



**PLYMOUTH
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH**

October 30, 2011

Why I Pledge—Greg Zoidis

For me, pledging is a statement of gratitude. Now that I'm a "recovering empty nester," I'm not only interested in what Plymouth has to offer on Sunday mornings: the thought-provoking sermons and pastoral prayers, the transformative music and quality youth programs. I'm equally interested in the many opportunities Plymouth offers to develop relationships with others who are also on their faith journeys. As my faith evolves, Plymouth and the people I meet from Plymouth challenge, encourage and educate me. For that, I am grateful.

During Today's Worship

PLEASE TURN OFF all cell phones and other electronic devices when in the Sanctuary.

LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS AND HEARING DEVICES are available from the ushers. Ushers remain in the narthex throughout the service to assist you with any needs.

PARENTS/NURSING MOTHERS: The Parsons Room (next to the Library) is available as a respite space for babies and children. You can hear the service from there.

CHILDCARE FOR INFANTS is provided in the Nursery (Room 209) in the education wing. See an usher for directions.

PLEASE WEAR A NAME BADGE, found in the Friendship Pads at the end of the pews, so that others might greet you before and after worship.

If You Are New to Plymouth Church

PARKING IS AVAILABLE in several lots adjacent to Plymouth Church. On Sunday mornings in our main lot, as well as the Groveland and Loring-Nicollet lots, parking is permitted in all spaces. If you need a handicap parking space but do not have an official sticker, please come by the Church Office to get a special "Plymouth Church Handicap Parking" card for use in our parking lot.

INFORMATIONAL CLASSES FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS: Contact Emily Venell at 612/977-1281 or emilyv@plymouth.org if you are interested in or have questions about membership at Plymouth Church, or if you are interested in attending a future interactive seminar. Plymouth is eager to welcome those who wish to share their faith on our congregation's journey. We look forward to seeing you at Plymouth again.

PLYMOUTH CHURCH WARMLY WELCOMES ALL PEOPLE.

We welcome into full membership and participation in all aspects of our church life persons of every race, language, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, physical or mental ability, economic or marital status, and faith background, and we affirm and celebrate all loving and committed relationships.

All are welcome.

A pivotal moment in 19th-century hymnody was the publication of Hymns Ancient and Modern in 1861, which brought many new hymns into use—hymns still sung today, 150 years later. During the month of October, we will sing some of these hymns—this morning in the words and music of the middle hymn.

PRELUDE PRELUDE IN E-FLAT MAJOR (“St. Anne”) *Johann Sebastian Bach*
Sonja Thompson, *assistant organist-director* (BWV 552,1)

I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD *18th-century German hymntune*
Plymouth Handbell Choir *arr. Carol Lynn Mizell*
Cammy Carteng, *director*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD “*Ein’feste Burg*”
(see next page)

CALL TO WORSHIP Tara Bauer

Minister: The trees are bare of their autumn colors,

***Congregation:* Like our souls, open and naked before God.**

Minister: The corn stands golden in the field, ready for reaping.

***Congregation:* O God, harvest in us gratitude, justice and patience.**

INTROIT FOR REFORMATION DAY *Maurice Duruflé*

Thou art the rock, and on this rock I will build my church.

—*Matthew 16:18*

UNISON PRAYER

God, the seasons measure the years of our lives, and we seek your purpose. Whether in sowing or reaping, produce in us love and mercy. Pull out the roots of injustice and inequality in our society. As the earth cycles through its seasons of rest and growth, silence the sound of rifles and quiet angry, hateful voices. Prepare in us your Spirit and patience, nurture us in compassion and deepen our sense of humanity. O God, grow your image in us, and reap from us a season of peace, justice and jubilee.

THE LORD’S PRAYER (“...and forgive us our debts...”)

Pilgrim Hymnal, p. 513, prayer 57

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

Based on Psalm 46
Martin Luther, 1529
Tr. Frederick Henry Hedge, 1852, alt.

EIN' FESTE BURG 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7.
Melody by Martin Luther, 1529

1 A might-y for-tress is our God, A bul-wark nev-er fail-ing;
2 Did we in our own strength con-fide, Our striv-ing would be los-ing,
3 God's Word a-bove all earth-ly pow'rs, For-ev-er is a-bid-ing;

Our pre-sent help a-mid the flood Of mor-tal ills pre-vail-ing.
But there is one who takes our side - The One of God's own choos-ing.
The Spir-it and the gifts are ours, For Christ is with us sid-ing.

