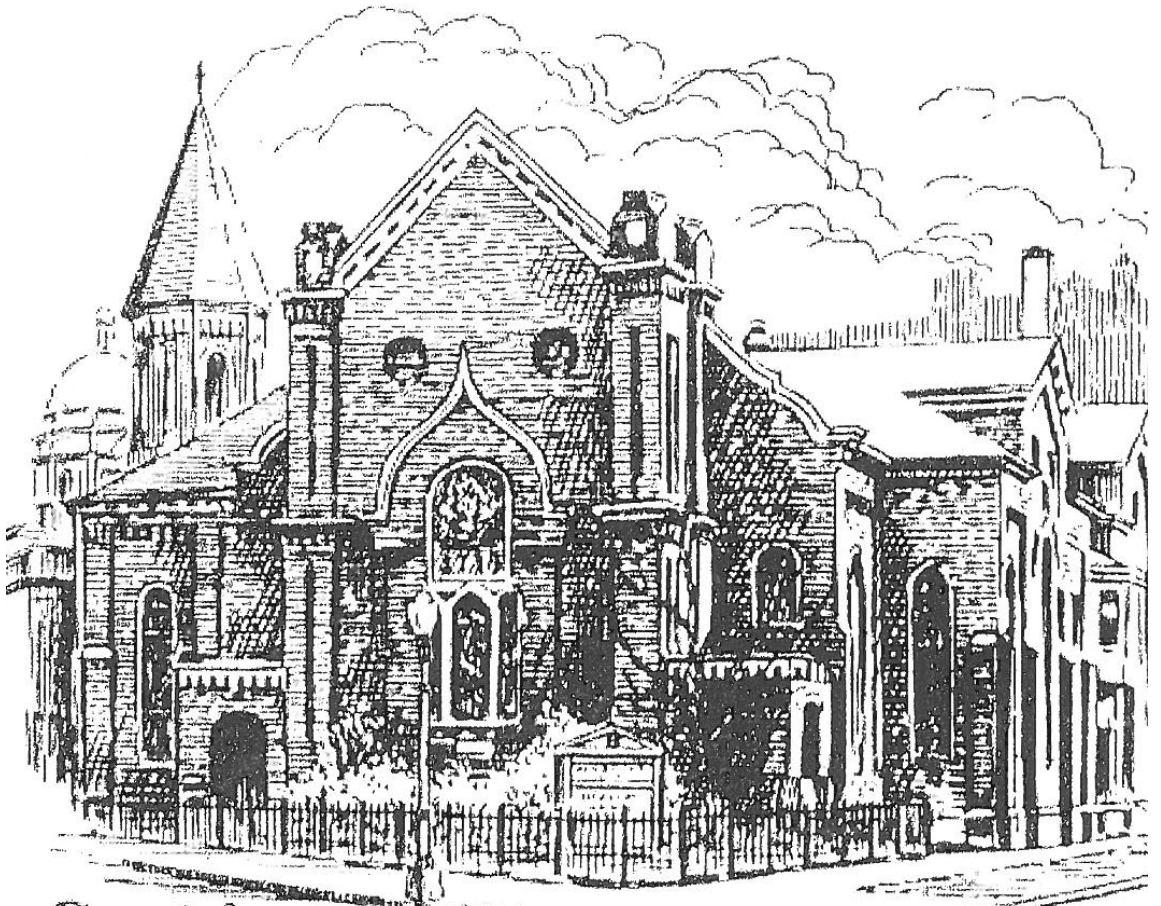


**Plymouth Congregational Church**  
*a Congregation of the United Church of Christ*  
*in downtown Syracuse, NY*



Plymouth Congregational Church  
Syracuse, N.Y. ~

Service of the Word  
April 12, 2026  
10:00 am – Worship



AN EASTER PRAYER (by Ann Harbridge, adapted)

**ALL: O God, you come to us in unexpected places ...  
in isolation, behind closed and locked doors ...  
on dusty roads, as we go from place to place ...  
in video chats with friends and phone conversations with loved ones ...  
in the voice and words of a stranger.**

