

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



Photo by Mary Ragan (Easter in Central Park).

Service of the Word
April 19, 2026
10:00 am – Worship

☞ Order of Worship ☞

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

PRELUDE

Sonata #4: Allegretto

Felix Mendelssohn

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. David Pasinski

CALL TO WORSHIP (*unfoldinglight.com, adapted*)

Maurine McTyre-Watts

One: In the beginning, God breathed into the first human
and we came to life.

ALL: Breathe on us, Breath of God.

One: On the day Jesus rose, he breathed his spirit
into the disciples and sent them forth in love.

ALL: Breathe on us, Breath of God.

One: Now with every breath we take,
God breathes Christ's love and peace into us.

ALL: Breathe on us, Breath of God.

One: We breathe deeply of God's Spirit
that we may come to life anew, life unending.

ALL: Breathe on us, Breath of God.

*HYMN

This is the Day

84

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

RDP

One: Peace be with you.

ALL: And, also with you.

Share a sign of peace with those around you.

**Please stand if you are able.*

OPENING PRAYER (*unfoldinglight.com, adapted*)

MMTW

**ALL: God of Mystery, God of Truth,
hidden before us, revealed beyond our eyes:
We seek your light.
We treasure your Word.
We search for your presence.
We open our hearts to your eternal life within us,
your risen Christ among us,
your Living Word filling and leading us.
Speak, God. We are listening. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-31
Common English Bible

MMTW

ANTHEM

Blessed Are They

Jean Pasquet

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Emily Evans

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

HYMN

Halle, Halle, Halle

#236

MESSAGE

“Thomas Gets Bum Rap”

*HYMN

These Things Did Thomas Count

#254

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

Easter HymnJean

Tisserand

*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

When Thomas Heard from Jesus

pg. 5

*BENEDICTION

CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

Prelude on Aurelia

John Marsh

We thank Rev. David Pasinski for leading the service this morning.

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.

When Thomas Heard from Jesus

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of five systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1. When Thom-as heard from Je - sus, "Now come and fol - low me," he
 2. When Je - sus spoke of heav - en, bold Thom-as dared to say, "We
 3. When crowds be - gan to mur - mur and lead - ers raised their cry, brave
 4. What joy on Eas - ter eve - ning when man - y saw the Lord! Yet
 5. That man of faith saw Je - sus at break-fast by the sea; at

sure - ly went with glad - ness, for there was much to see. He
 don't know where you're go - ing! How can we know the way?" He
 Thom - as spoke out firm - ly, "Let's go with him and die." He
 Thom - as was not with them and would not trust their word. When
 Pen - te - cost he wit - nessed so oth - ers would be - lieve. O

wit-nessed Je - sus' teach - ing and saw his heal - ing touch; he
 want - ed un - der - stand - ing of what he could not see. Then
 ate at Je - sus' ta - ble, par - tak - ing wine and bread; yet
 Christ ap - peared be - fore him, his doubts were quick - ly gone; he
 Lord, may we, like Thom - as, keep grow - ing day by day; in -

found a faith to guide him, a friend he loved so much.
 Je - sus re - as - sured him, "The way is here, through me."
 lat - er with the oth - ers, he saw the cross and fled.
 glad - ly knew that eve - ning the joy of Eas - ter dawn.
 crease our faith and guide us, for Lord, you are the Way.

WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2012. Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16;
 John 11:11-16; 14:1-7; 20:19-29; 21:1-7; Acts 1:12-14
 MUSIC: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

AURELIA
 76.76 D



Instructions on Not Giving Up

More than the fuchsia funnels breaking out of the crabapple tree, more than the neighbor's almost obscene display of cherry limbs shoving their cotton candy-colored blossoms to the slate sky of Spring rains, it's the greening of the trees that really gets to me. When all the shock of white and taffy, the world's baubles and trinkets, leave the pavement strewn with the confetti of aftermath, the leaves come. Patient, plodding, a green skin growing over whatever winter did to us, a return to the strange idea of continuous living despite the mess of us, the hurt, the empty. Fine then, I'll take it, the tree seems to say, a new slick leaf unfurling like a fist to an open palm, I'll take it all.

