Though crosses may loom, and opponents gather,
though cynics and skeptics may scoff

**Please stand as you are able.*

All: at the extravagance of our devotion to you, Jesus,
**we still choose to embrace and enjoy—
for our own sake and for that of the least—
the healing power of celebration.**

A TIME OF SILENCE

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.**

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Kathleen Waters

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

GOSPEL READING

John 12:1-8

ANTHEM

“Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

Johann Crüger

MESSAGE

Road Signs on the Way to Life:
A Priceless Gift

Waters & French

MODERN READING

“Gate A-4”

Naomi Shihab Nye

*HYMN

“You Are Mine”

insert, pg. 10

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks for the peace of God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

(The prayer continues in the pastor’s words.)

RECEIVING 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 –
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.*

CALL TO ACTION

OFFERING

Today we receive a special offering for Plymouth's Food Pantry 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 "Food Pantry" in the memo line or note "Food Pantry" on the offering envelope in the pews or click on the "Donate" link on Plymouth's website and choose "Food Pantry" from the drop-down menu.

OFFERTORY

"Thou Knowest, Lord"

Henry Purcell

*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 210

"Said Judas to Mary"

insert, pg. 11 & 12

*BENEDICTION

CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

"Prelude in d minor"

anonymous

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@plymouthsy.org

✉ Plymouth Runs on YOU ✉

USHERS: Barb Genton and Cindy Perrine **LITURGIST:** Rev. Kathleen Waters

DEACONS ON DUTY: Heather Evans and Leslie Lawrence

NURSERY CAREGIVER: Isabel Fontaine

COMMUNION COORDINATOR: Kathy Ferro

COMMUNION SERVERS: Cindy Perrine, Leslie Lawrence and Frank Leonard

COMMUNITY TIME: Heather Evans

COUNTERS: Susan Hawks and Keith Jakway

FLOWERS: Esther and Tom Zorn,

in memory of Florence Louise Irwin Zorn.

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 5: Chapter 8 (final session)
- Mon. April 7 Bridge Pastor's reading/study week
Pastoral Care: Andrea Abbott + Dave Pasinski on call.
Board of Trustees, 6pm, Parlor*
- Tues. April 8 Board of Deacons, 7pm, Parlor*
- Wed. April 9 Food Pantry, 2-4pm, Basement
- Thur. April 10 Bell Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary, 5:30pm
Choir rehearsal, Memorial Hall, 7pm
- Next Sunday PALM / PASSION SUNDAY
Worship, Sanctuary and online, 10am
Following Worship:
 - *Children's Alfombra — sidewalk "carpet" of flowers*
 - *Palm Sunday procession — Embrace the city with Jesus!*
 - *Walking the Labyrinth*

**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.*

Did anyone leave a pair of glasses in the sanctuary? They are in the office.

Thank you: Rev. Kathleen Waters for participating in today's service.

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.

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, April 6th, 2025

So, who wrote this anyways!?! Especially in the world of church music, where sacred (and not-so-sacred!) tunes can be hundreds of years old, the original composer of a tune is often unknown. Even when the composer of the original tune is known, they may have only composed the melody – perhaps only 32 notes. For example, Martin Luther wrote the tune to “A Mighty Fortress” which consists of about 54 notes, but even in our hymnal there are more than 220 notes on the page. (Count them yourself if you like! Hymn #439) In our hymnbook, no one tells us who wrote all those additional (harmony) notes. In the case of our **prelude**, the actual tune to the Passion Chorale was written by Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612) as a secular court tune. (It wasn't until Bach used it multiple times in *The Passion According to St. Matthew* that it became known as the *Passion Chorale*.) In my setting for today, I repeat each phrase of the chorale and change the harmony. That means that I get to harmonize the first line – which is normally repeated – FOUR times in four different ways.

The melody for our **anthem** was written by Johann Crüger (1598-1662). Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) took that tune and wrote eleven movements, all based on that one tune. Our **anthem** is the first setting of the tune, in simple four-part harmony.

*Jesus, priceless treasure; Source of purest pleasure,
Truest friend to me.
Ah how long I've panted, and my heart hath fainted,
Thirsting Lord, for thee.
Thine I am, O spotless lamb. I will suffer naught to hide thee.
Naught I ask beside thee.*

Henry Purcell (1659-1695) was a child prodigy who was composing for royalty by the time he was eleven. He was the organist at both Westminster Abbey and the Chapel Royal. Probably the greatest English composer (not counting Handel, who was by birth German), he wrote the first English opera, *Dido and Aeneas* before devoting himself almost entirely to sacred music.

*Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts.
Shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayers,
But spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty.
O holy and most merciful Saviour, thou most worthy judge eternal,
Suffer us not at our last hour for any pains of death to fall from thee.*

Our **postlude**, attributed Bach, his students, or his sons, but no one knows who really wrote it.

❧ 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.



Flowers 2025

Name _____ Phone _____

Wording for the bulletin (or email wording to office@plymouthsyr.org):

Please indicate the total number of plants you wish to order and whether you wish to take home* and or donate them to be delivered to those who are unable to attend church.

Lilies (\$10.00) # ordered _____ # taking home _____ # donating _____

Tulips (\$9.00) # ordered _____ # taking home _____ # donating _____

Daffodils (\$9.00) # ordered _____ # taking home _____ # donating _____

I'd like to help deliver donated plants _____

*** Plants can be picked up following Easter worship or between 9:00am and 4:00pm Monday-Friday the week after Easter.**

Contribution of \$_____ to Good Samaritan Fund in addition to or in lieu of flowers.

**ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE CHURCH OFFICE
NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, APRIL 13.**

Please write separate checks payable to:

Plymouth Congregational Church

indicating “**Flower Fund**” or “**Good Samaritan Fund**” on the memo line of each check and put in the offering plate or mail to the church office.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)

793

Text and music: Anon., Argentina

The first system of musical notation 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. Above the upper staff, the following chords are indicated: C, G7, C, F, C. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line of lyrics is: "¡San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi". The second line of lyrics is: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My".

The second system of musical notation 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. Above the upper staff, the following chords are indicated: F, C, Am, F, G7, C. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line of lyrics is: "cor - a - zón te sa - be de-cir: san - to e - res Dios.". The second line of lyrics is: "heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.".

The Lone, Wild Bird

2052



1. The lone, wild bird in loft - y flight is
 2. The ends of earth are in your hand, the
 3. Each se - cret thought is known to you, the
 4. In se - cret depths you knit my frame, be -
 5. O search me, God, my heart re - veal, re -



still with you, nor leaves your sight. And
 sea's dark deep and far - off land. And
 path I walk my whole life through; my
 fore my birth you spoke my name; with -
 new my life, my spir - it heal; for



I am yours! I rest in you, Great
 I am yours! I rest in you, Great
 days, my deeds, my hopes, my fears, my
 in my soul, as close as breath, so
 I am yours, I rest in you, Great



Spir - it, come, rest in me, too.
 Spir - it, come, rest in me, too.
 deep - est joys, my si - lent tears.
 near to me, in life, in death.
 Spir - it, come, rest in me, too.

WORDS: Sts. 1-3 by Henry Richard McFayden, alt.; sts. 4-5 by Marty Haugen (Ps. 139:2-4, 13-15, 23-24)

MUSIC: Walker's Southern Harmony (1835)

St. 4-5 © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

PROSPECT
LM

2218

You Are Mine



1. — I will come to you in the si - lence, —
 2. — I am hope for all who are hope-less, —
 3. — I am strength for all the de - spair-ing. —
 4. I am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from — all your fear. —
 I am eyes for all who long to see. In the
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame. —
 am the peace the world can - not give. —



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light,
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain, stand



still and know I am here. —
 come and rest in
 all will know my
 up, now walk, and



me. — Do not be a - fraid, I am
 name. —
 live! —



with you. I have called you each by name.



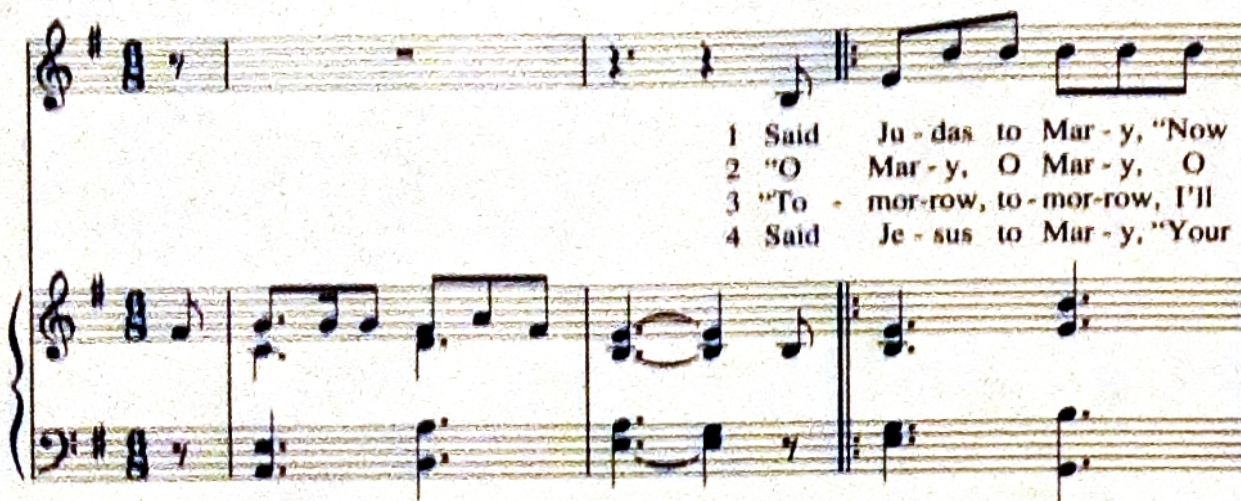
Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



