

**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ**  
**Easter Sunday: A Service of the Resurrection**

**April 1, 2018**

**8:00 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 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.
- 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. All children are invited to participate in Sunday School after the Children's Message.
- Our service can be heard in the parlor 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.

Help us to protect the environment by dropping your bulletin in one of the recycling baskets at the two main entrances to the sanctuary.

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](http://www.uccplymouth.org)

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

# GATHERING

## Prelude

"The Strife is O'er"

Giovanni Perluigi da Palestrina

*The beginning of the prelude is an invitation to silent,  
personal preparation for the worship of God.*

## Welcome and Life of the Church

Rev. Paulo Gustavo França

### \*Call to Worship

*\*Indicates congregation standing*

One: Early in the morning,

**All: Doubtful but faithful,**

One: We gather to hear Good News!

**All: We are here to remember.**

One: We are here to have our faith renewed.

**All: The world expects only silence, but we are here to encounter new life, to be energized by the power of hope, and to affirm the mystery of our faith: Jesus is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### \*Hymn

"The Day of Resurrection"

Blk#245

## THE GOSPEL PROCLAMATION

One: We stand in the resurrection garden – a sacred place where we are reminded that our lives too can witness to the possibilities of love, hope, and faith. With grateful hearts, let us remember the Good News that brings us together on this Easter morning:

**All: When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.**

One: And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"

**All: When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.**

One: As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

**All:** But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.

One: But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you."

**All:** So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

One: The Gospel of the Lord!

**All:** Praise be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**\*The Gospel Acclamation**

**(sing twice)**

*Aleluya*

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.  
A-le-lu-ya, a-le-lu-ya. A-le-lu-ya, a-le-lu-ya.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Now the Lord is risen in-deed.  
A-le-lu-ya, a-le-lu-ya. El Se-ñor re-su-ci-tó.

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## Offertory

Gift of Music

"The Risen Christ"

Gilbert M. Martin (1941)

# CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

## Invitation to the Table

One: This is the table of the Risen Christ, a table of welcome - rich with promises and alive with vibrant faith.

**All: We come to this table to encounter Christ. Whether dubious and doubting still, whether confident and filled with hope, we all come to this table to be transformed by life.**

## Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The God of Easter is among us.

**All: The Spirit of life dwells in our hearts.**

One: May we all lift our hearts to the God of resurrection.

**All: We open our whole selves to God and to one another.**

One: Before the bright dawn in the garden – in which Love was resurrected; before the cold silence of the tomb – by which Love was swallowed; before the dark horror of the cross – on which Love was broken; Jesus, eating a final supper with his friends, blessed and broke bread and poured out a cup of wine, sharing these gifts with them as a confirmation of the life he had lived and as a sign of what was to come.

So we, too, recalling that moment, and honoring Jesus' life, take and break this bread:

The Bread is broken

*Alleluia*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

One: And we fill this cup with the fruit of the Earth:

The Cup is filled.

## Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

One: As we remember and rejoice, O God, send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and cup, that we may once again encounter Love and be transformed by Life.

**All: Christ, Love resurrected, come to us again on this Easter Day, calling us to witness to the possibilities of faith and to bear the fruits of God's reign of peace.**

### \*Sign of Peace

One: May the peace of the resurrected Jesus – the challenging peace of committed life, the liberating peace of selfless love, the vibrant peace of new possibility – empower all of us to be peace-makers.

**All: Alleluia! Jesus is Risen! Peace shall prevail on Earth!**

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

### Sharing the Bread and Cup

## SENDING

- |              |   |                            |
|--------------|---|----------------------------|
| *Hymn        | "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"<br>(Sing vv. 1-4) | Blk#245                    |
| *Benediction | "Jesus, The Christ, is Risen Today"             | G.G. Handel<br>(1685-1759) |
| Postlude     | "Hail, O Festal Day!"                           | Ralph Vaughan Williams     |
- The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us into the world where our true service begins.*

### **Save these dates**

Continental Breakfast 8:30 – 9:15am  
Children's Easter Egg Hunt on the Plymouth Common 9:00am  
Traditional Easter Service 9:30am  
April 8<sup>th</sup>-Sunday Niters at the LaPrads 6:00pm  
April 20<sup>th</sup>-Whiffenpoofs of Yale 7:30pm

### **Announcements**

**Sunday Niters** – On **April 8<sup>th</sup>** at 6pm, we are at Linda and Jim LaPrad's in West Rumney, 4-wheel drive recommended. Come prepared to tell us one thing we don't know about you. Take Rte.25 for 2 miles past the Polar Caves on to Old 25. Travel to Willcolburn Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> on the left. Bring a dish to share. On **April 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 6pm, come sample Maple Porter at Anderson's Brewery in Campton, 1323 Rte.175, white building on left in village. Yes, bring a dish to share.

**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. 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 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](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org).

### **COFFEE HOUSE**

The Coffee House at Plymouth Congregational UCC is a space where music, poetry, social issues, spirituality and faith intersect in a vibrant and informal manner.

**There is Something About Cuba** – Friday, April 27 at 6:30 PM. From music to healthcare, Cuba remains a unique social and political experiment in the Americas. Join us to hear the reflections Dr. Diane Arsenault, Mr. Peter Pierni, Rev. Carol Asher, Susan Wei, Philip Wei, and Eileen Torrey will share on the trip to Cuba last January.

**SMUGGLING HOPE INTO AMERICA** – Friday, May 18 at 6:30 PM – Polish Poet, teacher and translator Ewa Chrusciel will read some of her poems and speak about her journey to America as a Polish immigrant. Bright, funny and captivating, Ewa Chrusciel uses her love of words and personal experience to talk about the ways immigrants smuggle hope and dreams into America. Ms. Chrusciel is an Associate Professor of Humanities at Colby-Sawyer College.

# WHIFFENPOOFS OF YALE

April 20, 2018 at 7:30 PM



The Yale "Whiffs" are Coming to Plymouth!

We are delighted to welcome the world's oldest and best known collegiate a cappella group to central New Hampshire.

Doors will open at 6:00 PM on Friday, April 20th. Arrive early to save a seat!

Your donation of \$20 will support the music program at Plymouth Congregational UCC.

This concert made possible by the Joan Campbell Lovett Fund

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, Treasurer  
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling

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