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

❧ Plymouth Runs on YOU ❧

FLOWERS: Bernie Peterson in memory of
Geraldine Sophia Pasternacki and Franklin Delano Peterson

LITURGIST: Maurine McTyre-Watts

ONLINE WORSHIP COORDINATOR: Tom Zorn

COMMUNITY TIME: Maurine McTyre-Watts and Jim Watts

COUNTERS: Kathleen Deters-Hayes and Susan Hawks

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Today Worship, 10am, Sanctuary
 Community Time, 11:15am, Memorial Hall*
- Mon Apr 20 Syracuse Gay and Lesbian Choir, 6pm, Memorial Hall
- Tue Apr 21 Narcotics Anonymous (NA), 6:30pm, Memorial Hall
 Church Council, 5:30pm, Parlor**
- Wed Apr 22 Food Pantry, 2pm, Basement
 Speranza Choral Rehearsal, 6:30pm, Sanctuary
- Thu Apr 23 Bell Choir Practice, 5:30pm, Sanctuary
 Vocal Choir Rehearsal, 7pm, Memorial Hall
- Fri Apr 24 NA, 6:30pm, Memorial Hall
- Sat Apr 25 NA, 12noon, Memorial Hall
- Sun Apr 26 Worship, 10am, Sanctuary
 Community Time and Forum, 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.*

☞ Joys and Concerns ☜*

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

- Mable W. asking for your prayers. She and her family are going through some emotional 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 another back surgery.
- Healing and health for Jasmine (friend of Amanda P.)
- Our shut-in congregants; Myrtle B., Fung-Chan C., Joanne C., Geri 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.*

What are the 50 days of Easter (Eastertide)

The 50 days of Easter, or "Eastertide," constitute a joyous liturgical season in Christianity spanning from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. It celebrates the Resurrection, the ascension of Jesus, and the descent of the Holy Spirit, acting as a period of reflection on new life and the continued presence of Christ.

Key Aspects Eastertide and Poem

- **Beginning and End:** It begins with the Easter Vigil (Saturday night/Sunday morning) and concludes on Pentecost Sunday.
- **The Octave of Easter:** The first eight days (Easter Sunday through the following Sunday, known as Divine Mercy Sunday) are celebrated as a single, solemn "octave," treated with the same high joy as Easter Sunday itself.
- **Ascension:** The Ascension of Jesus is celebrated on the 40th day, a key milestone within this season.
- **Pentecost:** The 50th day celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, marking the birth of the Church.
- **Significance:** It serves as a contrast to the 40 days of fasting in Lent, representing resurrection, renewal, and hope.

During this period, Christians often focus on reflection, celebrating the "resurrection people" mindset, and attending church services that highlight the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus.

The World I Live In

I have refused to live
locked in the orderly house of
reasons and proofs.
The world I live in and believe in
is wider than that. And anyway,
what's wrong with *Maybe*?
You wouldn't believe what once or
twice I have seen. I'll just
tell you this:
only if there are angels in your head will you
ever, possibly, see one.

+ Mary Oliver

Music Notes for Sunday April 19, 2026

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) wrote six sonatas for the organ. Other famous works of his are the two oratorios, *Elijah* and *St. Paul*, as well as other sacred music such as the Resurrection Symphony.

Jean Pasquet (1896-1977) wrote mostly for Catholic churches. Our **anthem** has the closing text from today's reading:

Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Our **offertory anthem** was written by Jean Tisserand (d. 1494) and given modern harmonies by Jeff Ostrowski, who is currently the music director at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Muskegon, Michigan. The hymn has 12 verses that testify of the resurrection of Christ. We will sing the four verses that talk of Thomas' witness in the original Latin:

Alleuia!

*Discipulis adstantibus
In medio stetit Christus
Dicens: Paz vobis omnibus.
Alleuia!*

*The disciples standing by
In the midst stood Christ
Saying: Peace be to you all.*

*Vide Thoma, vide latus
Vide pedes, vide manus
Noli esse incredulous.
Alleuia!*

*See, Thomas, see my side,
See my feet, see my hands
Do not be unbelieving.*

*Quando Thomas Christi latus,
Pedes vidit atque manus,
Dixit: T es Deus meus.
Alleuia!*

*When Thomas saw Christ's side,
When the feet he saw and the hands,
He said: Thou are my God.*

*Beati qui non viderunt,
Et firmiter crediderunt,
Vitam aeternam habebunt.
Alleuia.*

*Blessed they who have not seen,
Yet have firmly believed,
Life eternal shall they have.*

John Marsh was Organist and Director of Music at St. Mary Recliffe Church in Bristol, England. Our **postlude** is based on the tune for today's closing hymn.

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.**

Just a reminder Plymouth Congregational Church Administrator's office hours are 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday. We appreciate your awareness of this schedule change and encourage you to reach out during these hours for assistance. The Office will be closed on Federal Holidays.

Plymouth's Food Pantry is looking for a working standup freezer or a small chest freezer. The freezer closest to the ladies' room in the basement is no longer keeping this frozen.



Thank You!

To the members of
Plymouth Congregational Church

for being a **5 for 5 Congregation** of
the United Church of Christ in 2025 .

5 for 5 Congregations support Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support and the Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, The Christmas Fund, and Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ.


Karen Georgia A. Thompson
General Minister and President
United Church of Christ


M. E. Williamson
Conference Minister



☞ 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

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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