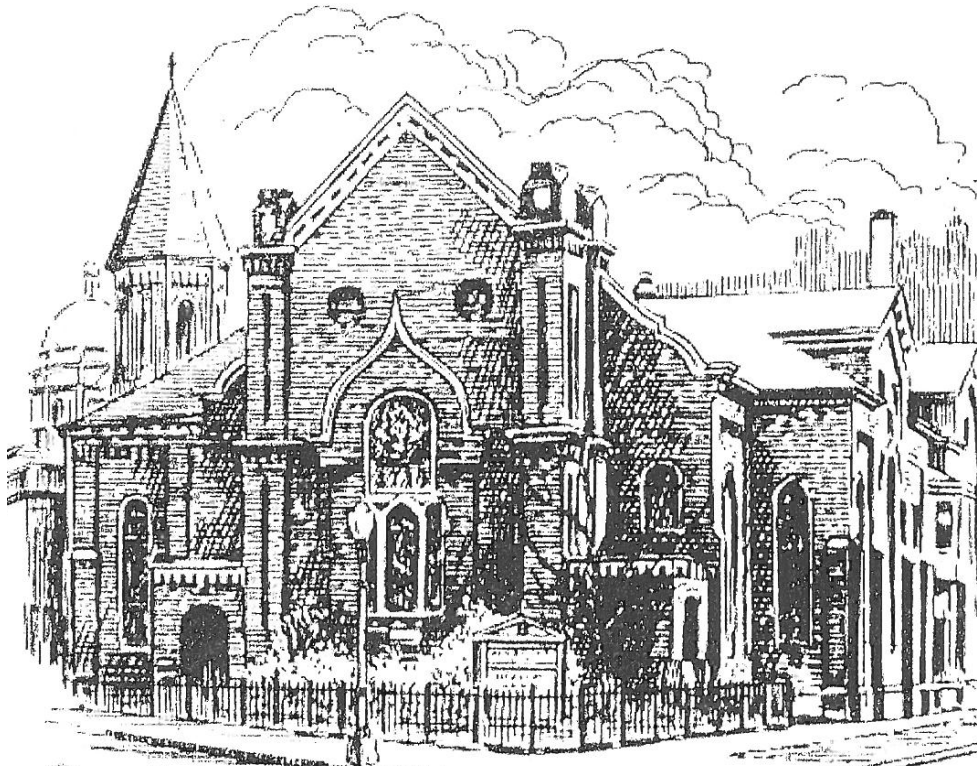


# **Plymouth Congregational Church**

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ  
downtown Syracuse, NY*



*Plymouth Congregational Church  
Syracuse, N.Y. ~*

Service of Word and Sacrament  
April 5, 2025  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
10:00 am

## ✠ 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

Prayer of Saint Gregory  
Kyle Jones, *trumpet*

Alan Hovhanness

#### WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Craig French

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (*Seekers Church, Washington, DC*)

Linda Kraemer

One: Christ is risen!

**ALL: Christ is risen, indeed!**

One: The Holy One calls us to fan the flame of faith,  
even when the night seems dark and long.

**ALL: The Spirit calls us to love and believe,  
even when we are afraid of what the future will bring.**

One: The risen Christ is here among us—  
risen, today and always.

**ALL: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

#### \*HYMN

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

No. 233

#### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Please share a sign of peace with those around you.*

*The traditional Easter greeting is "Christ is risen!" and the response is "He is risen indeed!"*

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Seekers Church, Washington, DC*)

One: We are called to tend the torch of faith in this troubled time.

**ALL: We confess that too often we step back,  
turning away from chaos, fearing for our safety.**

*\*Please rise if you are able.*



**ALL: Then nothing is impossible!**  
**Hope is never extinguished, and love is never conquered.**  
**We celebrate You today, Jesus.**  
**Open our minds to believe what we cannot explain.**  
**Open our hearts to hope for what we cannot see.**  
**Open our lives to live and to love in the midst of death and despair.**  
**Let resurrection happen again in us today.**

One: God, resurrection is not what we expect in our world.  
On the face of things, life seems to be under threat:  
our earth is grieving ... our families are fracturing ...  
our nations are at war ... and the light of our hope is growing dim.

**ALL: We need the stone to be rolled away again.**

One: Forgive us and all who have failed to honor and preserve life  
in all its diversity and glory.  
Forgive us and all who have allowed riches or recognition  
to be more important than relationships.  
Forgive us and all who continue to exalt our needs and desires  
over those of others ... and are prepared to kill to prove it.  
Forgive us and all who have grown blind  
to all the signs of resurrection that beckon us still.

