

**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ**  
**Day of Pentecost**

**May 20, 2018**

**9:30 a.m.**

A Just Peace Church  
An Open and Affirming Congregation  
A God is Still Speaking ʹ



Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

A compassionate community, intentionally inclusive, openly searching, joyfully serving in the way of Christ

## **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](http://www.uccplymouth.org).

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

# GATHERING

Prelude

Opus 49, #4

Joseph Rheinberger

*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

L. Zaninei

**\*Call to Worship**

*\*Indicates congregation standing*

One: Creator, Christ, Holy Spirit – fill our hearts with faith and wonder.

**All: Come, Holy Spirit - comfort and disturb us!**

**Choral Response** "Come, Holy Spirit, Come"

*Music based on a Spiritual*

*Arrangement and words: Carol Dixon*

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in a G major key signature and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics: "1. Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit. Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit." for the Soprano part, and "Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit. Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit." for the other three parts. The music features a mix of quarter and half notes, with some phrases held over from the previous measure.

One: Earth-Maker, Storyteller, Breath of Life – fill our hearts with joy and praise.

**All: Come, Holy Spirit – surprise and amaze us!**

**Choral Response** "Come, Holy Spirit, Come"

## Prayer of the Day

One: God of soft whispers and thunderous love, breathe new life into our hearts as we pray the same prayer in many voices, saying:

**All: On this gathering of believers and doubters, disciples and seekers, adults and children, pour out your Holy Spirit, O God of Pentecost. Give us a renewed sense of joy for the living faith that brings us together. Come to us now, Spirit of God, and blur the lines that threaten to divide us. Dare us to come closer to one another and still celebrate all that makes us different and unique. Remind us today that we are all one in the Spirit; then draw us into your story of love and forgiveness. Speak to us and teach us again that your Word is not "a liberal word or a conservative word, a white word" or a Latino word, an American word or a foreign word. "It is the word beyond all words," because it is the word of life and faith the Spirit breathes into our souls. Amen.**

## Silence for Personal Reflection

### God's Promise of New Life

One: Friends, every time we come together the Spirit reminds us that we are not "goody-goody people," but human beings who are called to enact the Gospel in the world.

**All: Alleluia! This is the Good news: in Christ God teaches us to be barrier-breakers, peacemakers, hope-bearers, and singers of a new song that rattles our bones with joy and gladness.**

## Prayer Response

"The Kingdom of God"\*

(sing twice)

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "The king - dom of God is jus - tice and peace and joy in the Ho - ly Spir - it. Come, Lord, and o - pen in us the gates of your king - dom. The". The guitar chords are indicated above the notes: Em, C, Am, G, D, G, D, C, Am/C, D, G, C, Em, Am, G, D, Bm, Em, D, G.

## \*Sign of Peace

One: The Risen Christ did not leave us alone. He sent the Spirit to call us into the Church, into a new human community; Christ entrusted us to each other's care and blessed us with his peace.

**All: The peace of Christ is written on our bodies, cradled in our hearts, acted out in our gestures and formed in our mouths.**

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

## Children's Message

\*Hymn "Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song" Blk#270

# HEARING THE WORD

## Scripture Lessons

One: Listen for the Word of God

New Testament Lesson Acts 2:2-21 NT p.948

Gospel lesson John 15:26-27, 16:5-15 NT p.940

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

**All: Amen**

**Sermon** "Unmute the Church"

\*Hymn "Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove" Blk#281

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**Prayer for the Day of Pentecost** Based on Walter Brueggemann's book  
*"A Gospel of Hope"*

One: Spirit of the Living God, come, help us to summon our courage and give us voices that are brave, clear and strong.

**All: Holy Spirit of God, inspire us to recommit ourselves to God's truth. Come into our lives as a sacred wind of change and blow away our middle-class morality, our political ideologies, our comfortable lives and privileged complacency. Make space in our lives for the newness of Christ. Remind us once again that the Spirit is wind and not wall. It is possibility and not coercion. It is opportunity and not threat. It is hope and never fear, anger or prejudice.**

One: Come, Holy Spirit, come!

