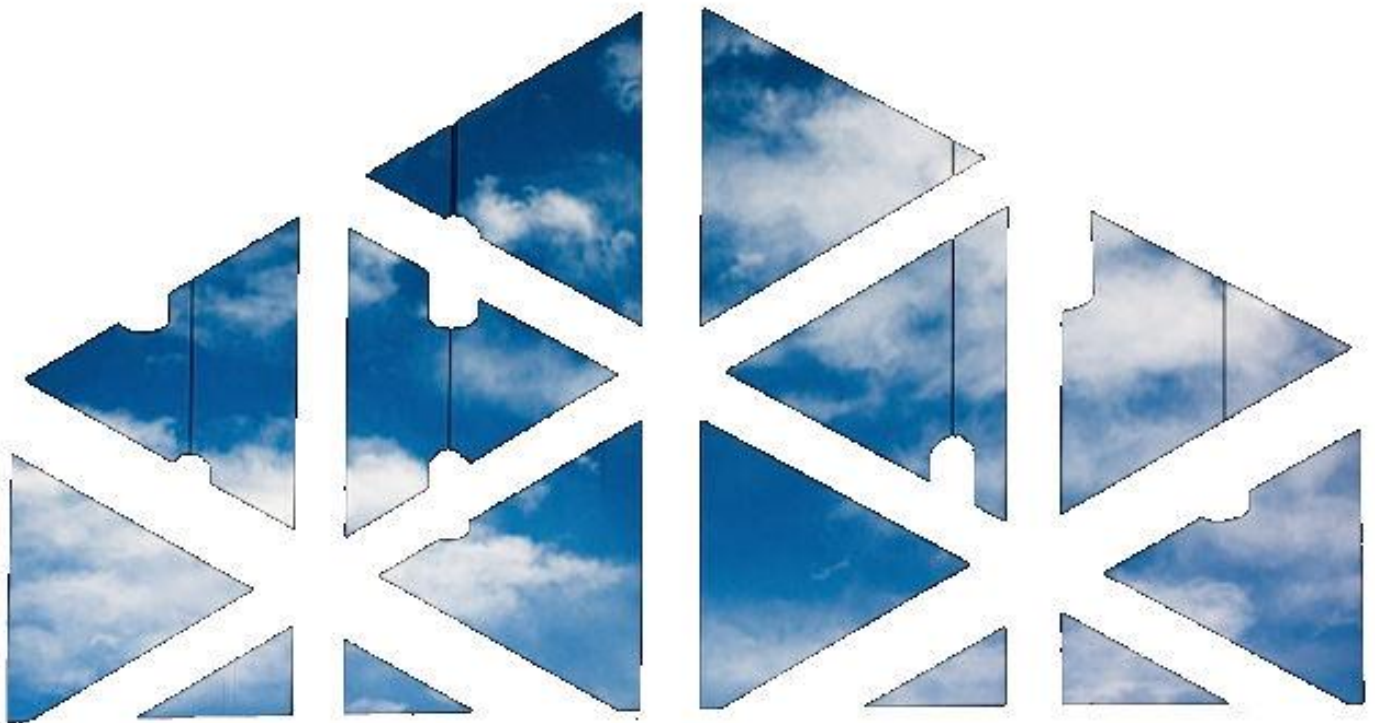


**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

January 21, 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.

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

GATHERING

Prelude

Praeludium

Frantisek Xaver Brixi

*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: We gather in the Presence of the Living God.

**All: We come with our faith and our doubts,
we come with hopes and our concerns.**

One: This is holy ground! This is none other than
the place we meet the Divine!

All: How wonderful it is to gather in God's Presence!

***Hymn**

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"

Blk#4

Prayer of the Day

One: This time a sacred moment when we open our hearts to God and join our voices together in prayer, saying:

All: Eternal God, we are here to make room for your Holy Spirit in our lives. We are thankful for the call to be men, women, youth and children of faith in our town and in the world. We are grateful that you give us free choice to let the Spirit into our hearts or to reject your way. Save us from overestimating or underestimating the importance of the part we have in sharing your love and grace with humanity. Enable us, we humbly pray, to be ready and available to do whatever your Spirit may ask of us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we make this prayer. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: God calls us to walk in God's way of peace and justice. In Christ, the Holy One shows us how we should live. Friends, let us proclaim the Good News!

All: In Jesus Christ, God blesses us, heals us, liberates us and challenges us to live the Good News! Alleluia!

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!

