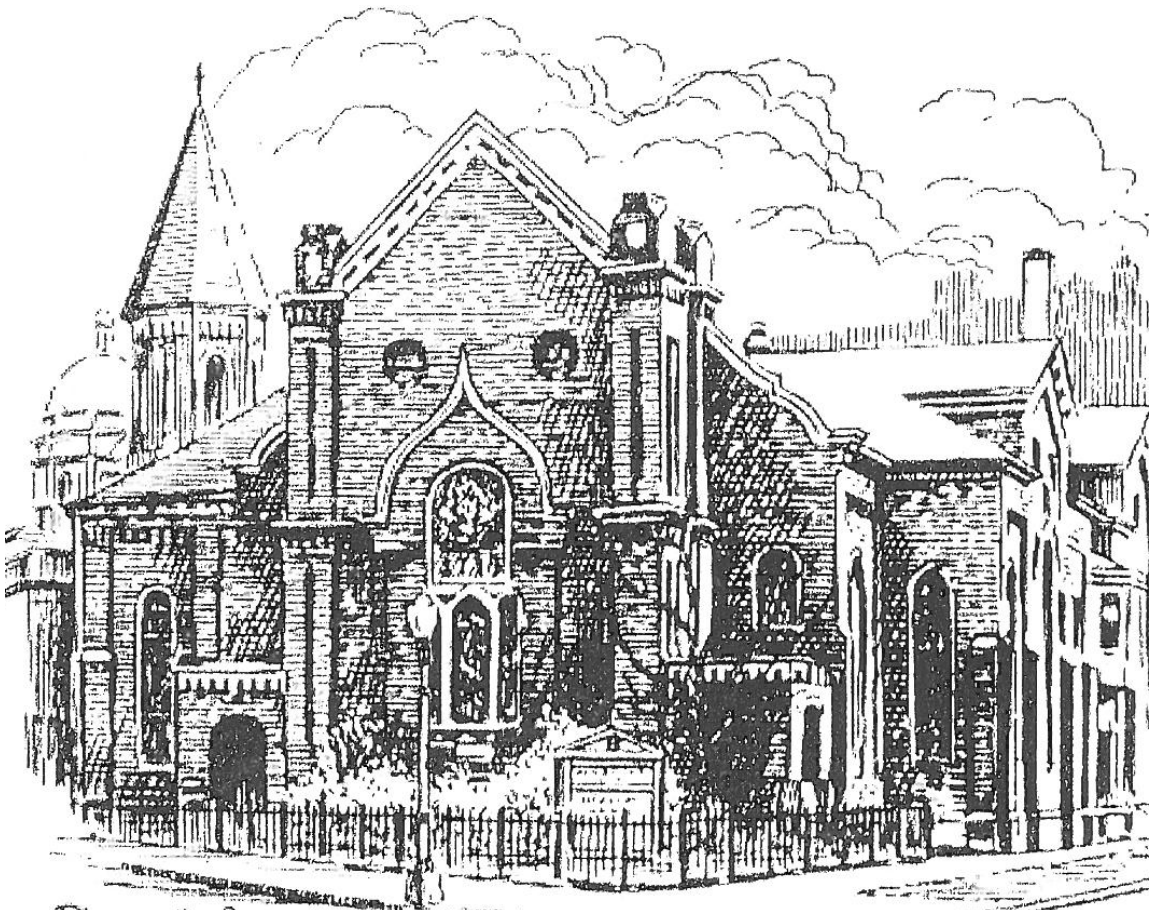


Plymouth Congregational Church
*a Congregation of the United Church of Christ
in downtown Syracuse, NY*



Plymouth Congregational Church
Syracuse, N.Y. ~

Service of the Word
May 17, 2026
10:00 am – Worship

Heifer Festival is today!

☞ 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

The Swan
(from Carnival of Animals)

C. Saint Saens

WORDS OF WELCOME

Mary Giegengack-Jureller

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalms 24 and 47)*

Michael Chellis

One: All you peoples, clap your hands; shout to God with songs of joy!

ALL: For God, the Most High, the Awesome, reigns over all the nations.

One: Lift up your heads, O gates eternal,

ALL: that the king of glory may come in.

One: Who is this king of glory, how shall we call him. . . ?

ALL: He is Emmanuel, the promised of Ages.

One: Let trumpet sound, let earth resound,
for Christ has triumphed over death

ALL: May all the earth sing praise to God, alleluia, alleluia.

*HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign

#300

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

M. Chellis

One: Peace be with you.

ALL: And, also with you.

Share a sign of peace with those around you.

