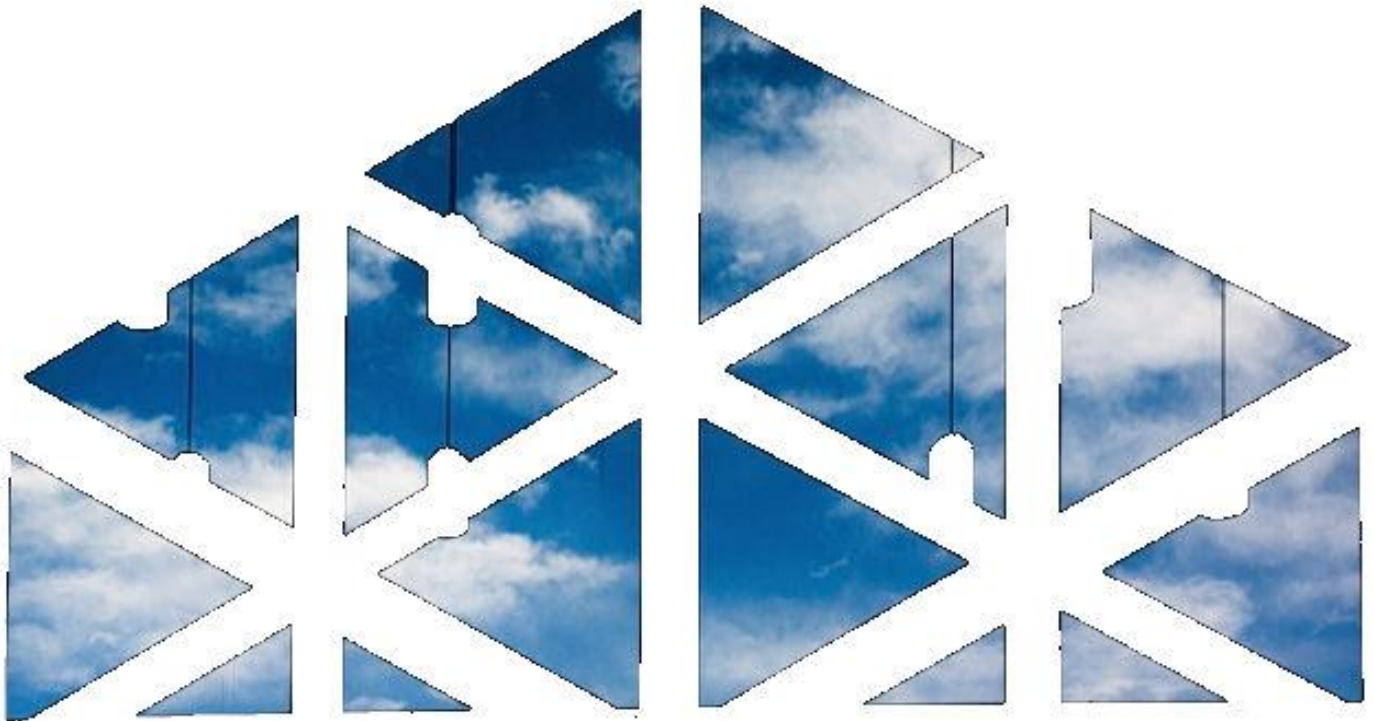


**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Seventh Sunday of Easter**

May 13, 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 What a Friend We Have in Jesus Charles C. Converse

*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 In Thy Temple, Lord, Awaiting L Zainei

***Call to Worship**

**Indicates congregation standing*

One: Beloved of God, come into the nurturing presence of our God.

All: Parenting God – Mother, Son and Holy Spirit – we gather to worship you.

One: Beloved of God, open the doors of your hearts to God's all-embracing love.

All: Parenting God – Mother, Brother and Spirit of Life – we are here to worship you.

***Hymn** "God Is Here! As We Your People Meet" Blk#70

Prayer of the Day

One: May you feel the Spirit of God wrapping around your whole body, mind and soul as we pray together, saying:

All: God our Mother, praise surges within us as we seek words to carry to you our gratitude for this sacred moment. Let us find in this gathering a still place where our spirits may be nurtured by your motherly love. Gather us in and reconnect us with holy stories that can shrink our self-approval, disturb our certainties and enlarge our sense of wonder. In your mercy, hear what our hearts ache to whisper to you and help us find here a safe space to remember, to confess and to be forgiven. Listen to us, Mothering God, and hold us all close to your loving heart. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Friends, trusting in God's extravagant love for us, let us proclaim the Good News!