**You come bringing us peace, where there is no peace.  
You come bringing us hope, when everything seems hopeless.  
You come bringing us courage, when we are afraid.  
Come and be among us now, in every place where we are.  
Open our eyes to see you. Open our hearts to know you.  
In the name of the Risen Christ we pray. Amen.**

ANTHEM Tarry With Me Otto Nicolai

SCRIPTURE Luke 24:13-35 Common English Bible

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

HYMN Halle, Halle, Halle #236

MESSAGE Rethinking Hopes and Expectations

\*HYMN Now the Green Blade Rises #238

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*In an effort to pray in unison while respecting the different versions that many of us have prayed since childhood, we will cycle through the different versions over the course of a year. We will pray the prayer with "trespasses" through April.*

**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

CALL TO GIVING

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Abide with Me

Melchior Vulpius

\*DOXOLOGY

**Let trumpets sound and voices sing!  
Let all on earth their praises bring!  
For Christ has conquered sin and death,  
and given life eternal breath.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN

The Day of Resurrection

#245

\*BENEDICTION

CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

Prelude on Noël Nouvelet

Anthony St. Pierre

**If asked for a handout (\$)** during worship at Plymouth, we encourage you *Not* to do so. Instead, welcome each person lovingly and respectfully, as a sister/brother/sibling in Christ. Then, make a gift—especially on communion Sundays—to Plymouth’s Good Samaritan Fund. This allows our pastor (on your behalf) to respond to requests for financial assistance.



**Something to Think About**

Easter is not an event that has occurred  
it's an adventure that has begun  
not a place that we have visited  
but a path on which we stand

a story not complete, but unfolding  
characters still breathing  
stations still teeming  
with the promise of new life  
not just for you and me  
but for all people, in all places

a cosmic crux  
a turning point of time

Easter is the season  
of wild hope  
of dangerous intent  
of potent promise

--- Craig Mitchell

**☞ Plymouth Runs on YOU ☞**

**USHER:** George Bain

**FLOWERS:** see pages 9 & 10

**DEACONS ON DUTY:** Nancy Gwin and Esther Zorn

**LITURGIST:** Gary Allen

**ONLINE WORSHIP COORDINATOR:** Tom Zorn

**COUNTERS:** Kathleen Deters-Hayes, Kim Dill, and Keith Jackway

## THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Today           Worship, 10am, Sanctuary  
Community Time, 11:15am, Memorial Hall\*
- Mon   Apr 13   Trustees, 6pm, Parlor\*\*  
Syracuse Gay and Lesbian Choir, 6pm, Memorial Hall
- Tue   Apr 14   Narcotics Anonymous (NA), 6:30pm, Memorial Hall  
Deacons, 7pm, Parlor and Zoom\*\*
- Wed   Apr 15   Food Pantry, 2pm, Basement  
SGLC Rehearsal, 6pm, Memorial Hall
- Thu   Apr 16   Bell Choir Practice, 5:30pm, Sanctuary  
Vocal Choir Rehearsal, 7pm, Memorial Hall
- Fri   Apr 17   NA, 6:30pm, Memorial Hall
- Sat   Apr 18   NA, 12noon, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room  
Eleanor Russell's Memorial Service, 1pm, Sanctuary  
*You are invited to bring a dish to share at the Reception  
after the Memorial Service in Kirtland Hall.*
- Sun   Apr 19   Worship, 10am, Sanctuary  
Community Time, 11:15am, Memorial Hall\*

*\*You are invited to join us for Community Time for coffee, tea, and refreshments in Memorial Hall after worship.*

*\*\* 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.*

**Congratulations!** Sarah Wright is our new Plymouth Bells Choir Director.

### *Standing on Holy Ground...*

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

**Pastor Craig** will be at Chautauqua this week (Monday through Friday) for a week of study, reading, renewal and prayer with long-time clergy colleagues. **Andrea Abbott** will be on call for pastoral emergencies.

