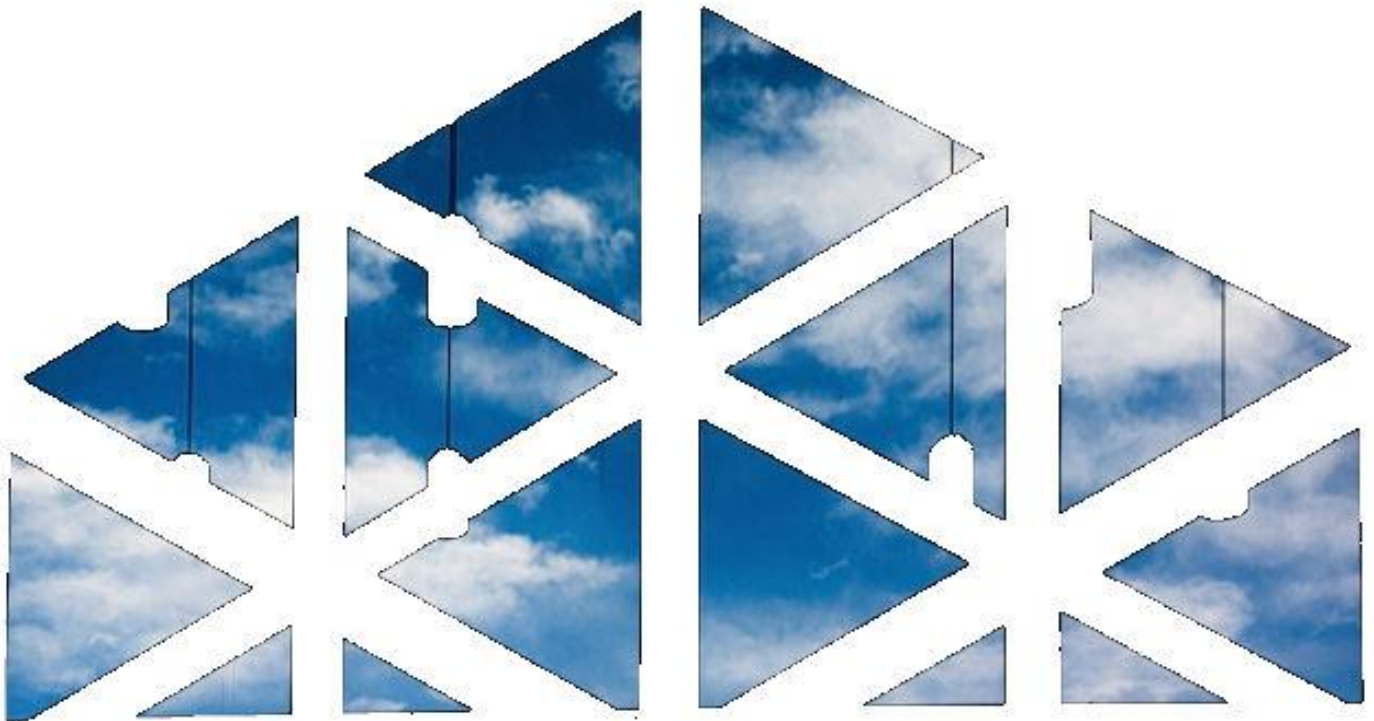


**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ**  
**The Baptism of Christ**

**January 14, 2018**

**9:30 a.m.**

A Just Peace Church  
An Open and Affirming Congregation  
A God is Still Speaking Congregation



Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

## **Welcome to Worship!**

We are grateful for your presence this morning. If you are new to Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, the following information may be helpful.

- We are an Open & Affirming congregation where all people are valued and accepted regardless of sexual identity or orientation.
- We are a Just Peace church that affirms that peace is possible in human history and prays ceaselessly that peace may prevail on Earth.
- We celebrate our Christian heritage and seek to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.

