

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 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

Colin McIver

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

Laura Belanger

*Call to Worship

**Indicates congregation standing*

One: Let us gather at the foot of the cross and remember our call to follow a crucified Messiah.

All: In this sacred gathering, we let go of the busyness of our lives and the cares of our hearts. Here we gather to rejoice in a God who calls us to follow Christ's way of peace, hope, justice and life.

*Congregational Response

"Bless The Lord"

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

The first line of musical notation is in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The music includes a key signature of one flat and a common time signature.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

The second line of musical notation continues the melody from the first line. It includes the lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The notation is consistent with the first line, maintaining the same key signature and time signature.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1984

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984

Text and Music © 1984, 1998 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

BLESS THE LORD (Taizé)

Irregular

Prayer of Confession

One: Let us bring the longings of our hearts before God, saying:

All: God who knows us better than we know ourselves, circle us with your love and grace in this time of worship. Enable us to be open to the healing presence of your Holy Spirit. Free us from the grip of doubt and disbelief that we may learn to trust your power to extend the boundaries of what is possible in our lives. In this season of Lent, give us courage to follow Christ to the cross that we may also be raised with him to new hope and new life. Holy God, 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

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are: "Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing. Lord, send your".

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

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "Spir - it in this place. Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren".

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

The third system of musical notation concludes the prayer response. The lyrics are: "pray - ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace."

***Sign of Peace**

One: Listen to the words Jesus said to his disciples: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14:27)

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

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

Sacrament of Baptism

Mariana Alissa Moura

***Words of Welcome**

All: Dear Mariana, you are a beloved child of God. We are grateful for the joy you bring to your family and for the promise we are making today to nurture you in the faith of the Church of Jesus Christ. May the Living God bless and keep you all the days of your life.

Lighting the baptismal Candle:

All: The bright light of God's love guide you; the bright light of Christ's peace be always with you; the bright light of the Holy Spirit surround and enfold you all the days and nights of your life. Amen.

Children's Message

Baptismal Hymn

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

Blk#325

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Lessons

One: Listen for the Word of God

Psalter Psalm 116:10-19

OT p. 531

Gospel lesson Mark 8:27-38

NT p. 875-876

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

All: Amen

Sermon

"This Is Our Defining Moment!"

***Hymn**

"I Want Jesus to Go with Me"

Blk#490

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 If you Search With All Your Heart Craig Courtney

***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: Creator of community, thank you for the Church where we are
challenged to walk together as one body. Thank you for words and
songs that always speak to us about justice, forgiveness, peace
and care for the earth. Thank you for the costly faith of Christ that
compels us to love our neighbors. Bless our gifts today and
empower us to use all we have to bear witness to your life-giving
Presence in our midst. Amen.**

SENDING

***Hymn**

"In All Our Living"

Blk#499

***Benediction**

Postlude

Mazurka in B Flat Op. 7, No.1

Chopin

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

Church Council Meeting – February 28th 7 PM

Announcements

Faith Formation

Kids with a Mission visited Bridge House last Sunday to help cook meals for the residents. They helped make Swedish meatballs, tuna casserole, calzone and chicken pot pies. It was a fun day and a good way to provide needed service to our neighbors in Plymouth. Appreciation goes to Deb Boyer for organizing this even with the staff at Bridge House.

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 the 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.

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

Meetings will happen every Tuesday at 4:00 PM in the church parlor between Feb. 20- Mar. 20. This Tuesday we will go over John 2:13-25.

Hospitality Committee

Thanks to all the folks in Church who have been bringing in snacks and other goodies to Coffee Hour for everyone's enjoyment. Also, continued thanks to those who have been helping in the Kitchen. Everything is greatly appreciated by the Hospitality Committee. Many thanks again.

RAISE Night

Supplies needed for RAISE Children Parent night: empty baby wipe containers, shoe boxes, clear plastic water bottles, and small plastic jars (such as spice jars or honey jars). You can drop them off at Whole Village for Carol Hahn or bring them to church by 2/28. About 15 each are needed for our March 5 activity. Thank you!

Zimbabwe

The Ukama Mission Group of the New Hampshire Conference UCC is planning to bring a delegation from the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe to New Hampshire in October 2018. The Ukama Mission Group works to further the commitment of the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe and the New Hampshire Conference, UCC to walk together in faith and to serve in ministry among God's people.

This effort is supported by Common Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ. The heart of the relationship is the love of Christ and the call "That they may all be One" John 17:21. Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ will sponsor a member of the Masvingo, Zimbabwe United Church of Christ, our partnered church, in the delegation. Mission Committee has given \$500 towards the cost of bringing our delegate to New Hampshire.

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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Marlin Collingwood, liturgist

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