

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 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

Reflection

Kerry J. Beaumont

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

Be Still

L. Belanger

*Call to Worship

**Indicates congregation standing*

One: As we meet together, let us remember the words of Saint Paul who urged Christians to "have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."

All: We are here now at the beginning of our journey into the season of Lent. We enter into this time of prayer and self-reflection ready to wrestle with what it means to be human and walk with Christ.

***Congregational Response** "Take, O Take Me As I Am"

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall

The first line of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time, with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and bass line from the first line. It also features a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).

Prayer of Confession

One: In humility and faith, let us pray in one voice, saying:

All: God who drives us into this season of Lent, we are carrying many burdens today: the cruel word heard, the broken relationship, failures in our lives, the decline of our health, the violence of our world, and the uncertainty about the future. Merciful God, help us to lay our burdens down at the foot of the cross so we may discern who we are and embrace what we might become. Lord, hear our prayer.

Silence for Personal Reflection

Prayer Response "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray - ing. Lord, send your



Spir - it in this place. Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren



pray - ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

***Sign of Peace**

One: Let the peace that comes from Christ rule in our hearts!

All: Fill us, O Living Christ, with your peace.

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 1 Peter 3:13-18

NT p. 1060

Gospel lesson Mark 1:9-15

NT p. 867

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

All: Amen

Sermon

"Keep Looking for the Helpers"

***Hymn**

"O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free"

Blk#209

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 Believe

Mark A Miller

***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: Holy Spirit of God, inspire us to live more faithful lives. As we walk on with Christ in this Lenten season, deepen our faith and place deep in our hearts the desire to work for change in our world. May our offering take us beyond the safe walls of the church into action, into vulnerability, and into the wilderness of life. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn

"Guide My Feet"

Blk#497

*Benediction

Postlude

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele

Georg Philipp Telemann

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

Keeping in Prayer

Greg Friel
Lynn Anderson
Doug Grant
Jesse Armstrong
Pat Andrews
Hanna Starck
The Jaeubowski Family

Peggy Suntum
Cindy
Bob Chase
Ginny Arsenault
Bill Bonney
Liz
Genevieve Tseng

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

Coffee House- February 23rd 6:30pm

Announcements

Faith Formation

Please join us for our Pajama & Pizza Party on March 17, 2018 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. All children are invited to wear their pajamas to church and enjoy pizza and the movie, "Paddington Bear". Please RSVP to Cindy Bjerklie a.s.a.p. so we'll know how much pizza to have on hand.

We are actively seeking volunteers to help with our children's programs, particularly with teaching Sunday School and music. If you're interested in working with our great kids, please contact Cindy Bjerklie at faithformation@uccplymouth.org. Kids with a Mission will be visiting the Bridge House this Sunday. If you'd like to be part of this service project, please contact Deb Boyer, Ruth Mosher, or Cindy Bjerklie.

SCRIPTURES & COFFEE or TEA

On Ash Wednesday we began our journey of Lent. In the Church, Lent is a period of reflection, soul-searching and prayer. By looking at ourselves as we really are, Lent invites us to turn toward God so we may remember that God has faith in us.

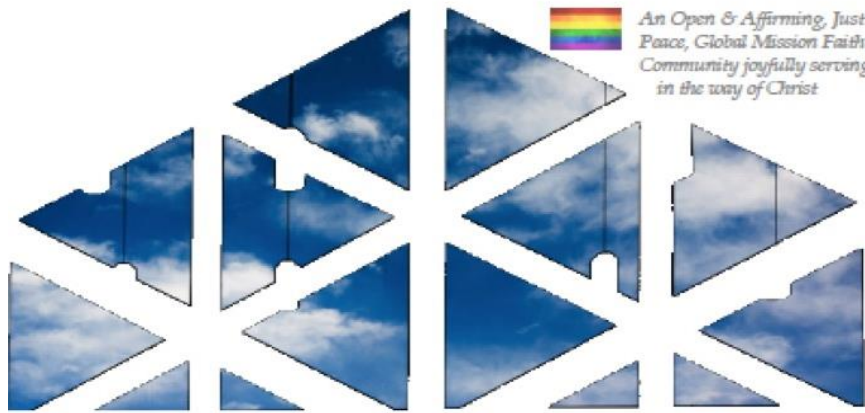
During this Lenten season, Rev. Paulo is inviting you to a time of deeper study of the Scripture lessons that will be selected for the Sundays in Lent. Rather than giving up something for Lent, we will take on the discipline of meditating on the passages that will shape each Sunday sermon. We will write the Sunday sermon together.

We will meet every Tuesday at 4:00 PM in the church parlor between Feb. 20- Mar. 20.
The Scripture lessons for Tuesday, February 20 are: Psalm 116:10-19 and Mark 3:27-33

Youth and Young Adult Mission Trip

As the title implies, this year we have invited some of our young adults back from college to join with high school students on a mission trip to Katerini, Greece. Inspired by Gale Adam's month long mission trip to this region last summer and the commitment of the Evangelical Church of Greece to aid the Syrian refugees to their country, the youth and young adults have chosen to add their energy, voices, and caring to this important cause.

We may be painting, cleaning, cooking, serving food, caring for children, or helping with English classes. We're all pretty good at our native tongue! Whatever the task, this group of young people is up for it! Mostly, we want to spread God's love and help to care for those facing hardships most of us can only imagine. We are grateful to be part of a church family that shares this mission. We will be making our journey in June and are still planning out trip details. Stay tuned for updates!



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

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Rev. Mike Carrier, liturgist

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