For still our an-cient foe Con-spires to work us woe With craft and pow-er
Ask ye, who is the same? Christ Je-sus is his name! With might-y pow'r to
Let goods and kin-dred go, This mor-tal life al-so; The bod-y they may

great, And armed with cru-el hate, On earth is not an e-qual.
save, Vic-tor-ious o'er the grave, Christ will pre-vail tri-um-phant.
kill; God's truth shall tri-umph still; God's reign en-dures for-ev-er. A-men.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM

GOD IS OUR REFUGE

Jonathan Harvey

(An elaboration on this morning's processional hymn, (1986)
using the words of Psalm 46—page 523 in the *Pilgrim Hymnal*)

SCRIPTURE READING

1 SAMUEL 3:1-9

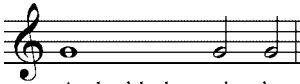
HYMN #209

ABIDE WITH ME

"Eventide"

VERSICLES #533

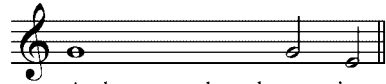
Leader: The Lord be with you,
Congregation:



And with thy spir - it.

Leader: Let us pray.
O Lord, show thy mercy upon us,

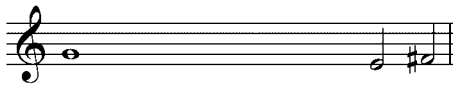
Congregation:



And grant us thy sal - va - tion.

Leader: O God, make clean our hearts within us,

Congregation:



And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Catherine Crooks

INVITATION TO GIVE

Greg Zoidis

OFFERTORY

JOY AND TRIUMPH
for double choir and organ

Patrick Gowers
(1988)

Joy and triumph everlasting hath the heavenly Church on high;
There is every voice rejoicing, every heart without a sigh.
There the Saints, whose memories old we in faithful hymns uphold,
Have forgot their bitter story in the joy of Jesus' glory.

There the seers and sages holy, there the prophets glorified,
All their doubts and darkness ended, in the Light of Light abide.
There the Saints, whose memories old we in faithful hymns uphold,
Have forgot their bitter story in the joy of Jesus' glory.

—Words from "*Supernae Matris Gaudia*," by Adam of St. Victor;
translation by Robert Bridges

GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY

Harry Emerson Fosdick
For the opening of Riverside Church
New York City, 1930

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.
John Hughes, 1873-1932

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On thy peo - ple
2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn thy Christ, as -
3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to
4 Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; Gird our lives that
5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils

pour thy power; Crown thine an - cient church's sto - ry; Bring its bud to
sail thy ways! From the fears that long have bound us, Free our hearts to
thy con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, Rich in things and
they may be Guard - ed with all Christ - like gra - ces Strong in love to
we de - plore; Let the search for thy sal - va - tion Be our glo - ry

glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,
faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,
poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,
set souls free. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,
ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,

For the fac - ing of this hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
For the liv - ing of these days, For the liv - ing of these days.
Lest we miss thy bless - ed goal, Lest we miss thy bless - ed goal.
That we fail not life nor thee, That we fail not life nor thee.
Serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, Serv - ing thee whom we a - dore. A - men.

CHURCH REGISTER *as of October 26, 2011*

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Kate Velie Gibbs (10/13/2011)

Mother of Pamela Gibbs Bacon

A memorial service for Kate was held on October 29.

Mary Hultman (10/3/2011)

Sister(-in-law) of Hans and Ilona Melgaard

Aunt(-in-law) of Becky and Evan Newton

Great-aunt of Sean and Lianna Newton

Cousin(-in-law) of Jane and Art Pejsa

A memorial service for Mary was held on October 28.

OTHER MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO ARE RECENTLY BEREAVED:

Janice Allen and Ken Brinkman, *death of Janice's sister, Holly Stevens*

Erin Wheat, *death of aunt*

Mandy and Amos Sookraj, *death of step-aunt(-in-law)*

RECENTLY MARRIED:

Brent Bartholomew and Becca Reinhart (10/21/2011)

RECENT BIRTHS:

Harriet McNurlen Ayres (10/9/2011), *daughter of Julia Welle Ayres and Matthew Ayres*

CONVALESCING:

Karen Campbell, *Walker Methodist Health Center*

IN HOSPICE CARE:

Wyland Tarrant, *father of Barbara Tarrant*

CARINGBRIDGE WEBSITES help people stay connected in times of illness:

Jud Reaney, www.caringbridge.org/visit/judreaney

HOME AND HOSPITAL VISITS: All Plymouth's ministers call upon members of the church in their homes, in hospitals or care and rehabilitation centers. If you know of someone who'd like a visit from a minister, please contact Catherine Crooks, Minister for Member Care (cathiec@plymouth.org or 612/977-1286).