**All: Holy Spirit of God, come with your passion for all people. Blow away our cultural biases and our mistrust of diversity. We live in a society that wants to sort out and divide and alienate. Too often we assume that liberals and conservatives must be in conflict, and Christians and Muslims must be in shared violence with each other, and poor blacks and rich whites must compete with an edge of hate. Give us a new language and a new freedom to envision another reality where humankind is not divided into haves and have-nots, immigrants and citizens, straight and gay, entitled and unentitled. Keep alive in the Church the Good News of the Gospel, which boldly affirms that we all belong together!**

One: Come, Holy Spirit, fall afresh on us!

**All: Holy Spirit of God, touch us anew and empower us to enact our story of faith today and soon and often. Blow away our potential for intolerance, violence, destruction and power. Unmanacle our capacity for solidarity, friendship, creativity and kindness. Take us out of our churches and show us how to run risks for justice in a world where Palestinians are brutalized. Strengthen us to run risks for forgiveness in a society where black lives seldom matter. Help us to run risks for generosity in a country driven by acquisitiveness. Inspire us to run risks for poetic imagination in a nation of prosaic anxiety.**

One: Come, Holy Spirit, with your uniting peace.

**All: Holy Spirit of God, come and let loose your power over us. Bring your Pentecostal fire into our church. Give us an evangelical identity that is not twisted by religious certitude but that is rooted in God's mercy, justice and grace. Infuse us with your holy sounds that we may prophesy about an earth that is free of injustice and safe for all living beings. Amen.**

## **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**     The Church, O God, her heart to Thee upraiseth  
Eric H. Thiman

**\*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, we place our gifts before you – gifts of hand and heart and mind; these we gladly offer to the healing ministries of this church. Amen.**

# SENDING

**\*Hymn**                     "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"                     Blk#286

## \*Benediction

**\*Choral Benediction**             Let us go forth gladly

## Postlude

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

\*Prayer Response – "The Kingdom of God" by Taizé. Copyright © 2007, Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, France. GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### **Keeping in Prayer**

Jack & Vicky Meyers	Eilene Greenwood	The Jaeubowski Family
Lynn Anderson	Nancy Pirnie	Ginny Arsenault
Pat Andrews	Bethany	Penny Colgan-Davis
Family off Eric Chapman		

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.*

## Announcements

**Sunday Niters** On **May 27<sup>th</sup>**, 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. "Stone Steps & Stories" Do you have a special stone that you picked up somewhere? Bring it to share its story. On **June 10<sup>th</sup>**, we meet at Bob and Carole Curry at 234 Carter Mt. Road which is off Old Bristol Road in New Hampton.

**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 21<sup>st</sup>**, in the Church Parlor from 4:00 to 5:30PM, chapters 10, 11 and 12.

**Kitchen Clean-up - On Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, we will be tackling various projects in the kitchen to keep all areas clean. Please join from 9:00AM to 11:00AM!** All of us have been enjoying a wonderful selection of snacks during Coffee Hour. Please keep bringing them in to share. You can sign up in advance by filling out a dated tag on the Will U Tree poster or simply show up with a platter of cookies, veggies/dip or crackers/cheese. Also, it would be helpful for the Hospitality Committee to plan for Kitchen Crew helpers. You may sign up on the calendar by the Will U Tree poster for the remainder of May and June. Thanks to everyone from the Committee!

### 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 today immediately after the worship service.

The Reverend Paulo G. França, Minister  
Deborah Healey, Church Office Administrator  
Cindy Bjerklie, Director of Christian Education  
David Williams, Interim Director of Music  
Sharon Beaty, Accompanist  
Larry Spencer, Church Treasurer  
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling

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John Anderson, liturgist

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