A PRAYER

M. Chellis

ALL: Ever-living God, your eternal Christ once dwelt on earth, confined by time and space. After his death, You raised him up victorious and sent him back to reassure us of his everlasting presence. Then, when he had fulfilled the

**Please stand if you are able.*

time of his resurrection appearances, he was lifted out of human sight to reign with You in everlasting glory. May your Word be made flesh again in Scripture, in our worship today, and in all our living. Amen.

A TIME OF SILENCE ...

Our preacher today was to be Mary Jureller, unfortunately she is in the hospital due to an auto accident Friday evening. Pastor Craig is away at a family memorial in New Hampshire and has asked that we offer today's Message with hymns and scriptures relating to today's texts. We will follow the original printed order until the anthem on pg. 3; after the anthem, use this page until the offering on pg. 4, as directed by Mike Chellis.

Anthem - Lord, When Thou Didst Ascend on High by William Billings

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

Scriptures and Hymns - Message

Scripture Reading - Psalm 47 --Hymnal, page 653 (back of the hymnal)

Psalm will be chanted by Mike Chellis; the congregation sings the refrain at each "R"

***Hymn 257 Alleluia! Gracious Jesus! St. 1& 2**

HYFRYDOL

Scripture Reading - Luke 24:44-53 *Christ present in all times and places*

Hymn 306 "The Church of Christ in Every Age"(remain seated) WAREHAM

Scripture Reading - Matthew 28:16-20 "The Great Commission"

Hymn - "Come to the Kingdom" (remain seated) by Mary Jureller

See bulletin pg 3 for refrain: All sing the Refrain, verses solos

Prayers of the People

Each sentence prayer for others will be followed by “We pray to the Lord,” the response is: **Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done.**

Closing prayer – Let us pray together:

O God, You love us, and so we live. You will always love us, and so may we live forever with you and our Risen Savior in union with the Holy Spirit in your eternal Kingdom. Amen

The Lord’s Prayer

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.

*HYMN

Come to the Kingdom

*The congregation will start by singing the refrain,
the verses will be sung by a choir member. (pgs. 7 & 8)
The hymn ends with the congregation singing the refrain.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

M. Chellis

Michael:

ALL: Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth.

An invitation for other prayers ...

ALL: Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth.

ALL: O God, You love us, and so we live.

You will always love us, and so may we live forever

---with you and our Risen Savior in union with the Holy Spirit in your eternal Kingdom. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

M. Chellis

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 GIVING

M. Chellis

OFFERING

M. Chellis

*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

Glory to God on High

Felice de Giardini
arr. J. Downing

*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

M. Chellis

*HYMN

Bring Forth the Kingdom

next page

Bring Forth The Kingdom

Gather 468

Marty Haugen

D D G D/f A D

You are saH for the earlh, 0 peo-pl: Sa.lt [or Ille Killg-domof Goo!
 Y(gu ilre a light ON tne hill, 0 pen-pie: Light for the Cil - y of Goo!
 You an; 115- of lthe Word. 0 pco-plc; Bring, fonh lhc King-dom of God!
 We are able!:I and a pil - grim peo-ple: Bound for lhc King-domaf Goot

G 0/f A D G 0/F# A D

Share thuf fut-wo,t of, life. 0 . pie: Li(e in die Kine,-do:rn of God!
 Shine so ho - ly and brigll, 0 - le: Shine: for lh: King-dom of God!
 See.d of mer-cy and seeds of JUS - ltee, Grow in (he Killg-do.m of God!
 L:::,e our joor-ney lmd loYe oor home-land: Love i the King-lfom of God!

9 G D/F# A D G D/F# A D

Bring forthi lhc King-dom of mer • cy, Bring forth lhc King-dam c}f peace;

13 G A D G D/F#

the lGni-dom of rus • ticc, l:3:ng

16 A D G D A D

Cit - y of Gool

*BENEDICTION

M. Jureller

CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

All creatures of our God and King

arr. Paul Manz

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We welcome Alice Hatt back today to direct the choir and play the organ while Joe Downing is on vacation.

And thank you Mary Giegengack-Jureller and Michael Chellis for leading us in the service today.

☞ **Plymouth Runs on YOU** ☞

USHER: Gert Danzy

FLOWERS: The flowers today are given in loving memory of Mack Richardson, marking one year since his passing by Christine and Andrew Richardson.