**ALL: We need the stone to be rolled away again.**

**We need life to break out within us again.**

**We need love to consume us again.**

**Resurrect us today, O Lord, and make us agents of Your life  
wherever dying and grief hold sway.**

One: Christ is risen!

**ALL: He is risen indeed!**

One: Let's celebrate this irrepressible life;  
let's open our hearts to the joy and wonder of infinite possibility,  
of unquenched hope, of eternal resurrection.

**ALL: We celebrate, we raise our voices and our hearts  
in worship and thanksgiving to the God who lives.**

One: Resurrection happened because Christ was first prepared to die.  
Defying death, He refused to release His hold on life and love.

**ALL: So now, as He encouraged us, we choose to remember  
so that we too can truly live.**

One: At supper on the night before He died  
Jesus took bread and blessed it.  
Then He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying:

**ALL: This is my body, broken so that you may know life.**

One: After the meal Jesus took the cup and blessed it.  
Then He gave it to His disciples saying:

**ALL: This is my blood, shed so that you may know life.**

One: So, now, Lord of Life,  
we share in this meal, we celebrate together, and we remember You.  
We will continue to do this until resurrection  
has flooded the whole creation.

**ALL: May this bread and this cup become for us in this moment  
your life-giving body and blood;  
And may we who share this meal,  
be joined with you and with one another,  
one body united in resurrection life,  
and sharing with all of creation in your eternal salvation. Amen.**

#### CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Blow Golden Trumpet

Walter Wild

#### \*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

\*CLOSING HYMN

The Strife Is O'er

#242

#### \*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

Hallelujah Chorus from "Messiah"

G. F. Handel

*All are invited to come forward to join in the singing of this chorus.*

*Musical scores are available in the front pews.*

*Sopranos and Basses stand together on the Pulpit side.*

*Altos and Tenors stand together on the Organ side.*

## Something to Think About

(Early) Christian theology never spoke of the resurrection as merely a personal victory of Christ over death. Rather it spoke of the resurrection as a *cosmic victory*.

Brian Zahnd

### ☞ Plymouth Runs on YOU ☞

**GREETERS:** Leslie and George Lawrence and  
Members of the Jureller-Giroux family

**FLOWERS:** see pages 8 & 9

**LITURGIST:** Linda Kraemer

**USHERS:** Barbara Genton, Linda and Scott Kraemer

**DEACONS ON DUTY:** Andrea Abbott and Arne Hook

**COMMUNION COORDINATOR:** Kathy Ferro

**COMMUNION SERVERS:** Andrea Abbot, Arne Hook, and Kailyn Wright

**COMMUNITY TIME:** David Pasinski

**OFFERING COUNTERS:** Elaine Wolf and Keith Jakway

### ☞ Some Things You Ought to Know ☞

**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.

**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!

**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 one of the ushers for help. An elevator and ramp are available. **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY.**

**Welcoming Children in Worship: Children** of all ages have a place in worship and in the life of the church. Nursery care is offered at 10:00 am for infants. Sound is piped into Memorial Hall next door to the Sanctuary for those who would welcome a space apart.

There is ample **free street parking** on the blocks around our church on Sundays, as well as in the lots 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.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

Today		Worship, 10am, Sanctuary Community Time, 11:15am, Memorial Hall*
Mon	Apr 6	Syracuse Gay and Lesbian Choir, 6pm, Memorial Hall
Tue	Apr 7	Narcotics Anonymous (NA), 6:30pm, Memorial Hall
Wed	Apr 8	Food Pantry, 2pm, Basement
Thu	Apr 9	Leadership Greater Syracuse DEI Day, 8am-12:30pm, Basement Urban Job Task Force Advocacy, 5pm Bell Choir Practice, 5:30pm, Sanctuary Vocal Choir Rehearsal, 7pm, Memorial Hall
Fri	Apr 10	NA, 6:30pm, Memorial Hall
Sat	Apr 11	NA, 12noon, Memorial Hall
Sun	Apr 12	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.*



**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 Tousely and Dwight Kraemer.

Frank Leonard to all staff and volunteers.



## Flowers 2026

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 in 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."

### ✧ Joys and Concerns\* ✧

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

- The Mace family on the sudden passing of Robert Caleb, 24, son of Fria and Matthew and sister of Serafina.
- Geri H. will be undergoing a revision back surgery on April 8.
- Healing and health for Jasmine (friend of Amanda P.)
- Kathleen W. is celebrating the recent birth of two grandsons. Ford was born to Katya on February 1, and Zayden was born to Ana on March 8. Big brother and cousin, Austin is thrilled and grateful he is the oldest.
- James, currently in a hospital in Philadelphia, father of Meghan M. of Syracuse.
- Sandra and Rollin B. as they move into Alzheimer's care in RI as Sandra's illness progresses with all that entails.
- Our shut-in congregants; Myrtle B., Fung-Chan C., Joanne C., Pat H., Chris H., Marilou O., Mable W., and Doug W.
- Marva H., a Plymouth Food Pantry volunteer, is recovering at home.
- 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.*

## 🎵 Music Notes for April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 🎵

Alan Hovhaness (1911-2000) was an extremely prolific composer who was one of the very few to make his living as a composer by living a modest life in a two-bedroom apartment in Seattle. He wrote over seventy symphonies and published over 500 works, not including the more than one thousand works he destroyed during the 1930s and 1940s when he wanted to turn over a new leaf in his compositions.