## ☞ Joys and Concerns ☞\*

### **In the week ahead, you are invited to pray for:**

- Andrea S. having a tooth extraction on Wednesday and would like your prayers.
- Mable W. asking for your prayers. She and her family are going through some medical issues.
- The Mace family on the sudden passing of Robert Caleb, 24, son of Fria and Matthew and sister of Serafina.
- Geri H. following further back surgery.
- Healing and health for Jasmine (friend of Amanda P.)
- Our shut-in congregants; Myrtle B., Fung-Chan C., Joanne C., Gery H., Pat H., Chris H., Marilou O., and Mable W.
- Elizabeth M's sister in recovery.
- Stephen C. dealing with lung cancer and other health issues.
- Folks dealing with mental illness, incarceration, and homelessness.

*\*The listings for Joys and Concerns will be kept for one month; after that you can request they be re-upped by contacting the Church Office.*

### **spring song**

the green of Jesus  
is breaking the ground  
and the sweet  
smell of delicious Jesus  
is opening the house and  
the dance of Jesus music  
has hold of the air and  
the world is turning  
in the body of Jesus and  
the future is possible

by Lucille Clifton

## Music Notes for Sunday April 12, 2026

Robert Cundick (1926-2016) studied with famed Tabernacle organist Alexander Schreiner, and then himself became the senior organist at the Tabernacle for the famed choir. I studied with him during my undergraduate education.

Otto Nicolai (1810-1849) is best remembered for his opera *The Merry Wives of Windsor* based on the Shakespeare play. He was also one of the founders of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, which remains one of the top five orchestras in the world to this day. Our **anthem** is a duet based on the scripture reading for today:

*Tarry with me, O my Saviour! For the day is passing by.  
See the shades of evening gather, and the night is drawing nigh.  
Deeper, deeper grow the shadows; paler now the glowing west.  
Swift the night of death advances; shall it be the night of rest?*

*Feeble, trembling, fainting, dying, Lord I cast myself on thee.  
Tarry with me through the darkness; while I sleep, still watch by me.  
Tarry with me O my Saviour, lay my head upon thy breast,  
'till the morning, then awake me. Morning of eternal rest.*

Melchior Vulpius (c.1570-1615) was a German singer and composer of church music. The text from our **offertory anthem** begins with the familiar phrase from our reading today, “Abide with me.”

*Abide with us, our Saviour, sustain us by thy word;  
That we with all thy people to life may be restored.*

*Abide with us, our Saviour, Thou light of endless light.  
Increase to us thy blessings, and save us by thy might.*

*To Father, Son and Spirit, Eternal one in three,  
As was, and is forever, all praise and glory be.*

Anthony St. Pierre was born in Schenectady in 1956. In the 1980s he played oboe with the early music ensemble *Tafelmusik* in Toronto but has since devoted his time to composition. Our **postlude** is based on the middle hymn of today’s service.



## Flowers 2026

### **The Easter plants and Good Samaritan Fund contributions are given by:**

The Allen family in loving memory of Yvette & Steve Scalione and Alice & Jack Allen.

George Bain for blessings on the Search Committee

Carole Brzozowski and Stan Ayres in loving memory of our parents Mebs & Charlie,  
Allen & Betty.

Hava and Josh Carroll in memory of those who loved us as God loves everyone - Lou,  
Wanda, Helen, and Floyd.

Doreen and Mike Chellis in memory of our brother, David Chellis, and other family and  
friends.

Jeff Corley for Nina and Austin Corley.

Pam and Joe Delaney in memory of Gertrude and Richard Delaney, Patricia and Joseph  
Mastros and Allen Mastros.

Kathleen and Tim Deters-Hayes in memory of Dorothy and Edward Hayes, Elizabeth  
and Donald Deters, and Joan Deters.

Kathy Ferro deep gratitude for family.

Lori and Maurice Forrester in memory of those we loved and lost.

Barb and Craig French in gratitude for the new life God is already birthing at Plymouth  
and for the creative challenge of helping to midwife the pastoral transition.

The Hall/Pasinski families in Hope for our troubled country ... in Care for all those  
suffering in wars ...

Susan Hawks in gratitude for Plymouth staff - Craig, Lori, Joe and Emily.

Richard Jaeger for Grace.



Ken Johnson in loving memory of Jeanne Carrillo.