### **A Special Word to our Visitors**

- Please fill out the fellowship pads the ushers will hand out at the beginning of the service. We would love to get to know you better and keep you up-to-date on all the programs, events and activities offered throughout the year.
- Families with infants and children are especially welcome to our service. Childcare is available during the worship service in the nursery. Please speak with an usher if you need assistance to find our nursery.
- Children's bulletins, activity bags (to be returned after worship) and toys are available in the Narthex. To find out more about our Sunday school program, we may talk to our Faith Formation Director Cindy Bjerklie or visit our website.
- Our service can be heard in the parlor, library and nursery.
- Our sanctuary is equipped with the Telecoil Loop System for the hard of hearing. For assistance on how to connect to the Telecoil, please speak to one of our ushers.
- Our building is fully accessible to all people. A small parking lot on the south side of the church is available only to persons with limited mobility or physical disability. The entrance to the parking lot is located immediately behind the Post Office, off Highland Street. An elevator connects all three levels.
- Join us for Coffee Hour in the fellowship hall immediately after the service.

Help us to protect the environment by dropping your bulletin in one of the recycling baskets at the two main entrances to the sanctuary. You may also download your bulletin from our website and follow the service on your own mobile device.

Large print bulletins are also available.

Transcripts of our Sunday Sermons and videos of the worship services are available on our website, [www.uccplymouth.org](http://www.uccplymouth.org).

Our worship service is live-streamed on our Facebook page every Sunday.

# GATHERING

## Prelude

Prelude on Gott Vater Sei Geprieson

Dennis R. Johnson

*The beginning of the prelude is an invitation to silent,  
personal preparation for the worship of God.*

## Welcome and Life of the Church

**Centering Song** Woke Up this Morning with my Mind Stayed on Jesus Traditional

### \*Call to Worship

*\*Indicates congregation standing*

One: May God's joy be in our hearts as we gather together.

**All: In the sharing of holy stories and in the singing of sacred songs,  
may our faith be nourished and our lives changed.**

One: In gratitude for this moment, this place, this gathering, and those around us, let us come together and praise God with heart, mind and soul.

**All: Here and now, we gather together to worship God, our Maker,  
Befriender and Inspirer. Alleluia!**

### \*Hymn

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Blk#42

## Prayer of the Day

One: May the Spirit of God circle us with love as we pray together, saying:

**All: God of grace, you spoke words of love to Jesus at his baptism and  
empowered him to carry out his calling. Be present with us this  
day and descend upon us as we gather together, that we may also  
be empowered to do your will, love our neighbors and keep the  
Church faithful to her mission. Amen.**

## Silence for Personal Reflection

### God's Promise of New Life

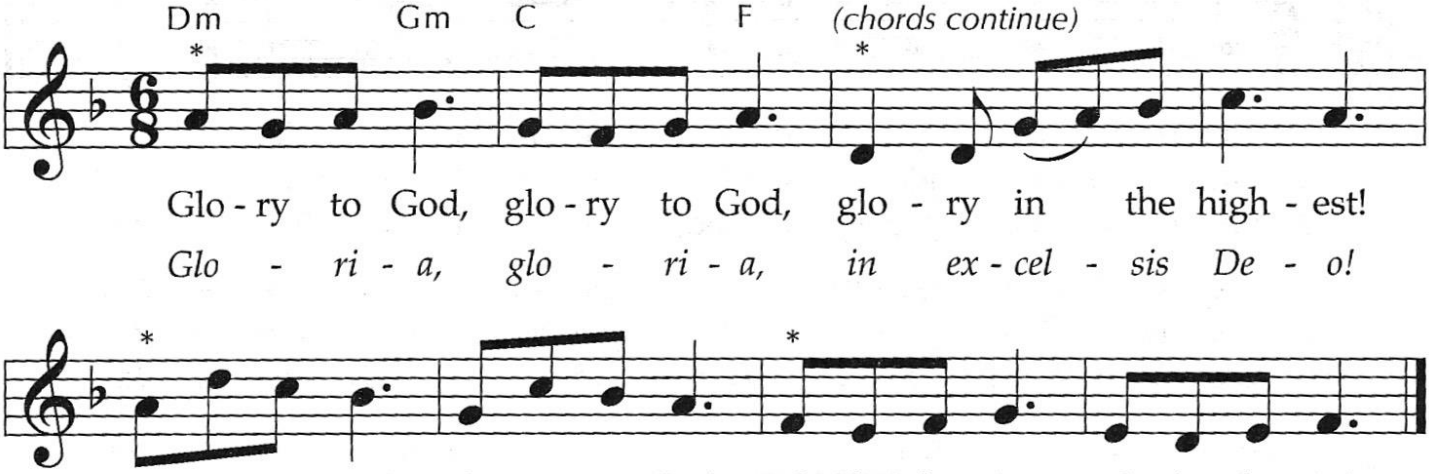
One: Brothers and sisters, in Christ, God calls us and gives us enough grace to claim our baptismal vows and to walk in newness of life.