During Lent, we experienced several chorale preludes on the Passion Chorale. Our **anthem** today is yet another which Bach originally used in his Christmas Oratorio. The trumpet plays a fanfare-like obligato while the choir comes in with the familiar chorale.

*What praises can we offer to thank thee, Lord most high?  
In our place thou didst suffer; in our place thou didst die.  
By heaven's plan appointed to ransom us, our King.  
O Jesus, the anointed, to thee our love we bring.*

One of the good things about a church that is approaching two hundred years old is that the music library is extensive – with the accumulated purchases of more than a century. Our **offertory anthem** was published in 1939 by H. W. Gray – a major publisher of church music. I can find no other information about the composer Walter Wild. (There is a Swiss composer by the same name, but he wrote mostly for accordion.)

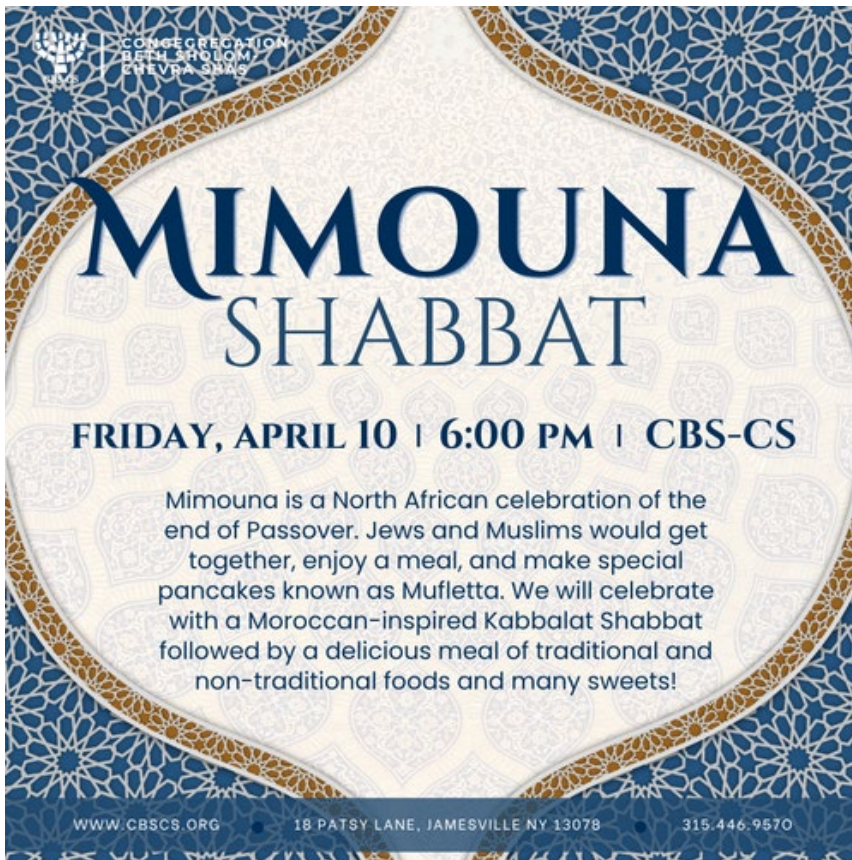
*Blow golden trumpet, blow sweet and clear.  
Blow soft upon the air, blow soft upon the perfumed air.  
Bid the sad earth to join our song: To Christ does victory belong.*

*Oh, let the winds your message bear  
To every heart of grief and care.  
Sound through the world the joyful lay: Our Christ hath conquered death today!*

*On cloudy wings let glad words fly  
Through the soft blue of echoing sky.  
Ring out, O trumpet, sweet and clear, through death immortal, life is here!*



**Mimouna Shabbat 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Friday, April 10, 2026 • 23 Nisan 5786**



For questions, please contact the office at [admin@cbscs.org](mailto:admin@cbscs.org) or 315-446-9570.

## ☞ 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 immigrants', natives', workers', LGBT, 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 people 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  
Emily Evans, Youth and Children's Ministries Coordinator  
Lori Forrester, Church Administrator

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