

**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Easter Sunday**

April 1, 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 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. 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 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

Centering Song

"Christ is Risen: Alleluia!"

Ralph L. Grosvenor

(1893-1982)

*Call to Worship

**Indicates congregation standing*

One: Come, this is the time to be hopeful again!

All: Jesus is risen! Alleluia!

One: Come, this is the day to be glad and laugh!

All: Jesus is risen! Life persists beyond the cross of Good Friday.

One: Come, this is the moment to believe again!

All: Jesus is risen! Peace emerges from a world of violence.

One: Come, God has made laughter for us!

All: Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Congregational Response

2
♩ = 116

Alleluia 7

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia! (hum)

Prayer of Adoration

One: Friends, we are here not to seek an intellectual understanding of Easter; we are here to be surprised by the vibrant possibilities of life reborn through faith and love. We are here to pray that this day may also be the day of our own resurrection. Let us weave our voices into one Easter prayer, saying:

**All: God of holy laughter,
 amuse us once again with the startling mystery of Easter.
 Tickle us with the gift of faith
 that we may snicker at our feeble attempts to turn
 the resurrection into spring flowers, cute bunnies, and chocolate
 eggs. Imaginative God, release us from our lack of imagination.
 At times, we take ourselves so seriously
 that we miss out on the freedom the Easter faith offers.
 In this sacred moment of worship,
 free our hearts and minds to celebrate the newness of life.
 Remind us that we are an Easter people
 and ours is a faith not of continuation, but transformation;
 not of resuscitation, but resurrection.
 With Christ, raise us today to new hope and new life. Amen.**

Silence for Personal Reflection

*Hymn

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

John Bell and
 Graham Maule

Hymn Tune: Holy Manna



1. Christ has ris - en while earth slum - bers, Christ has ri - sen where hope died,
2. Christ has ris - en for the peo - ple whom he loved and died to save;
3. Christ has ris - en to com - pan - ion for - mer friends who fear the night,
4. Christ has ris - en and for - e - ver lives to chal - lenge and to change



as he said and as he pro - mised, as we doubt - ed and de - nied.
 Christ has ris - en for the wo - men bring ing flow'rs to grace his grave.
 sens - ing loss and li - mi - ta - tion where their faith had once burned bright.
 all whose lives are messed or man - gled, all who find re - li - gion strange.



Let the moon em - brace the__ bless - ing; let the sun sus - tain the__ cheer;
Christ has ris - en for dis - ci - ples hud - dled in an up - stairs room.
They be - moan what is no__ lon - ger, they ex - pect no hope - ful__ sign
Christ is ris - en. Christ is__ pre - sent mak - ing us what he has__ been



let the__ world con - firm the__ ru - mor. Christ is__ ris - en, God is here!
He whose word in - spir'd cre - a - tion__ is not__ si - lenced by the tomb.
'til Christ ends their con - ver - sa - tion, break - ing__ bread and shar - ing wine.
e - vi - dence of trans - for - ma - tion__ in which God is known and seen.

***Sign of Peace**

One: After the resurrection, the Risen Christ stood among his disciples and greeted them saying, "Peace be with you."

All: The peace of Christ is within us and among us on this holy day. We are no longer strangers, but brothers and sisters in Christ. Alleluia!

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

Children's Message

THE GOSPEL PROCLAMATION

One: Listen for the Word of Salvation.

*Gospel lesson Mark 16:1-8

***Please rise for the reading of the Gospel**

One: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Praise to you, O God, Giver of this Day of Resurrection!

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

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

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Alleluia. The first staff has a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is written on a single line. Above the staff, the notes are labeled with chord symbols: A, E, D, E, A, D, E. Below the staff, the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" are written. The second staff is identical to the first, with the same chord symbols and lyrics.

Sermon

"Can You Answer the Easter Question"

*Hymn

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

1 "Christ the Lord is risen to - day!"
2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
4 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!

All cre - a - tion, join to say:
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,
Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise to you by both be given,

The image shows four staves of musical notation for the hymn. The first two staves are for the first two lines of the hymn, and the last two staves are for the last two lines. The notation includes treble and bass clefs, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the staves, with the refrain "Al - le - lu - ia!" appearing at the end of the second and third lines.

Raise your joys and triumphs high,
 Death in vain forbids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Je - sus died, our souls to save,
 Ev - ery knee to you shall bow,

Sing, O heavens, and earth re - ply,
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave?
 Ris - en Christ, tri - um - phant now.

Originally printed as eleven four-line stanzas without alleluias, this Easter text was written during the first year following the author's life-changing conversion experience, yet it already shows his enduring emphasis on the theme of love. This lively Welsh tune sets it well.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
 MUSIC: Robert Williams, 1817; harm. David Evans, 1927
 Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

LLANFAIR
 7.7.7.7 with alleluias

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Easter Faith

**All: We believe in God, the Creator
 who gave birth to the universe,
 set solar systems dancing in space,
 shaped molecules and mountains,
 and conceived beauty beyond our imagining.
 God's power topples tyrants,
 and brings down walls of separation;
 God's love embodies the tenderness
 of a mother and father,
 encouraging and caring for each of us.
 We believe in Jesus,
 born in obscurity in an occupied land;**

**a human being, vulnerable to hunger, thirst,
persecution and grief.
He understood the power of love
and confronted the powers of evil,
spoke the truth with courage and clarity,
forgave his enemies and changed lives.
In his living, dying and rising again
Jesus showed love strong enough to save the world.
We believe in the Holy Spirit
who leads us into truth and freedom,
and works through prayer and action,
through justice, care of creation,
human knowledge and the healing of the nations.
We celebrate the potential God has given us,
the life in our bodies, the yearning of our souls,
the laughter on our lips, and the longing to love
and serve our Maker. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Offertory

Gift of Music

"The Risen Christ"

Gilbert M. Martin (1941-)

***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 contagious laughter, Easter gives us courage to be 'fools for Christ.' Because He is risen, we will never stop believing in a world where broken hearts are mended and fear is replaced with joy and love. Use our gifts and our lives to share the Easter story with the world. Christ is Risen! Faith is alive! Hope is alive! Peace is possible! Alleluia!

SENDING

*Hymn

In the Bulb There is a Flower

Capo 3: (D) (Em)
F Gm

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) (D)
C7 F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)
F7 B^b Gm F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)
B^b Gm F Dm Gm C7 F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning." Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.

***Benediction** "Jesus, The Christ, Is Risen Today" G.F. Handel (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

April 8th-Sunday Niters at the LaPrads 6:00pm
April 20th-Whiffenpoofs of Yale 7:30pm

Announcements

Sunday Niters – On **April 8th** 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, 2nd on the left. Bring a dish to share. On **April 22nd** 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.

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 Arsenaault, 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, Church Treasurer
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Rev. Bill Torrey, liturgist

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