

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Palm Sunday

March 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.

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

Voluntary on EVENTIDE

Robert Lind

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

All in the April Evening

Hugh S. Robertson

"All in the April evening, April airs were abroad: The sheep with their little lambs Pass'd me by on the road. All in the April evening I thought on the Lamb of God" - Katherine Tynan

*Call to Worship

**Indicates congregation standing*

One: Friends, open your hearts!

All: With shouts of hosanna, we lift our voices to praise God.

One: People of faith, wave your palm branches!

All: With shouts of hosanna, we rejoice in God's Presence.

One: Followers of Christ, shout hosanna!

All: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Christ, save us! Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!

*Hymn

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

Blk#216

Prayer of Confession

One: We have come from our separate lives, bringing with us our hopes and worries, our joys and concerns; now that we are gathered in this house of prayer, let's make space for God's Spirit in our lives as we pray together, saying:

All: God-who-is-ever-present, hear our prayer. Open our ears, our hearts and our minds to your wisdom and guidance. Forgive us, O God of the journey, for those moments when we have turned away from our pilgrimage to follow the world's ways. Give us new strength to follow Christ. Inspire us once again to persevere in our call to live by the upside-down reality of your Kingdom. Encourage us to be change-makers in our town. Give us enough passion to always stand up and speak out for what is right and to confront all that is unjust in our town, in our country, in the Church and in our lives. Gracious God, forgive us! Renew us! Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

Prayer Response

"We Are Forgiven"

Chords: G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, Dsus, D, G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, D, G

We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to
God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.
We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1995
Music © 1995 Hal H. Hopson

WE ARE FORGIVEN
10.8.10.8

*Sign of Peace

One: In this gathering of faith, we are no longer strangers, but sisters and brothers in Christ.

All: In Christ, we are one body! In his gift of peace, we find our peace.

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

Children's Message

"Sing Hosanna!"

Sing Hosanna!
Sing Hosanna!
Sing Hosanna
to the King of Kings!

Sing Hosanna!
Sing Hosanna!
Sing Hosanna to the King!

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Lessons

One: Listen for the Word of God

Gospel lesson

Mark 11:1-11

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

All: Amen

Sermon

"Forward Living"

*Hymn

"My Song Is Love Unknown"

Red#169

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

Antiphonal Hosanna

G. Alan Smith

*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: God of love, sometimes words are not enough to express our faith. So we bring this morning our offerings and ourselves. Bless our gifts and empower us to live the words we say and the love we share for one another. Take our money and our bodies, O Holy One, and use all we have and all we are in your mission to make humanity whole. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn** "What Wondrous Love Is This" Blk#223

***Benediction** Sing Hosanna in the Highest Joseph M. Martin

Postlude Just a Closer Walk with Thee arr. James V. Marchionda
and Mark Rachelski

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

Keeping in Prayer

Jack & Vicky Meyers	Eilene Greenwood	The Jaeubowski Family
Lynn Anderson	Ron Brace Carol Asher	
Nancy Pirnie	Ginny Arsenault	Pat Andrews
Bonnie Hill		

Bob Feeney, our Chicago Seminary Student

Samuel Lovett, our member-in-discernment in the Merrimack Association

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

March 25th-Sunday Nites at the Wixson 6:00pm
March 29th-Maundy Thursday Communion 7:00pm
March 30th-Good Friday Service 7:00pm
April 1st- Easter Sunday Communion Service 8:00am
Continental Breakfast 8:30-9:15am
Children's Easter Egg Hunt on the Plymouth Common 9:00am
Traditional Easter Service 9:30am
April 20th-Whiffenpoofs of Yale 7:30pm

Announcements

On Our Walls - March is Youth Art Month. Local art teachers from over 30 local schools select from their students' work, creating a visual presentation that not only displays the imagination and skill of the students, but also the guidance and creativity of the teachers. We are happy to host first and second graders. The exhibit will run through March 29.

Sunday Niters - Sunday Niters is returning **tonight**, March 25, at the Wixsons (13 Buckland St, Plymouth) at 6pm with meteorologist Eric Kelsey to speak on the challenges of predicting weather in New Hampshire and whether he is allowed to say "global warming." So bring a dish to share. For more information, speak with Tink Taylor.

Groceries and raising money for PCUCC - Everyone has to eat and many of you shop at Hannaford's. Have you thought about using a Hannaford gift shopping card. For the next couple of months the Finance Committee will be offering Hannaford Gift Shopping cards in a variety of denominations to see how this program works as a fund raising effort. The cards will be available in a variety of denominations (\$50, \$100 and \$200). For every one hundred dollars you spend on the card at Hannaford's, we will get back five dollars. The cards will be available in early December. See either Linda LaPrad, Chair of Finance, or Larry Spencer, Treasurer. You can either supply us with cash or a check made out to PCUCC with Hannaford Gift card in the memo line.

Faith Formation - We are busy gathering and filling Easter Eggs for the annual Easter Egg Hunt, which will be held on the Plymouth Common on Easter morning April 1st at 9:00 a.m. Mark your calendars so you don't miss the fun! All kids are invited to participate. Bad weather doesn't cancel the fun, but it will move us inside.

We are 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.

Hospitality Committee - Coffee Hour needs a few more snacks and other goodies. Be sure to sign up on the Will You Tree poster if you know in advance when you are able to bring something. Some suggestions are crackers (smaller boxes/bags) and blocks of cheese, salsa and scoops, cut-up vegetables with savory/sour cream dip, cut-up fruit with sweet dip, coffee cake, quick bread with cream cheese, mini-muffins, Chex mix, mixed nuts, pretzels, or your favorite treat to have with a cup of coffee. Be sure to label gluten-free foods. Also, it is helpful to have a sign for other goodies. Thanks.

The Reverend Paulo G. França, Minister
Deborah Healey, Church Office Administrator
Cindy Bjerklie, Director of Christian Education
David Williams, Interim 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

Rev. Dr. Charles Buck, Transitional Conference Minister
John Anderson, liturgist
Sally Jensen, clarinet

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