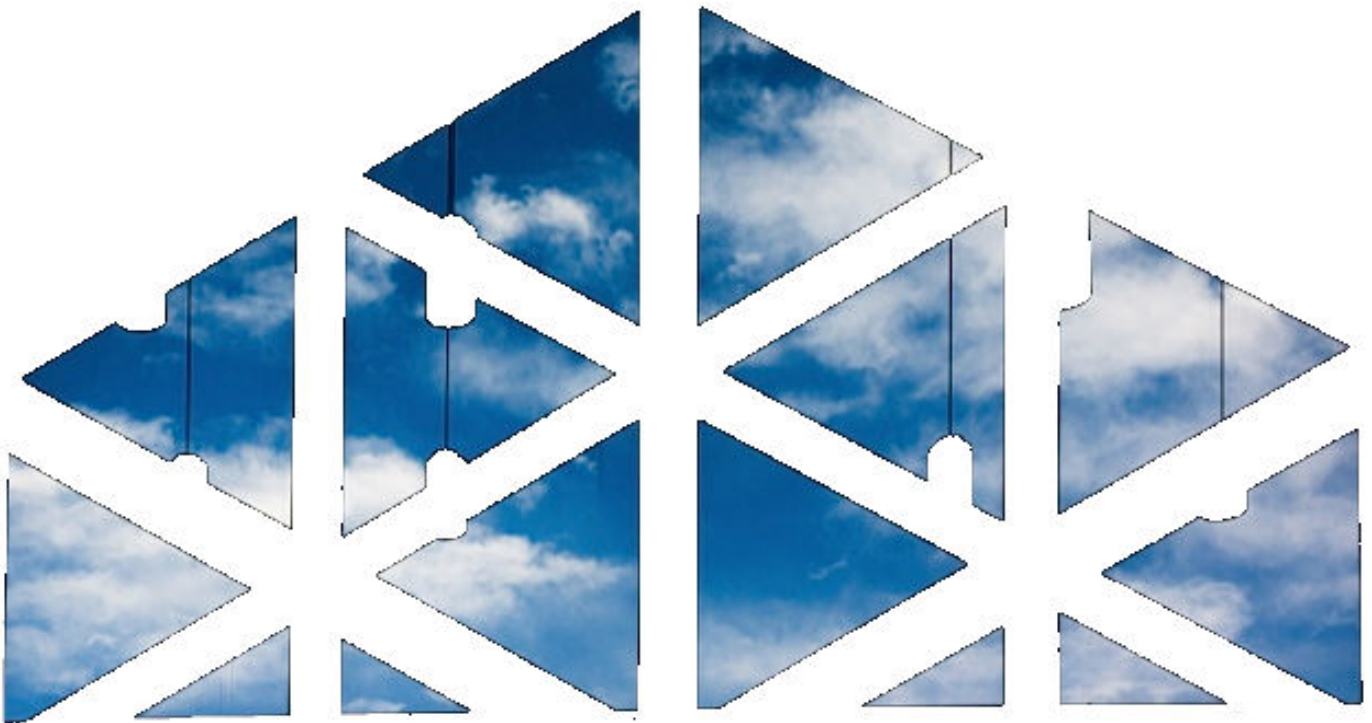


**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Transfiguration of Christ**

February 11, 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.

A compassionate community, intentionally inclusive, openly searching, joyfully serving in the way of Christ

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

The Sacrifice of Love

arr. by Marilyn Ham

*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

Offertoire for Flute

Johannes Donjon

*Call to Worship

**Indicates congregation standing*

One: At the beginning of this new day we gather to worship the Living God.

All: We rejoice in a God who welcomes us as we are.

One: In this sacred space, we gather to be surprised, inspired and transformed by the presence of the Living Christ.

All: We are here not to worship a God of the past, but to make room for the Holy Spirit in our hearts and in our lives today. Alleluia!

*Hymn

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

Red#251

Prayer of the Day

One: May we be fully open to the Spirit of God as we pray together, saying:

All: Come Holy Spirit of God and surround us with God's all-embracing love. Come Holy Spirit and free our minds from our poor attempts to pin down, contain and explain the mystery of God. Come Spirit of life and empower us to embrace the pilgrimage of faith that brings us face-to-face with the transforming light of God. Come Spirit of the Living God and strengthen our resolve to be faithful disciples – seekers of the ever-new Presence of God in us, around us and in the world. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: In Christ, God invites us to let go of our tendency to pitch tents, make shelters, put up shrines, protect our visions, and hold on to our concepts of God.

All: Jesus teaches us that the life of faith demands an ongoing openness to the mystery of God. We can never fully understand or explain the Divine. We can only trust and believe that God is beyond our grasp, but never beyond our reach.

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!

The musical notation is written on a single staff in 6/8 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two lines of music. The first line has four measures, and the second line has four measures. Chords are indicated above the staff: Dm (marked with an asterisk), Gm, C, and F. The text is written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllable placement. The first line of music corresponds to the first line of text, and the second line of music corresponds to the second line of text.

