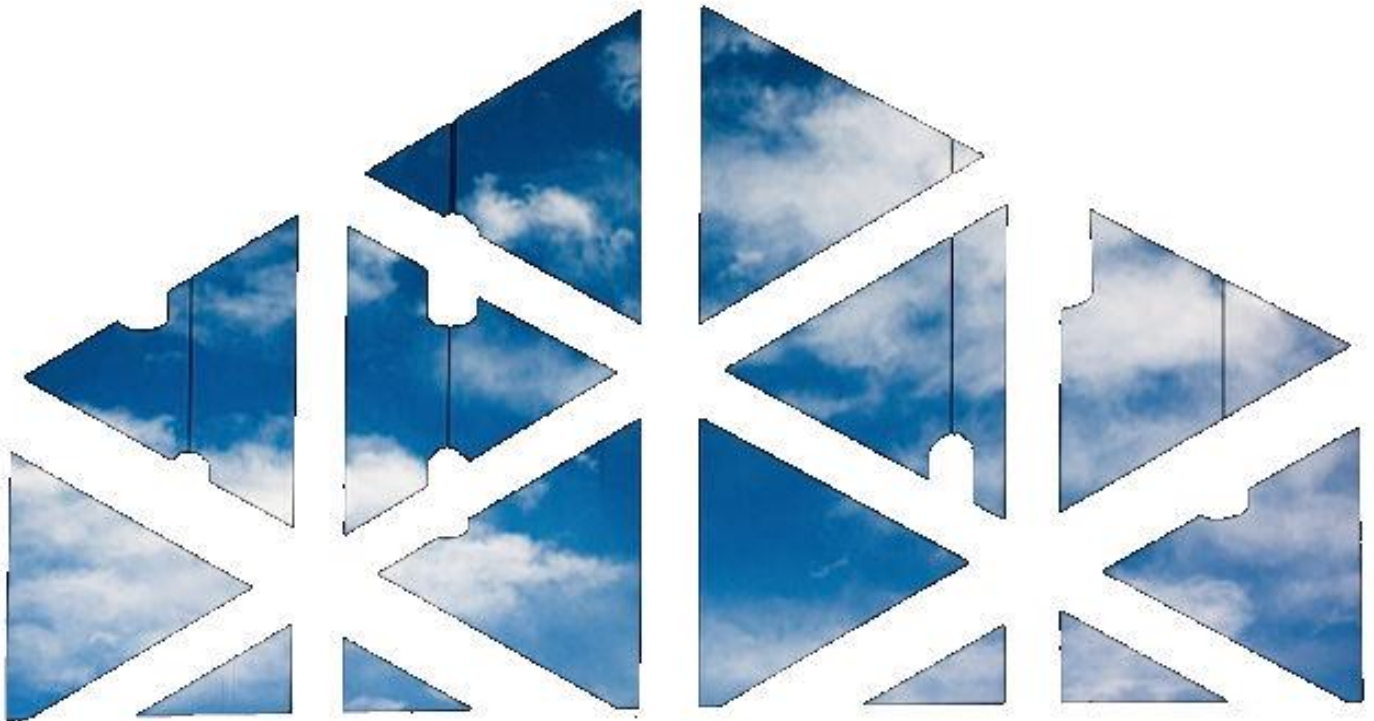


Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 29, 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

Praeludiu m in C dur

K. Roeder

*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

Brahms arr: Hopson

*Call to Worship

**Indicates congregation standing*

One: We gather to give thanks for God's Living Word.

**All: For the Word of God in Scriptures,
for the Word of God revealed in Christ,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
for the Word of God that enables us to grow in love,
we praise, O God!**

*Hymn

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Blk#23

Prayer of the Day

One: Before God and with the people of God we pray together, saying:

All: O God of love in action, hear our prayer. We gather in this sacred place bringing with us hope and hesitation, joy and yearning, restlessness and peace, hunger and thirst, doubt and faith. Heal us, O God of new life, of all that harms us spiritually. Bless us with the freedom of forgiveness. Remind us that we are free to choose love over hate, kindness over ruthlessness, and solidarity over indifference. As your loving Word became flesh in Christ, we ask that your love may also become enfleshed in us this morning. Help us to allow your love to take us beyond this safe place of worship into action, into the streets and into the world. 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 \flat 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.

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

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (Oliver)

*Sign of Peace

One: Let us put Christ's Word of peace into action this morning.

All: Let us dare to put peace into a hug, into a handshake, and into words of welcome and friendship.

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

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Lessons

One: Listen for the Word of God

Gospel lesson John 15:1-8

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

All: Amen

Sermon

“Disciples”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Offertory

Gift of Music

Rejoice Today

W. Glen Darst

***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: Loving God, we gladly bring these gifts – the fruit of our labor.
May our giving give a gentle heart, a kind smile, a warm embrace,
and a human face to your love. Amen.**

SENDING

*Hymn

"Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed"

Blk#537

*Benediction

Postlude

Voluntary

Maurice Greene

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
Pat Andrews

Eilene Greenwood
Nancy Pirnie
Bethany

The Jaeubowski Family
Ginny Arsenault
Penny Colgan-Davis

Bob Feeney, our Chicago Seminary Student

Prayers for Sam Lovett, a member-in-discernment in the Merrimack Association

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

*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 30th – Adult Education with Walter Brueggemann
May 13th – Sunday Niters with Wayne and Peggy Martin
May 18th – Coffee House: Smuggling Hope into America
May 20th - PCUCC Annual Meeting following worship service

Announcements

Sunday Niters Although not an official arm of the church, Sunday Niters has been a part of this congregation since the time of Revs. Michael and Jane Henderson who were pastors at Plymouth UCC in the 1980's. It has endured ever since. With an occasional exception, we meet second and fourth Sunday evenings during "the off season" meaning not from mid-June into September. A potluck dinner is hosted by various members or friend of the church often accompanied by a program. At other times just for the sociability. All are welcome. Host venue volunteers and those to present programs are always being sought. And thanks to Phillip Wei for all his past efforts on behalf of the Niters, For more information about Sunday Niters, contact Tink Taylor. On **May 13th**, we will meet at Wayne and Peggy Martin on Route 3. Turn right past the Sunset Grille. Bob Curry will discuss "thinking about our departure" and give instructions on how to write one's own obituary. On **May 27th**, we meet at Bob and Carol Stewart at the usual time with a high altitude dish. Take Route 49 into Waterville Valley, pass Sandwich Notch, turn-off is on right, take next left at bridge (Upper Mad River Road) to Orris, go to top of road, take left to #262. Look for other cars.

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. 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 May 6th and at the meeting.

Calling All Bakers! Food for Finals at PSU is **May 12th** and is asking interested parishioners to provide homemade goodies-cookies or squares free of nuts please-for the residence halls the first night of Finals Week. Please contact Debbie Healey in the front office at 536-2626 if you are able to volunteer as a coordinator for PCUCC.

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 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, 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 for May and June. 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

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 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

Dawn Shimborg, liturgist

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

