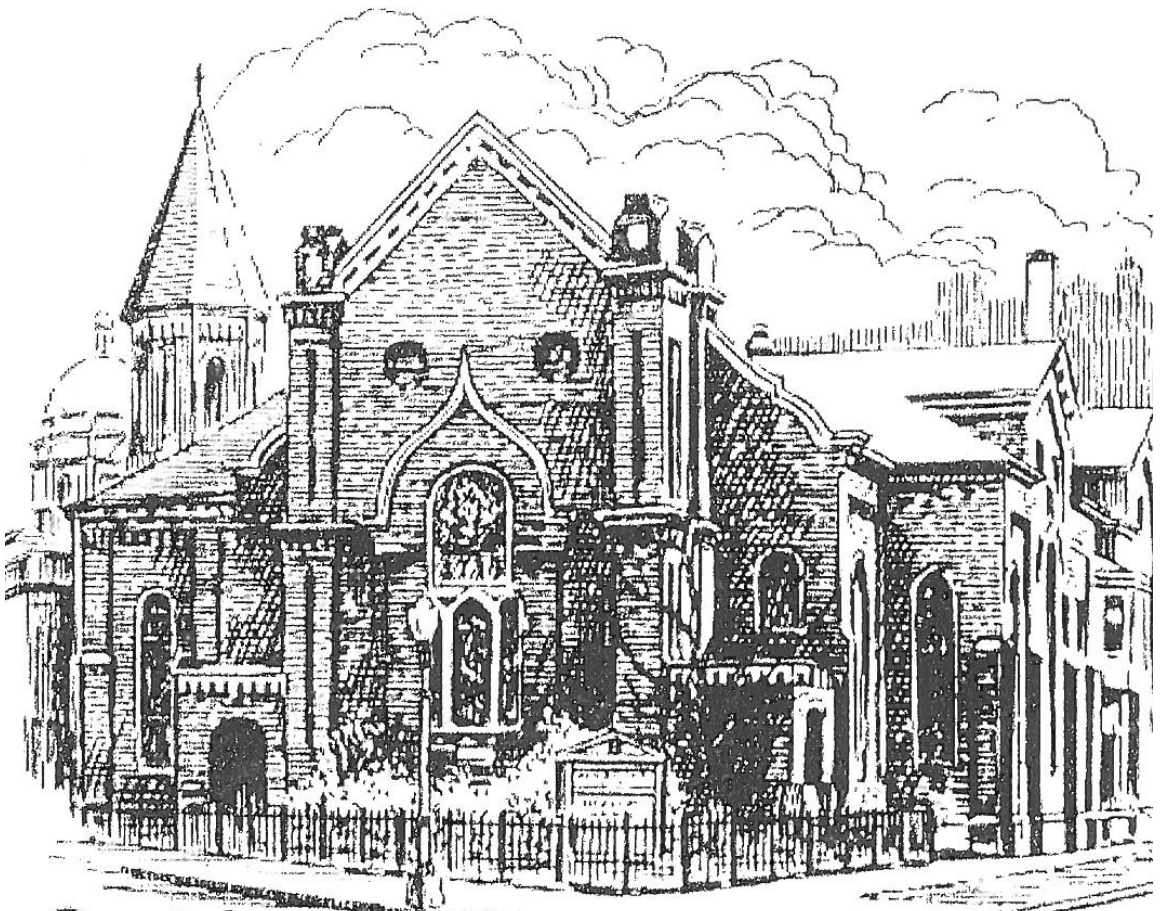


Plymouth Congregational Church
*a Congregation of the United Church of Christ
in downtown Syracuse, NY*



Plymouth Congregational Church
Syracuse, N.Y. — E. Nielsen

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

Happy Mother's Day!

☞ 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

Songs My Mother Taught Me
Klark Johnson, *soprano*

Antonin Dvorak

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Craig French

CALL TO WORSHIP (*by Steve Garnaas-Holmes, adapted*)

Kirsten Hubel

One: Holy God, heavenly Mother,
You have given us birth and watched over us in love. We praise you.

**ALL: Risen Christ, loving brother, you have shared with us the gift of life.
We thank you.**

One: Holy Spirit, confident sister, you have walked with us and believed in us.
We trust you.