Linda and Scott Kraemer with fond, fun and loving memories of Lisa Tousey and Dwight Kraemer.

Frank Leonard to all staff and volunteers.

Richard Mace celebrating the short life of Robert Caleb, 24, our son, grandson, brother, grandnephew, and nephew. Caleb's life was a second commandment one filled with care, love and joy. His neighbors were endless with no boundaries, borders, or walls.

David Michel honoring all my Plymouth friends. Happy Easter!

Cindy Perrine in memory of Glodine, Robert, and Mark Perrine.

Nancy Poquadeck blessings to our neighbors here and abroad and to our wonderful congregation.

Cara and Joseph Steiner in honor of our parents.

Esther and Thomas Zorn given for the love of children, including our own Fredrich, Maximillian and Katie who grew up in the Plymouth "family."

### ✿ Some Things You Ought to Know ✿

**Want to stay informed about the news and events at Plymouth Church?** Sign up for Plymouth's weekly email newsletter by contacting George Bain at [georgesbain@aol.com](mailto:georgesbain@aol.com)

**Hospitality Ministry** – Please consider serving as a host for Community Time. There is a sign-up chart in Memorial Hall. It's easy and we'll help you!

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

**Welcoming Children in Worship:** Children of all ages have a place in worship and in the life of the church. At Plymouth we try to engage all ages in different ways. Worship activity kits are available at our worship activity shelf in the back of the Sanctuary for our young children and youth (and for any adults who feel led to use them!). We hope that these activities will help worshipers connect with the service in ways that are meaningful to them. Please return the activity kits with all of the supplies to the shelf at the end of the service.

**Nursery Care:** Infants and toddlers have a special place in worship, too, and are always welcome. We also offer Nursery care for infants and toddlers starting at 9:45am. There are changing tables in the restroom just off the sanctuary, in the nursery, and in the men's restroom in the basement. The Service is piped into Memorial Hall, next door to the sanctuary, for those who would welcome a space apart.

**Flowers** – Make our worship space even more beautiful for the glory of God and in honor of whatever you choose. A sign-up sheet is found in the bell tower entry. The cost is \$35 but plans for larger or multiple arrangements can always be made.

**Accessibility:** Individual listening headsets are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Please contact an usher for help. An elevator and ramp are available. Large print bulletins are at the back of the sanctuary.

**Ample free street parking** is available on the blocks around our church on Sundays, as well as in the lot behind the Catholic diocese building. For those able to walk a short distance, parking here will allow those with mobility impairments or small children to use the spots directly in front of the church.

**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 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.

## ☞ About Plymouth ☞

Plymouth was founded in 1853 by a group of Syracuseans who wanted to create a Christian abolitionist bulwark in the city. Since then, we have fought against slavery, poverty, and war; for immigrant, native, worker, LGBTQ+ and women's rights; and sought to be agents of mercy in a hurting world. We believe in beauty, laughter, the struggle for peace with justice, taking risks for God, and the Way of Jesus Christ.

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

**We are Open and Affirming** We believe God calls us to welcome all and their gifts regardless of gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, physical ability, socioeconomic status, or religious background.

**We are Just Peace** We covenant to live actively within the holy longing that weds justice with the quest for peace – within us, between us, in community, and across the globe. We covenant to affirm the sacredness of all life and to honor and preserve creation.

**We are Sanctuary** We provide a space of physical, emotional, and spiritual safety for immigrants without documents, and specifically pledge to the principles of the national New Sanctuary Movement.

**We are Immigrant Welcoming** We seek to learn, support, and develop practices and programs that facilitate the respectful welcome and inclusion of all immigrants into our congregation and community.

**We are Progressive Christians** We try to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our brother and savior. We believe God speaks new meanings for new days, and that She does so not only in the church and the ancient words of the Bible, but through the insights of science, the arts, the revelations of other religions, and the best strivings of the human spirit. We believe God has granted us a purpose, and that life is too short for long-faced religion. Join us!

Rev. Craig French, Transition Pastor  
Dr. Joseph Downing, Director of Music  
Lori A Forrester, Church Administrator  
Emily Evans, Youth and Children's Ministries Coordinator

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