The first line of music is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 6/8 time signature. It consists of two measures. The first measure has a Dm chord above it with an asterisk. The second measure has Gm, C, and F chords above it, with '(chords continue)' written above the F chord. There is an asterisk above the second measure.

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!

The second line of music is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 6/8 time signature. It consists of two measures. The first measure has a Dm chord above it with an asterisk. The second measure has Gm, C, and F chords above it, with '(chords continue)' written above the F chord. There is an asterisk above the second measure.

*Sign of Peace

One: We are no longer strangers, but sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ. Let us celebrate the love and peace that bind us together.

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

One: Please stand and greet one another with the sign of peace.

Children's Message

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Lessons

One: Listen for the Word of God

Hebrew Lesson Jonah 3:1-5, 10

OT p.800

Gospel lesson Mark 1:14-20

NT p.867

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

All: Amen

Sermon

"Gone Fishing"

***Hymn**

"You Have Come down to the Lakeshore"
(sing vv. 1-2, 4)

Blk#173

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

I Want to be Ready
(sing v. 1, 2, 5)

African-American spiritual

***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: Inspire us, O God, to be Christ's eyes and mouth, his hands and feet in the world. Show us how to use our lives and our possessions to bless our neighbors, so this building may continue to be a place where people find cause to praise your Name. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn**

"Guide My Feet"

Blk#497

***Benediction**

Postlude

Fantasia

Tomas de Santa Maria

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

Peggy Suntum

Jane

Bob Chase

Ginny Arsenault

Bill Bonney

Ron Decker

Richard Kersten

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 19th at 6:30PM

Church Council Meeting- January 24th 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 21st, Sam Lovett – January 28th, and Bill Torrey – February 4th.

From the Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee invites you to join the "Kitchen Crew". We have opportunities for everyone to help with Coffee Hour on Sundays, starting with signing up on the Will-U-Tree poster in Fellowship Hall to bring snacks for a particular Sunday. Next, we set up the coffee and various goodies, starting at 8:45 am. After Church we fill the tables with delicious snacks and refreshing drinks. When Coffee Hour ends, we clean up the dining area and the kitchen. Oh, My!! Didn't we just put out all those platters of goodies? Perhaps you can come with a spouse, partner, or friend on a regular basis, such as once every month, or do several Sundays in a row if that is a better arrangement for your schedule. There is always someone in charge of Coffee Hour. The sign-up is on a calendar page on the bulletin board by the kitchen door. Please see Chris or Georgene if you have any questions. Thank you.

Faith Formation

Join us for Movie Night from, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the church on Saturday March 17th, when we'll watch a kid-friendly movie, enjoy a pizza dinner, and have fun in our pajamas! Please let Cindy Bjerklie know if your children plan to attend. We're planning on taking a group photo of our Sunday School children and our Kids with a Mission very soon, watch for more details to come.

Kids with a Mission have a lot of projects and fun planned over the next few weeks, including helping out at Bridge House, learning more about playing music together and focusing on light pollution in Plymouth, which makes it difficult to see the beautiful stars in the heavens. Watch Constant Contact for more information!

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.

Feeding Our Children

Our program to send bags of food home with some of the children at Plymouth Elementary School and the children enrolled in HeadStart is in need of your help. It is time for all of us to make a contribution to this program. The cost for the food is \$10.00/week/child that amounts to \$40.00/month/child or \$460.00/year/child. Think about what you can afford from your budget to help feeding Our Children. Remember there are many hungry children in this rich country and 47 percent of the students at Plymouth Elementary School are on free or reduced price lunch.

Food donations are also always welcome. Can you add one can of corned beef hash or macaroni and cheese or peanut butter. These are always welcome and we need these items every week. Please make a promise to keep our church following its mission, which Jesus said was to feed the hungry. The children will thrive and grow because you cared enough to help. For more information call the church office or Susan Wei.

RAISE

In November 2017, the PCUCC Mission Committee approved a financial contribution to support the RAISE Children programs. All financial contributions are used to cover the cost of materials, equipment, topic presenters, and staff. In addition, PCUCC has shared with RAISE some classroom tables, chairs, toys and materials that were no longer needed by the Church school.

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

pastor@uccplymouth.org
office@uccplymouth.org
faithformation@uccplymouth.org
musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
organist@uccplymouth.org
treasurer@uccplymouth.org
gracecounseling@uccplymouth.org

Marlin Collingwood, Guest Lay Preacher
Rev. Bill Torrey, liturgist

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
4 Post Office Square, PO Box 86
Plymouth, NH 03264

(603)536-2626 ♦ office@uccplymouth.org ♦ www.uccplymouth.org