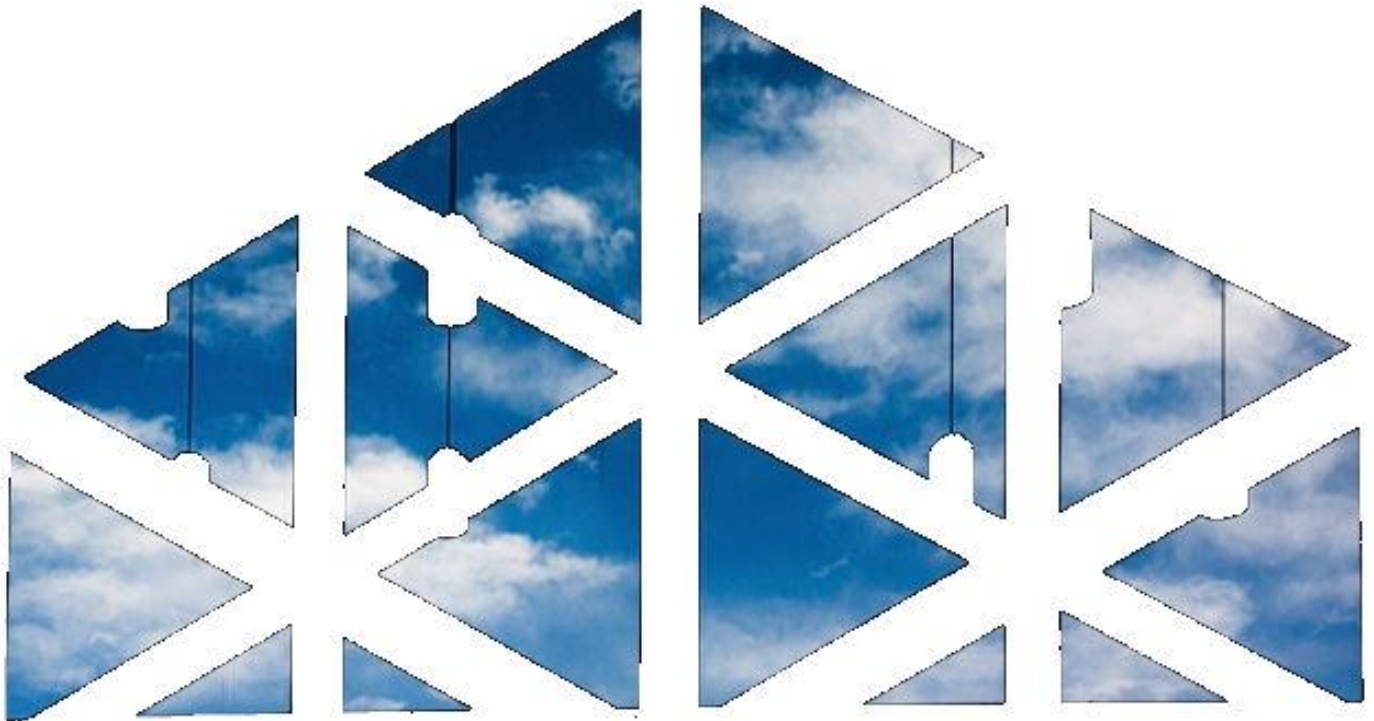


Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Third Sunday of Easter

April 15, 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.

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

GATHERING

Prelude

Allegretto from Menuetto in F

Joseph Hayden

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

God is in this Holy Place

Hopson

*Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 4:6-8

**Indicates congregation standing*

One: There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!

All: Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"

One: You have put gladness in my heart,

All: more than when grain and wine abound.

One: I will both lie down and sleep in peace;

All: for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

*Congregational Response

Halleluja

Traditional

Musical notation for the first line of the Halleluja response. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, E, A, D, Bm, and E. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Musical notation for the second line of the Halleluja response. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, and A. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu - ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

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: Take a deep breath, slow down your thoughts, and let us make space for the Spirit of God in our hearts as we pray together, saying:

All: Holy One, Giver of life and love, we bring our thanks for calling us to be life givers and love givers in your name. Fill us with your joy as you shape our thoughts, our days and our part in your creation. May all people rejoice in knowing you and doing your work in our world. May our lives show our gratitude for life itself, and may we find you within and among us, in your gifts of beauty, resource and each of us, as did Jesus. 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^b C

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

(Dm7) (E^{sus}) (E7) (Dm) (Em) (A)
Gm7 Asus A7 Gm Am D

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

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Curt Oliver, 1997
Music © 1997 Curt Oliver

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (Oliver)

God's Promise of New Life

One: Life is the gift and glory of God, given freely to us through Christ!

All: May our faith in God's promise of life be shown in living by the word of God and the example of Jesus' life.

*Hymn

"I Woke Up This Morning"

Blk#85

***Sign of Peace**

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

All: May our joy in God's gifts always shape our lives!

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

Children's Message

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Lessons

One: Listen for the Word of God

New Testament Lesson Acts 3:12-19

Gospel lesson Luke 24:36b-48

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

All: Amen

Sermon

"Everything? Everything"

***Hymn**

"This Is a Day of New Beginning"

Blk#417

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

Be Thou Vision

Alice Parker

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: Gracious, generous God, we give thanks that we can share. May our offerings help our world to be a place where every person is free to share a unique aspect of your presence and blessing. To your presence and purposes, we offer our gifts and possibilities in the name of our Christ. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn**

"Be Now My Vision"

Blk#451

***Benediction**

Dismiss Us with the Blessings of Thy Peace

Robert Boberg

***Choral Response**

Postlude

Sonata IV, allegro

Handel

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

Keeping in Prayer

Jack & Vicky Meyers
Lynn Anderson

Eilene Greenwood
Nancy Pirnie
Pat Andrews

The Jaeubowski Family
Ginny Arsenault

Our sympathy to the Brace family
in the loss of Dick's brother Ron Brace.

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 20th-Whiffenpoofs of Yale 7:30pm
April 22nd-Sunday Niters at Anderson's Brewery 6:00pm
April 23rd-Adult Education 4:00pm
April 27th-There is Something about Cuba 6:30pm
April 29th-Faith in Action following worship service
April 30th-Adult Education 4:00pm
May 20th-PCUCC Annual Meeting following Church

Announcements

Sunday Niters 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.

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 29th**, 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 30th** in the Church Parlor from 4:00 to 5:30pm, chapters 3, 4, and 5.

PCUCC Annual Meeting Our meeting will be on **May 20th** 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 27th**. 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 Thank you for bringing snacks. Please sign-up on the Will You Tree poster if you're able to bring something. Suggestions are crackers & cheese, salsa & scoops, vegetables & hummus/drip, fruit & sweet dip, coffee cake, quick bread & cream cheese, muffins, chex mix, mixed nuts and pretzels. Please label gluten-free foods and a sign for snacks. **Kitchen Crew** We need volunteers to join the Kitchen Crew to make coffee and set-up food. We also need folks to help with clean-up after. Please 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.

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 27th 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, Peter Pirnie, 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 18th 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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Rev. Andy Jepson, guest preacher
Alice O'Connor, liturgist

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