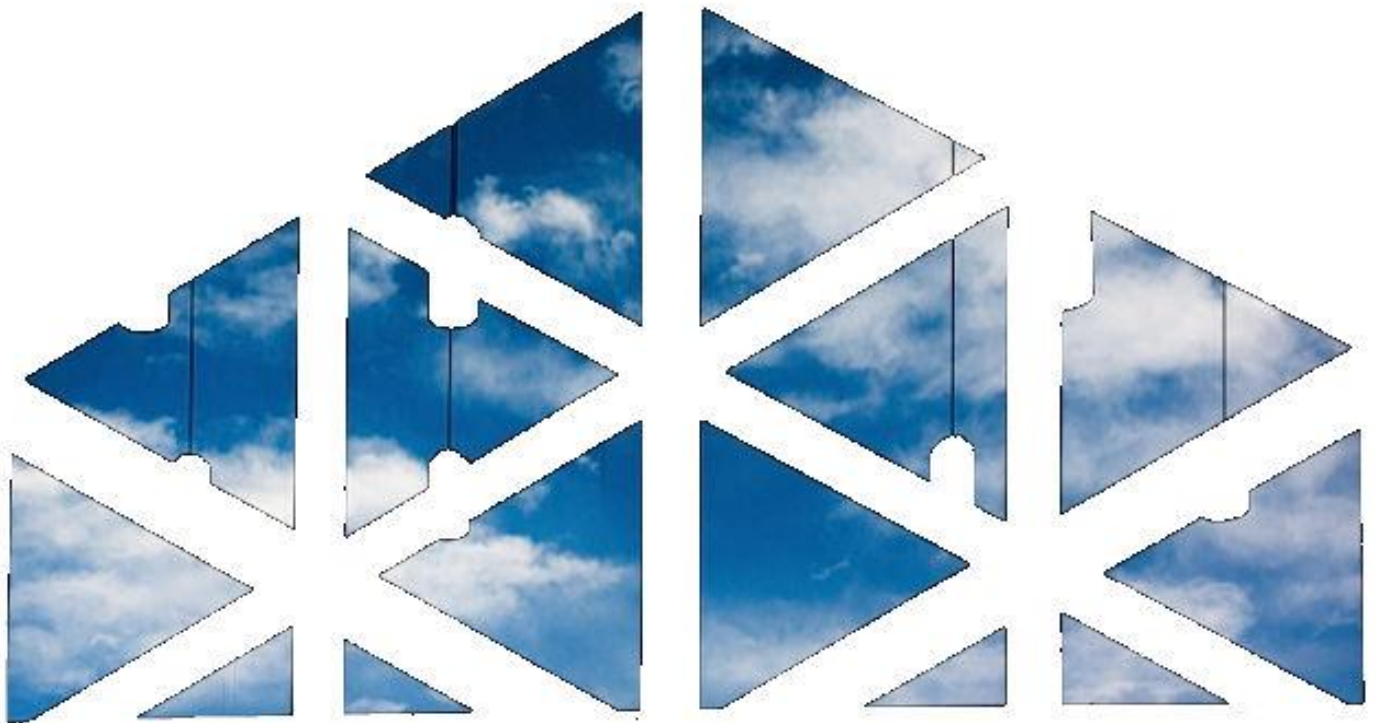


**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**

**April 8, 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.
- 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](http://www.uccplymouth.org).

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

# GATHERING

## Prelude

Minuet in G Op. 49, No. 2

Beethoven

*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

"We Come to Sing Praise"

Robert Boberg

## \*Call to Worship

*\*Indicates congregation standing*

One: We are here to praise God.

**All: Christ is risen! Joy and hope fill our hearts. Alleluia!**

One: We are gathered to affirm the mystery of our faith.

**All: Christ is risen! Wonder and awe fill our hearts. Alleluia!**

One: We are here to worship the God of life.