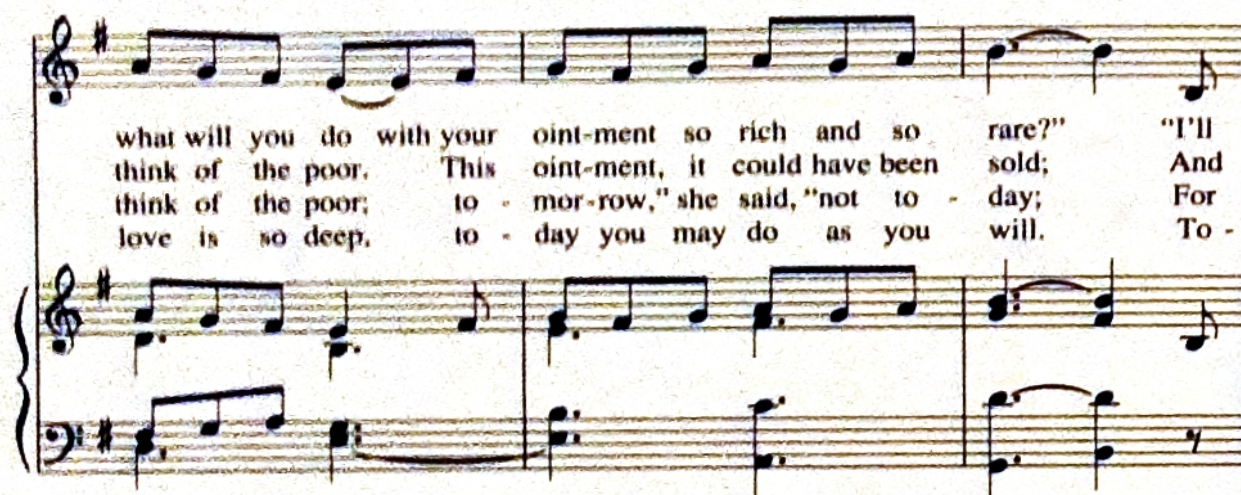
love you and you are mine. —

Said Judas to Mary

Sydney Carter, 1964; alt.



1 Said Ju - das to Mar - y, "Now
2 "O Mar - y, O Mar - y, O
3 "To - mor-row, to - mor-row, I'll
4 Said Je - sus to Mar - y, "Your



what will you do with your oint-ment so rich and so rare?" "I'll
think of the poor. This oint-ment, it could have been sold; And
think of the poor; to - mor-row," she said, "not to - day; For
love is so deep. to - day you may do as you will. To -



pour it all o - ver the feet of the Christ, and I'll wipe it a-way with my
think of the blan-kets and think of the bread you could buy with the sil - ver and
dear-er than all of the poor in the world is my love who is go - ing a -
mor-row, you say, I am go - ing a - way, but my bod - y I leave with you

Sydney Carter has enjoyed a varied career as a schoolteacher, journalist, and songwriter, and was a leader of the folk-song renaissance in English church music in the early 1960s. This hymn imagines the dialogue between Mary of Bethany, Judas Iscariot, and Jesus.

Tune: JUDAS AND MARY Irr.
Sydney Carter, 1964

LENT

hair," she said, "I'll wipe it a-way with my hair." (2 "O)
 gold," he said, "you could buy with the sil - ver and gold," (3 "To-)
 way," she said, "my love who is go - ing a - way." (4 Said)
 still," he said, "my bo - dy I leave with you still." (5 "The
 (6 -way.")

5 "The poor of the world are my bod-y,"
 he said,
 "to the end of the world they shall be.
 The bread and the blan-kets you give
 to the poor
 you will know you have giv-en to me,"
 he said,
 "you'll know you have giv-en to me."

6 "My bod-y will hang on the cross
 of the world
 to-mor-row," he said, "not to-day.
 And Mar-tha and Mar-y will find me
 a-gain
 and wash all my sor-row a-way,"
 he said,
 "and wash all my sor-row a-way."