

Members of Plymouth Church,

I am honored and humbled by your trust. It is a privilege and joy of my life to accept your call to become the next senior minister of Plymouth Church; to minister to you, and to minister with you to one another and to the wide community of our neighbors.

Our lives are coming together at a challenging time. I can see that Plymouth Church has the gifts to meet this time with faithfulness to the love of God that we know in Christ, so that this may be a time of spiritual growth, engagement, and strengthening the ties that bind.

I am thankful for the ministry of Rev. Matt Bauhof, Jim Riggs, and Leslie Szalay, and I look forward to joining with them and with all of the dedicated members of the church staff. And I also give thanks for the ministry of my predecessors, including Shawnthea Monroe, Jim Antal, and, most recently, Deb Lindsay.

I am grateful for all of the members of Plymouth Church, particularly Gloria Sturghill and the members of the Pulpit Committee, who represented the church so well, and Brian Grube and members of Council.

And I am also thankful for the love and support of my family, many of whom joined me at the virtual congregational meeting.

I have been holding Plymouth Church in prayer during these past months of discernment with the Pulpit Committee, and I will continue to pray for all of you in the time between now and August, when my ministry at Plymouth will begin. Until then, I will work to faithfully bring closure to my ministry at Wellesley Hills Congregational Church, and Betsy and I will be prepared for our move this summer. I ask for your prayers for us as we say goodbye here and look forward to the new chapter of our lives.

Here is my prayer for Plymouth, in the words that I offered on that Sunday:

O Gracious God, giver of life, and power of resurrection, we give thanks for all of the gifts that have brought this community to this day. By the faith that you have planted within us, may your Spirit bring forth the gifts that we have to offer, our loaves and fishes, so that you may bless our gifts and make of them a blessing to others, in the name of the Risen Christ. Amen.

Peace,
Matt