**All: We are here to sing, dance, laugh, clap our hands and have the time of our lives. Christ is risen! God has filled our lives with gladness and laughter. Alleluia!**

## \*Congregational Response

### Halleluja

*Traditional*

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

The first line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Chord symbols above the staff are A, E, A, D, Bm, and E.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu - ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

The second line of musical notation continues the melody. Chord symbols above the staff are A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, and A.

*This joyous response may be used following readings of scripture, or as a processional or recessional, especially during Easter.*

Tune: HALLELUJA  
Caribbean melody

## Prayer of the Day

One: Whether believing or doubting, we still gather as a community of faith to bring our prayers before God. In the name of the Risen Christ, we join our hearts and voices together in prayer, saying:

**All: God of the Easter story, we confess that we have made a foolish choice this morning; we have decided to have faith in your power to bring life out of death. Now that we are fools for Christ, we accept wholeheartedly our call to live as Easter people. Show us, O God of the empty grave, how we can share the Easter faith with our families, friends and neighbors. Empower us to imitate Christ and to offer ourselves in love and joy to the healing ministries of the church. Make us open to the startling news of the resurrection so we may never doubt that the Risen Christ is with us, giving us hope and faith even in moments of struggle, confusion, pain, and disbelief. Be with us in this time of worship and let your Holy Spirit encircle us so that we may feel and see resurrection ever about us. Amen.**

## Silence for Personal Reflection

### Prayer Response "Dying You Destroyed our Death" (sing twice)

Capo 5: (Am) (Em) (Dm) (Am) (F) (G)  
Dm Am Gm Dm B<sup>b</sup> C



Dy - ing you de - stroyed our death; ris - ing you re -

(Dm7) (Esus) (E7)(Dm) (Em) (A)  
Gm7 Asus A7 Gm Am D



stored our life. Lord Je - sus, come in glo - ry.

# God's Promise of New Life

One: Friends, believe in the Good News that can never be taken from us!

**All: Easter is our turn-about moment! From now on, we will live as children of the light, people of hope, men and women whose hearts are large enough to embrace the mystery of resurrection and the gift of new life. Alleluia!**

## \*Hymn

### "I Danced in the Morning"

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm)  
F Dm Am Dm



1 I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I  
2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but  
3 I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame. The  
4 I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black. It's  
5 They cut me down and I leapt up high. †

(Em) (A)  
Gm C



danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I  
they would not dance and they would not foll - ow me. I  
ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. They  
hard to dance with the dev - il on your back. They  
I am the life that will nev - er, nev - er die. I'll

(D) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm)  
F Dm Am Dm



came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At  
danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John. They  
whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and  
bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but  
live in you if you'll live in me, †

(Em) (A7) (G) (D)  
Gm C7 B<sup>b</sup> F

Beth - le - hem I had my birth.  
came with me and the dance went on.  
left me there on a cross to die.  
I am the dance and I still go on.  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Refrain (F#m) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (D) (Bm)  
Am Dm Am Dm F Dm

Dance, then, wher-ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

(Em) (A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A7) (D)  
Gm C F Dm F C7 F

Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be,

(Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)  
Gm C7 F B<sup>b</sup> F

and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

This 20th-century ballad-like retelling of the life of Christ, though written for this Shaker tune, has many similarities with the pre-Reformation carol "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." Such narrative carols were common both at Christmas and as part of medieval mystery plays.

TEXT: Sydney Carter, 1963  
MUSIC: American Shaker melody; adapt. Sydney Carter, 1963  
Text and Music © 1963 Stainer & Bell, Ltd. (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

LORD OF THE DANCE  
Irregular

## \*Sign of Peace

One: We sing, pray, laugh, dance and worship together because the Risen Christ has brought us into this community of hope, faith, love and peace.