**All: Let us remember our baptism and commit ourselves to living as  
faithful Christians in Plymouth and in the world.**

## Prayer Response

## "Glory to God"

Dm Gm C F (chords continue)



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!  
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

### \*Sign of Peace

One: May the peace of Christ inspire us to give worth to every human life, to work for justice and to believe in a world without war and violence.

**All: May the peace of Christ be always within us, between us, over us, and all around us.**

One: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

### Reception of New Members

Steven and Emily Ball

#### Covenant of the Church

**All: We covenant one with another to seek and to respond to the Word and will of God.**

**We purpose to walk together in the ways of the Lord,  
Made known and to be made known to us.**

**We hold it to be the mission of the Church**

**To witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world  
While worshipping God, and striving for truth, justice and  
peace. As did our fathers and mothers, we depend on the  
Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the  
coming of the Kingdom of God and look with faith toward  
the triumph of righteous and eternal life.**

## **\*Words of Welcome**

**All: We rejoice in this opportunity to welcome each one of you to the life and ministries of our Open and Affirming, Just Peace and Global Mission congregation. May we worship, sing, pray, cry, laugh and serve together in love and in friendship to the glory of God, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **Children's Message**

# **HEARING THE WORD**

## **Scripture Lessons**

One: Listen for the Word of God

New Testament Lesson Acts 19:1-6

NT p. 966

Gospel lesson Mark 1:4-11

NT p. 867

One: May God bless our reading, hearing, and doing of God's holy word.

**All: Amen**

## **Sermon**

"What's in the Water?"

## **\*Hymn**

"Lord, I Want To Be a Christian"

Blk#454

# **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

## **Commissioning of the Cuba Mission Trip Participants**

Rev. Paulo França, Diane Arsenault, Peter Pirnie, Rev. Carol Asher,  
Eileen Torrey, Susan and Philip Wei

January 18-February 2, 2018

The UCC Cuba Study Seminar has been taking delegations to Cuba for almost 40 years. These UCC sponsored delegations have allowed US churches to see firsthand all that is happening in Cuba, including the vibrant life of the Cuban Church. This year, the UCC Cuba Study Seminar will include visits to various churches, two Protestant seminaries, the Latin American Medical School in Havana, an afternoon concert with the Cuban National Choir, visits to museums and parks, conversations with government officials, tours of health clinics, a public school visit and a morning at a nursing home. Keep our participants in your prayers.

## **Prayers of the People**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come;  
thy 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 Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.  
Amen.**

### **Offertory**

**Gift of Music**                      Like A Mighty Stream    Moses Hogan and John Jacobson

**\*Doxology**            **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above you heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

### **\*Unison Prayer of Dedication**

**All: Living God, in baptism we dedicate our lives to you and pledge to become your voice of love in human history. Hold us close to our baptismal vows as we bring ourselves and our offering to you that they may become signs of your saving grace in the world. Amen.**

## **SENDING**

**\*Hymn**                                      "Community of Christ"                                      Blk#314

### **\*Benediction**

**Postlude**                                      Invention                                      flor Peeters  
*The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us into the world where our true service begins.*

## **Keeping in Prayer**

Stephanie

Lynn Anderson

Doug Grant

Jesse Armstrong

Pat Andrews

Richard Kersten

Peggy Suntum

Rick Bogin

Bob Chase

Ginny Arsenault

Bill Bonney

Ron Decker

Jane

Amy Barber

Jack & Vicky Meyers

Nancy Pirnie

Bob Feeney, our Chicago Seminary Student

*If you have any prayer requests, please fill out a prayer card located in the pew rack and drop it in the offering plate. +*

### **Save these dates**

**Coffee House** – January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM

**Church Council Meeting**- January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7PM

### **Announcements**

#### **Staff News**

Rev. Paulo will be on the mission trip to Cuba from January 18 through February 3. In case of pastoral emergencies, contact Rev. Bill Torrey. Guest Preachers during that time are as follows: Marlin Collingwood – January 21<sup>st</sup>, Sam Lovett – January 28<sup>th</sup>, and Bill Torrey – February 4th.