**ALL: Eternal God, Holy Trinity, family of grace, we worship you.
We gather at the family table telling stories, sharing bread,
and giving each other our hearts,
so that our lives will be changed. Alleluia!**

*HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

#28

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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.*

How Can We Name a Love

111

1. How can we name a Love that wak-ens heart and mind,
 2. If we a - woke to life built on a rock of care
 3. When peo - ple share a task, and strength and skills u - nite
 4. So in a hun - dred names, each day we all can meet

in - dwell - ing all we know or think or do or seek or find?
 that asked no great re - ward but firm, as - sured, was sim - ply there,
 in pro - jects old or new, to make or do with shared de - light,
 a pres - ence, sensed and shown at work, at home, or in the street.

With - in our dai - ly world, in ev - ery hu - man face,
 we can, with par - ents' names, des - cribe, and thus a - dore,
 our Friend and Part - ner's will is bet - ter un - der - stood,
 Yet ev - ery name we see, shines in a bright - er sun:

Love's ech - oes sound and God is found, hid in the com - mon - place.
 Love un - con - fined, a fa - ther kind, a moth - er strong and sure.
 that all should share, cre - ate, and care, and know that life is good.
 In Christ a - lone is Love full grown and life and hope be - gun.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1973

MUSIC: Trad. English melody; adapt. by Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

TERRA BEATA

SMD

Words © 1975 Hope Publishing Co.

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 "debts" through August.

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. 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 and CALL TO GIVING

OFFERING

*For the months of May and June we will be collecting for SAGE and Gay Pride.
Feel free to use the rainbow envelopes.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled Robert Franz

*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 Go, My Children, with My Blessing #82

*BENEDICTION

CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE Organ Concerto 4: Andante Georg Frideric Handel

"Permission to reprint/podcast/stream the music in this service has been obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-713031. All rights reserved."



Something to Think About

People imagine heaven as a city with streets of gold, with lots of jewels and grandiosity.

But notice Jesus' images of whatever we might think of as heaven: they're not images of architectural grandeur, but images of domestic intimacy.

Whether you think of heaven as the ideal life or the afterlife,

it's not that you go off to some ivory palace somewhere,

but that Jesus comes and makes a home with you,

and brings along God and the Holy Spirit.

Heaven is not about "there," but about "we."

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

May 16, 9am-3:30pm: All Saints Parish & Syracuse Cultural Workers will host a **NONVIOLENCE ACTION TRAINING** for community members who want to deepen their understanding of nonviolent campaigns and prepare for thoughtful, disciplined participation within the context of immigration reform. The training will focus on the principles and practices of nonviolent action, personal readiness, and the shared responsibility that comes with collective efforts for justice. To register, complete the survey at this link: [Non-Violent Registration Training](#). A light lunch will be provided. Contact Dale Avers with questions or concerns: 315-415-8436 or daleavers@gmail.com.

✿ Plymouth Runs on YOU ✿

USHER: George Bain

FLOWERS: Esther and Tom Zorn

DEACONS ON DUTY: Arne Hook and Frank Leonard

LITURGIST: Kirsten Hubel

ONLINE WORSHIP COORDINATOR: Tom Zorn

COMMUNITY TIME: Ken Johnson

COUNTERS: Kathleen Deters-Hayes and Keith Jakway

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Today **Happy Mother's Day**
Worship, 10am, Sanctuary
Community Time, 11:15am, Memorial Hall*
- Mon May 11 Trustees, 6p, Parlor**
Syracuse Gay and Lesbian Choir (SGLC), 6pm, Memorial Hall

- Tue May 12 Narcotics Anonymous (NA), 6:30pm, Memorial Hall
Deacons, 7pm, Parlor and Zoom**
- Wed May 13 Food Pantry, 2pm, Basement
SGLC rehearsal for sectionals, 6pm, Memorial Hall
- Thu May 14 Bell Choir Practice, 5:30pm, Sanctuary
NA, 6:30p, Madison St Meeting Rm
Vocal Choir Rehearsal, 7pm, Memorial Hall
- Fri May 15 NA, 6:30pm, Memorial Hall
- Sat May 16 NA, 10am, Memorial Hall
NA, 12noon, Memorial Hall
- Sun May 17 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.*

What does SAGE do to promote community health and wellness for older LGBTQ people focusing on the following aspects: *see page 10 about their Pride 5K run*

- *Encourage physical activity through a fun and engaging event.*
- *Raise awareness for local health initiatives and resources.*
- *Foster community spirit and connection among participants.*
- *Support fundraising efforts for health-related charities or programs.*
- *Provide a family-friendly environment with activities for all ages.*
- *Celebrate personal achievements and milestones in fitness.*