**All: The Risen Christ is our peace with God and one another.**

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

## Children's Message

Minute for Mission

Youth Mission Team

# HEARING THE WORD

## Scripture Lessons

One: Listen for the Word of God

New Testament Lesson Acts 4:32-35

Gospel lesson John 20:19-31

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

**All: Amen**

**Sermon** "Don't Take Your Religion too Seriously"

**\*Hymn** Rejoice, You Pure in Heart Blk#55  
(sing vv. 1-3 & 5)

# 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** Alleluia Round William Boyce (1711-1779)

## Gift of Music

**\*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 every gift, bless us with your resurrection love that, like the first disciples, we too may see the Christ of our love and faith. Take our offerings and transform them into acts of kindness, works of compassion, gestures of peace, and efforts to make our world fairer. God of our laughter and joy, hear our prayer.**

# **SENDING**

**\*Hymn**                      Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing                      Blk#303

**\*Benediction**                      Let Us Go Forth Gladly                      J.H. Keagle

**\*Choral Response**                      Go In Peace                      Robert Boberg

**Postlude**                      Magnificat Op. 41, No. 2                      Felix Alexandre Guilmant  
*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	Nancy Pirnie
Ginny Arsenault	Pat Andrews	Bonnie Hill

Bob Feeney, our Chicago Seminary Student

Prayers for Sam Lovett, a 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**

April 20<sup>th</sup>-Whiffenpoofs of Yale 7:30pm  
April 23<sup>rd</sup>-Adult Education 4:00pm  
May 20<sup>th</sup>-PCUCC Annual Meeting following Church  
April 22<sup>nd</sup>-Anderson's Brewery 6:00pm

### **Announcements**

**Sunday Niters** 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.

**Faith in Action: be the Church** We are ready to launch a new church-wide initiative. On the fifth Sunday in April, we will get together immediately after the worship service to do a mission project. The whole congregation, including families, children and youth, is invited. The service will be a tad shorter to give all of us the opportunity to put our faith into action. "Faith in Action" will happen in those months with a fifth Sunday. On **April 29<sup>th</sup>**, we will gather on the front steps of the church (weather permitting) to write letters of solidarity, hope, encouragement, and love to the students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL. There will be cards and pens available. Invite friends and neighbors to stop by and write a card. Potluck will follow.

**Adult Education** Walter Brueggemann's new book is an invitation to reflect on the gift of the Christian faith in today's world. In the book, Brueggemann - a Beloved and respected scholar, teacher, and preacher offers penetrating insights on Scripture and prophetic diagnoses of our culture. Instead of maintaining what is safe and routine, *A Gospel of Hope* encourages readers to embrace the audacity required to live out one's faith. This must-have volume gathers Brueggemann's wisdom on topics ranging from anxiety and abundance to partisanship and the role of faith in public life. We will meet on **Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup>** in the Church Parlor from 4:00 to 5:30pm, chapters 3, 4, and 5.

**PCUCC Annual Meeting** Our meeting will be on **May 20<sup>th</sup>** following church. All annual reports which include reports from Finance, Pastor's Report, HR, Membership Statistics, Building & Grounds, Worship, Mission, Zimbabwe, Habitat, Spiritual Formation, Fellowship, Church Council, Diaconate, Nominating, Budget proposal and last year's minutes need to be sent to Debbie at the church office by **Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**. These reports will be available on our church's website. To save church paper resources please consider reviewing them on the website ahead of our meeting or bring your electronic device to review at the meeting. If you are willing to do this, please let the church office know so we won't need to print as many report booklets! There will be a hard copy of the budget proposal available at the meeting.

**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.

**Coffee Hour News** Many thanks to all for bringing snacks and goodies to share for Coffee Hour. Be sure to sign-up on the Will You Tree poster if you know in advance you're able to bring something. Some suggestions are crackers (smaller boxes/bags) and blocks of cheese, salsa and scoops, cut-up vegetable and hummus or savory sour cream drip, cut-up fruit with sweet dip, coffee cake, quick bread and 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. **Kitchen Crew** We are looking for a few folks to join the Kitchen Crew for set-up to make the coffee and to set out all the food. At the end, of Coffee Hour, we would appreciate a few more folks to help with clean-down. Please choose your Sunday(s) and sign-up on the Kitchen Crew Calendar. Thanks again from the Hospitality Committee.

**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<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. 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 as they share about their trip to Cuba last January.

**SMUGGLING HOPE INTO AMERICA** Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. 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.

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

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