All: In Christ, God teaches us that we are all loved as a unique one-off-never-to-be-repeated-ever child of God. Alleluia!

Prayer Response

"O God, You Are My God"

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "O God, you are my God, and I will ev-er praise you. O God, you are my God, and I will ev-er praise you. I will seek you in the morn - ing, and I will learn to walk in your ways. And step by step you'll lead me, and I will fol - low you all of my days." The chords are indicated above the notes: G, D, C, D, G, Dsus7, D7, G, D, C, D, G, Em, Dsus, D, C, Am7, G, D, C, Dsus7, D7, G.

Though this refrain from a longer song is not a paraphrase of any particular psalm, the language in the first six lines has definite scriptural overtones (such as Psalms 31:14, 5:3; Deuteronomy 26:17). The final two lines sound more spontaneous and lead to a confident conclusion.

TEXT and MUSIC: David Strasser (Beaker), 1991

Text and Music © 1991 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing/Kid Brothers of St. Frank Publishing

STEP BY STEP

Irregular

***Sign of Peace**

One: One hundred trillion cells, seven million years of evolution, forty weeks of gestation, years of love and lessons and laughter and tears, have gone into the persons who are sitting next to you. We are all a miracle of life, a gift from God! Let us celebrate this miracle of life and faith. May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

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 1:1-11 NT. pp 947

Gospel lesson John 17:11-19 NT. pp 941

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

All: Amen

Sermon

"Be a Gift to the World"

***Hymn**

"Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"

Blk#467

(Choir sings first stanza; congregation joins in the second stanza)

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

Gift of Music

Glory to God in the Highest

David C. Dickau

***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: Mother of us all, Giver of life, accept our simple gifts of time and money. May our giving teach us to love all your children more honestly, more deeply, and more strongly than we could have ever imagined. In the name of Jesus Christ, our hope and our Savior. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn** "Take My Gifts" Blk#562

***Benediction**

***Choral Response** Dismiss Us With the Blessings of Thy Peace

Postlude How Majestic Is Your Name Michael W. Smith
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	Nancy Pirnie	Ginny Arsenault
Pat Andrews	Bethany	Penny Colgan-Davis

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

May 13th – Sunday Niters with Wayne and Peggy Martin
May 16th – Kitchen Clean-up 9:00-11:30 AM
May 18th – Coffee House: Smuggling Hope into America
May 20th - PCUCC Annual Meeting following worship service
May 21st - Kitchen Clean-up 9:00-11:30 AM
May 27th – Sunday Niters with Bob and Carol Stewart

Announcements

Sunday Niters On **May 13th**, we will meet at Wayne and Peggy Martin on Route 3 in Campton, 1/2 mile north of the Sunset Grille on your right. Peggy will lead us to a nearby vernal pond. It's a springtime wonder of nature. Come with appropriate footwear. 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, **May 14th**, in the Church Parlor from 4:00 to 5:30pm, chapters 7, 8 and 9.

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 supply us with cash or a check made out to PCUCC with Hannaford gift card in the memo line.

Kitchen Clean-up Mornings On **May 16th** and **May 21st**, we will be tackling various projects in the kitchen to keep all areas clean. Please join us on Wednesday, May 16th or Monday, May 21st from 9:00AM to 11:30AM. There is much to do from wiping away drips on cabinet doors to refilling salt and pepper shakers. Sign up for an hour or two on the list by the Will You poster. Let's get this done so that we can enjoy working in a squeaky-clean kitchen! Thank you, 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.

Call to ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

May 20, 2018 at 10:45 AM

The active Members of the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ are hereby notified that the 254th Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall on May 20th immediately after the worship service.

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 Reverend Paulo G. França

Deborah Healey, Church Office Administrator
Cindy Bjerklie, Director of Christian Education
David Williams, Interim Director of Music
Ashley Paine, interim accompanist
Larry Spencer, Church Treasurer
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling

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Bill Heron, liturgist

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