☞ Joys and Concerns ☞*

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

- Marvis Hudson, a food pantry volunteer, is back in the hospital.
- Jeff C. for his sister-in-law's 3 yr old son dealing with brain cancer.
- Kathleen W. recuperating after successful hip surgery.
- Mable W. asking for your prayers. She and her family are going through some emotional and medical issues.
- Keith J would like us to pray for two friends of his. Shelly is scheduled for brain surgery. And Elizabeth who is dealing with lung cancer.
- Chris H. in rehab at Loretto.
- Our shut-in congregants; Fung-Chan C., Joanne C., Elizabeth H., Geri H., Pat H., Chris H., Marilou O., and Mable W.
- 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 Epitaph Wrote for Joy Davidman

Here the whole world (stars, water, air,
And field, and forest, as they were
Reflected in a single mind)
Like cast off clothes was left behind
In ashes, yet with hopes that she,
Re-born from holy poverty,
In lenten lands, hereafter may
Resume them on her Easter Day.

+ C.S. Lewis

Music Notes for Sunday, May 10th, 2026

Welcome to guest musicians Glen Armstrong and Steven Block! We appreciate their contributions while Joe Downing is on vacation.

In recognition of Mother's Day, Klark Johnson sings Antonin Dvorak's (1841-1904) solo. If you are a fan of Downtown Abbey, you may recall when the real-life soprano Dame Kiri Te Kanawa sang this when she played the role of Dame Nellie Melba.

*Songs my mother taught me, In the days long vanished;
Seldom from her eyelids Were the teardrops banished.
Now I teach my children, Each melodious measure.
Oft the tears are flowing, Oft they flow from my memory's treasure.*

Thomas Tallis (1505-1585) lived in England in a tumultuous time during the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I when the country was reeling back and forth between Catholicism and Anglicanism. The rules for music composition likewise changed: Music under Catholics was melismatic (i.e.: lots of notes on one syllable) and in Latin, while the Protestant rulers insisted on English texts with one note per syllable. Tallis and William Byrd were respected enough that Elizabeth gave only them the right to use Latin texts when they wanted.

*If ye love me, keep my commandments,
And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter,
That he may abide with you forever, e'en the spirit of truth.*

Robert Franz (1815-1892) was a highly respected German composer of over 250 songs. (When he lost his hearing in 1841, Franz Liszt gave him all his earnings from a concert tour.) He was also instrumental in finding many previously lost scores of the music of J. S. Bach. Our **offertory anthem** is a duet sung by the sopranos and altos of the choir.

*Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God. Believe in me.
My peace I give unto you.
In my Father's house are many mansions; I go to prepare a place for you,
And if I go, I will come again, and receive you unto myself.*

George Frideric Handel's (1685-1759) six organ concertos were written to be performed on a small instrument during the intermissions of his operas with a string orchestra accompaniment. With the considerably larger Plymouth instrument, our **postlude** features both the solo organ and accompaniment parts.



June 6, 2026
Long Branch Park
Liverpool, NY

Register at
sageupstate.org/pride-5k

Through June 5: \$35

** Register by May 18 to guarantee shirt**

Event Day: \$40

Virtual \$45 (includes mailing shirt)

Kids 12 and under: \$15

(A processing fee will be applied)

For more info: sageupstate.org/pride-5k

or 315-478-1923

Proceeds benefit programs for older LGBTQ people

Syracuse Vocal Ensemble

presents



Choral works by Central New York composers



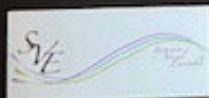
**SOCIETY
FOR
NEW MUSIC**

A Collaboration with Society for New Music

Saturday May 16 at 7:30pm
Erwin First United Methodist Church
920 Euclid Ave, Syracuse

Sunday May 17 at 3:00pm
First Presbyterian Church
27 Albany Street, Cazenovia

Tickets - available at the door or at societyfornewmusic.org
\$15, free for under 18, \$5 for students with college I.D.



www.syracusevocalensemble.org



This project is made possible with funds from the Tier Three Project Support program, a grant program of the County of Onondaga with the support of the County Executive and administered by CNY Arts.

☞ 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
232 E Onondaga Street ☞ Syracuse, New York 13202
(315) 474-4836
plymouthsyr.org ☞ office@plymouthsyr.org