#### **From the Hospitality Committee**

Please help the Hospitality folks in providing goodies and food items for coffee hour. Label any gluten-free foods. We also welcome anyone to help with setting up at 8:45 am or cleaning up at the conclusion of the Coffee Hour. Thanks for your help.

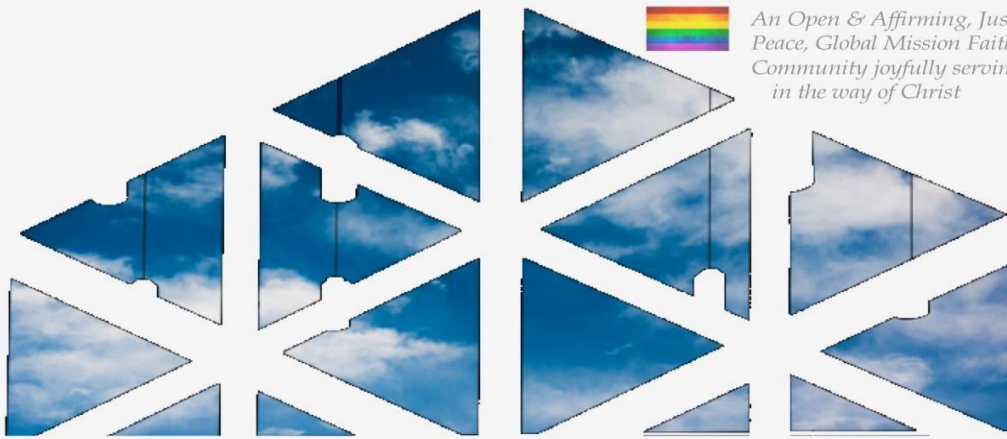
#### **Faith Formation**

Watch for news in Constant Contact about upcoming activities in the first few months of 2018 about the Ice Skating Party and a Movie Night at the church! And, we're going to be making a special offering of food to Feeding Our Children Together in the coming weeks.

Thank you to all of our hard-working volunteers. We're always looking for energetic fun-loving volunteers to work with our children on a regular or temporary basis & especially need chaperones for some of our upcoming activities. If you're interested in skating with the kids and/or helping out on Movie Night, please contact Cindy Bjerklie at [faithformation@uccplymouth.org](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org).

#### **Sunday Niters**

The January 14 Sunday Niters will be held at Georgene Fabian's home, to begin at 5pm. We will share with each other " Ways to conserve: energy, water, life style, etc." There will be a bit of house-keeping matters before we adjourn. Please bring a hearty winter dish for the potluck. Directions to Fabian home: From Plymouth, take [the Intervale Rd. 175A](#) to Rte. 175. At the end take Rte. 3, left, 3 miles. On the left after the Yankee Trail motel, are stone gate posts with #412, 414. Plenty of parking spaces. From I93, take exit 24 to Route 3 South. Phones: 968-3695 (Georgene) or 969-7516 (Philip)



*An Open & Affirming, Just  
Peace, Global Mission Faith  
Community joyfully serving  
in the way of Christ*

The Coffee House at Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, presents:



At the first Coffee House of the New Year, Rev. Andy Jepson and Lindley Kinerk will take us on a trip to Sri Lanka - the Southeast Asian nation where they spent the last two years as Global Mission volunteers.

**Friday, January 19th at 6:30 PM**

The Reverend Paulo G. França, Minister  
Shannon Wharton, Church Office Administrator  
Cindy Bjerklie, Director of Christian Education  
Claire McIver, Director of Music  
Colin McIver, Organist  
Larry Spencer, Church Treasurer  
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling

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[organist@uccplymouth.org](mailto:organist@uccplymouth.org)  
[treasurer@uccplymouth.org](mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org)  
[gracecounseling@uccplymouth.org](mailto:gracecounseling@uccplymouth.org)

Bill Heron, liturgist

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