DEACONS ON DUTY: Kathy Ferro and Cindy Perrine

LITURGIST: Michael Chellis

ONLINE WORSHIP COORDINATOR: Tom Zorn

COMMUNITY TIME: Havilah and Josh Carroll

COUNTERS:

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Today Worship, 10am, Sanctuary
 Heifer Festival, 11:15am, Sanctuary*
- Mon May 18 Good Neighbors, 5pm, Parlor
 Pastoral Search Committee, 6:30pm, Parlor
- Tue May 19 Church Council, 5:30pm, Parlor**
 Narcotics Anonymous (NA), 6:30pm, Memorial Hall
- Wed May 20 Food Pantry, 2pm, Basement
- Thu May 21 Bell Choir Practice, 5:30pm, Sanctuary
 NA, 6:30p, Madison St Meeting Rm
 Vocal Choir Rehearsal, 7pm, Memorial Hall
- Fri May 22 NA, 6:30pm, Memorial Hall
- Sat May 23 NA, 10am, Memorial Hall
 NA, 12noon, Memorial Hall
- Sun May 24 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.*

Music for Sunday, May 17, 2026

Lord, When Thou Didst Ascend on High

Lord, when Thou didst ascend on high,
ten thousand angels filled the sky. (repeat)
Those heavenly guards around Thee wait
like chariots that attend Thy state.

Verses for Come to the Kingdom

Refrain - Congregation

1. The sick come for healing, the lepers are cleansed; the crippled rise up and walk.
The eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf are opened at Christ's command.
The outcasts are welcomed back into the fold; the hungry come home to be fed;
a few simple loaves are placed in Christ's hands, and thousands receive the bread.

Refrain - Congregation

2. Jesus sets out for the home of a child who dies while he travels her way.
Taking her hand, he invites her to rise, his life-giving love displayed.
The wind and the sea are calmed by his words, the demons call out his name.
A voice from the heavens says, "This is my Son!" and hearers are awed by the claim.

Refrain - Congregation

3. We who would follow must walk in his WAY, his mission is ours to complete,
carrying news of God's merciful love to those on the journey we meet.
The humble yet glorious King of all hearts will reign over us without cease,
and nurtured by love that provides all we need; we will build up the kingdom of
peace.

Refrain – Congregation

Glory to God on High

Glory to God on high! Let heaven and earth reply;
Praise ye his name! His love and grace adore,
who all our sorrows bore, sing aloud evermore, worthy the Lamb

Jesus, our Lord and God bore sins tremendous load.
Praise ye his name! Tell what his arm has done,
what spoils from death he won; sing his great name alone, worthy the Lamb.

Let all the hosts above join in one song of love.
Praising his name! To him ascribed be
Honour and majesty through all eternity: worthy the Lamb.

*✿ 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.*

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.**

Our Food Pantry has a new freezer! And we are still asking for laundry cleaning donations.

What are the 50 days of Easter (Eastertide)

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

KEY ASPECTS OF EASTERTIDE

Beginning and End: It begins with the Easter Vigil (Saturday night/Sunday morning) and ends on Pentecost, the 50th day of Pentecost.

Order 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. Readings are usually taken from the various resurrection appearances of Jesus in the Gospels.

Ascension: There are indications that the Ascension of Jesus has been celebrated since at least the 4th century. It falls on the 40th day after Easter, a Thursday, but many churches celebrate it the following Sunday, as we do here today. **Ascension** refers to the inclusive ten-day period between Ascension Thursday and the Feast of Pentecost. The scripture recounts that Jesus departed to Jerusalem and spent the next nine days praying for the coming of the promised Holy Spirit, as Jews had instructed them.

Ascension: was celebrated by the Jews 50 days after Passover and commemorated the Giving of the Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai, Jesus would have celebrated Pentecost with his disciples, going up to Jerusalem for the feast. For Christians, this day became a celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit and eventually came to mark the birth of the Church. Like Easter, the traditional liturgy carries out the Feast of Pentecost for a full Octave – eight days of rejoicing and recommitment to Christ's charge to make disciples of all nations. Readings are often taken from the Acts of the Apostles.

Significance: These days of Eastertide are the culmination of the liturgical year; they serve as a contrast to the 40 days of fasting in Lent, and represent "reformation, renewal, and hope." Many churches bring the season to a close with the Feast of the Blessed Trinity on the Sunday after Pentecost.

"In the imitation of the disciples, the prayer of the Holy Spirit is a tradition that grew from the resurrection to keep a nine-day period - called a novena - in preparation for special occasions, or for the most direst needs. The words of the Lord like the prayer of the Holy Spirit, calling the Holy Spirit to breathe again into our troubled world, some suggested prayers are available in the back of the church, to be read daily from Friday, May 5 to Saturday, May 16."

What does SAGE do to promote community health and wellness for older LGBTQ people focusing on the following aspects:

- *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.*



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

☞ 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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