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in loving memory of Woody Brindle by his wife, Dorothy Brindle.

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by Mark Larson in honor of Susan Larson's birthday.

NEXT SUNDAY: Jeffrey Sartain will lead the 9:50 AM First Service, and James Gertmenian will preach at the 10:30 AM Sanctuary service.

***For information on this week's events at Plymouth Church,
please visit our website at www.plymouth.org.***

It's our home—Progressive faith healing the world 2012 Giving Campaign

Plymouth Congregational Church

- presents a vision of **faith based on tolerance, openness and understanding**, in a world bristling with enmities, many based on religious intolerance
- provides a **“family” that is close to home**, in a world where extended families are often far-flung
- offers a place for **respite, inspiration, mutual support and care**, in a world where there's too much to do and meaningful relationships are few
- nurtures our young people with **thoughtful and progressive religious education**, in a world where children are bombarded with conflicting values and dangerous choices
- takes **action to support those in need**, in a world where poverty is growing and social ills are compounding
- employs the **arts to enrich the spiritual quest**, in a world where mindless sensations abound

Our work—in our congregation and the wider world—is **a calling from God** that challenges us to deepen our commitment.

Growing our church is **essential to Plymouth's future**. As a spiritual practice and a personal responsibility, **every member and friend of Plymouth is invited to make a financial pledge** for the coming year.

Please pledge now, placing the form opposite in the offering plate today. Or pledge online at www.plymouth.org (point to “Giving”).

My/our total 2012 pledge for giving to Plymouth Congregational Church is:

\$ _____

To fulfill this total pledge, I/we will make payments (check one)

weekly quarterly

monthly in one payment

If you currently give online and are changing your pledge, or you wish to set up online giving, please visit plymouth.org/giving/pledging.php

For questions, please contact Joy Hansen (612-977-1265; joyh@plymouth.org).

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS(ES)

SIGNATURE

DATE

PLYMOUTH STAFF

James Gertmenian, *Senior Minister*

Vivian Jones, *Minister Emeritus*

Jeffrey Sartain, *Executive Minister*

Larry Johnson, *Drop-in Coordinator*

Catherine Crooks, *Minister for Member Care*

Paula Northwood, *Minister for Education*

Shannon Kearns, *Interim Community Ministries Coordinator;*

Youth Activities Coordinator

Katie Dailey, *Junior High Leader*

Corbin Dillon, *Junior High Assistant*

Tara Bauer, *Pastoral Resident*

Jo Holcomb, *Director of Children's Programs, Librarian*

Karen Millar, *Children's Program Assistant*

Carole Humphrey, *Director; Children's Dance*

Kristen Froebel, *Director; Young Voices*

Catherine Neuner & Maya Sutton, *Childcare Providers*

Philip Brunelle, *Organist and Choirmaster*

Sonja Thompson, *Assistant Music Director*

James Bohn, Dan Dressen, Lisa Drew, Jennifer French & Maria Jette, *Soloists*

Mary Laymon, *Director; Children's and Youth Choirs*

Cammy Carteng, *Director; Handbell Choirs*

Claire Colliander, *Music Librarian*

Allison Campbell Jensen, *Director of Communication*

Cody Bourdot, *Audiovisual Technician*

Karen Hartz, *Director of Operations*

Josephine Amudala, *Ministry Assistant for Administration*

Doug Freeman, *Ministry Assistant for Programs*

Emily Venell, *Ministry Assistant for Hospitality*

Lydia Brock, Robert Brock & Timm Douma, *Evening/Weekend Receptionists*

Joy Hansen, *Accounting Manager*

Malcolm Williams, *Public Safety Manager*

John Bradford, *Maintenance Manager*

Bob Haas, *Housekeeping Manager*

Kathryn Bahl, Randall Heimer & Larry Rostad, *Custodians*

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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