*Sign of Peace

One: May the God of peace inspire us to believe in peace, to pray for peace, and to share the peace of Christ with all human beings.

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.

Children's Message

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Lessons

One: Listen for the Word of God

Epistle Lesson 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Gospel lesson Mark 9:2-9

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

All: Amen

Sermon

"Ground Truth"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith

Hispanic Creed by Justo L. González

We believe in God the Father Almighty

Creator of heavens and earth,
Creator of all peoples and cultures,
Creator of all languages and races.

We believe in Jesus Christ, His Son, our Lord,

God made flesh in a human being for all human beings,
God made flesh in one moment of time and for all ages to come,
God made flesh in a culture for all cultures,
God made flesh in love and grace for all creation.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

Through whom the incarnated God in Jesus Christ
Is made present in our people and our culture,
Through whom the God that created all that exists
Gives us power to be new creatures;
Who through His infinite gifts, makes us only one people,
The body of Jesus Christ.

We believe in the Church,

Which is universal because it is a sign of the coming Kingdom,
Who is more faithful while she dresses up in varied colors,
Where all the colors paint the same scene,
Where all the languages sing the same praise song.

We believe in the coming Kingdom, the great day of the feast,

When all the colors of creation,
Will unite in a rainbow of harmony,
When all the peoples of the earth
Will unite in a banquet of happiness,
When all the languages of the universe
Will unite in a choir of praise.

And because we believe, we commit ourselves

To believe for all those who do not believe,
To love for all those who do not love,

Keeping in Prayer

Greg Friel
Lynn Anderson
Doug Grant
Jesse Armstrong
Pat Andrews
Hannah Starck

Peggy Suntum
Cindy
Bob Chase
Ginny Arsenault
Bill Bonney
Liz

Ron Decker
Richard Kersten
Amy Barber
Jack & Vicky Meyers
Nancy Pirnie
Judi Fomey

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

Ash Wednesday – February 14th Noon time & 7pm services
Coffee House – February 23rd 6:30p

Announcements

Faith Formation

Children of all ages are invited to Sunday School this week. We'll be talking about God's love and making special Valentines. And don't forget to mark your calendars for our Pajama and Pizza Party on Saturday, March 17th from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m! We'll be eating pizza and watching "Paddington Bear". If you'd like to attend our Pajama and Pizza Party, please RSVP to Cindy Bjerklie@faithformation@[ucplymouth.org](mailto:cucplymouth.org).

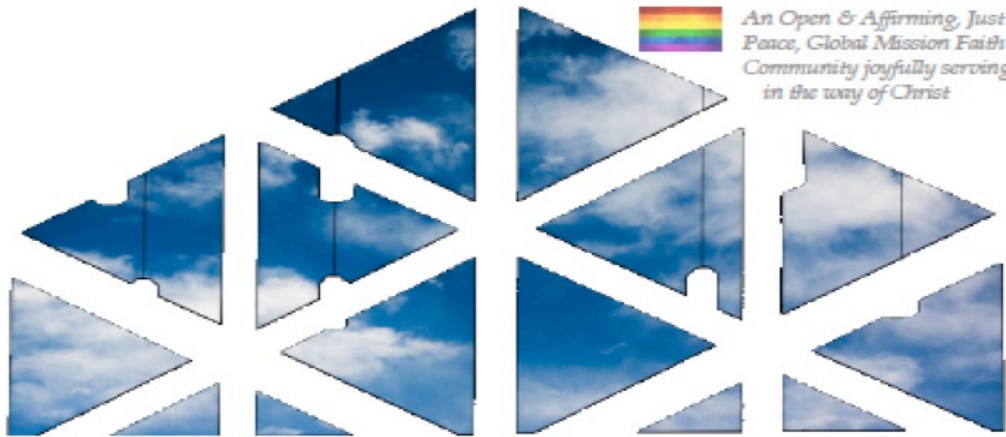
Second Hour, Feb. 11th following the worship service

Carol Hahn will give a presentation on a new program for infants, toddlers and families that our church is sponsoring and supporting:

RAISE Children (Resilient, Active, Independent, Strong, Engaged Children) A community program for infants, toddlers, and families.

Hospitality Committee

All of us have been enjoying a wonderful selection of snacks during Coffee Hour. Please keep bringing them in to share. You can sign up in advance on the Will-You-Tree poster, or simply show up with a platter of cookies, veggies/dip or crackers/cheese. Also, it would be helpful for the Hospitality Committee to plan for Kitchen Crew helpers. You may sign up on the calendar on the bulletin board outside the kitchen doors. We are working on a schedule for February and March. Please help us if you can. Thanks to everyone.



*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:

Saving American Trees



Our guest speaker Douglas McLane will talk about the ongoing efforts to introduce blight resistant Elm trees to Plymouth and to save the American Chestnut tree.

Special Music by
Alison Thatcher

Friday, February 23rd at 6:30 PM

The Reverend Paulo G. França, Minister
Shannon Wharton, Church Office Administrator
Cindy Bjerklie, Director of Christian Education
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

Bob Curry, liturgist
Emily Lombardo, flute
Ashley Paine, guest accompanist

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