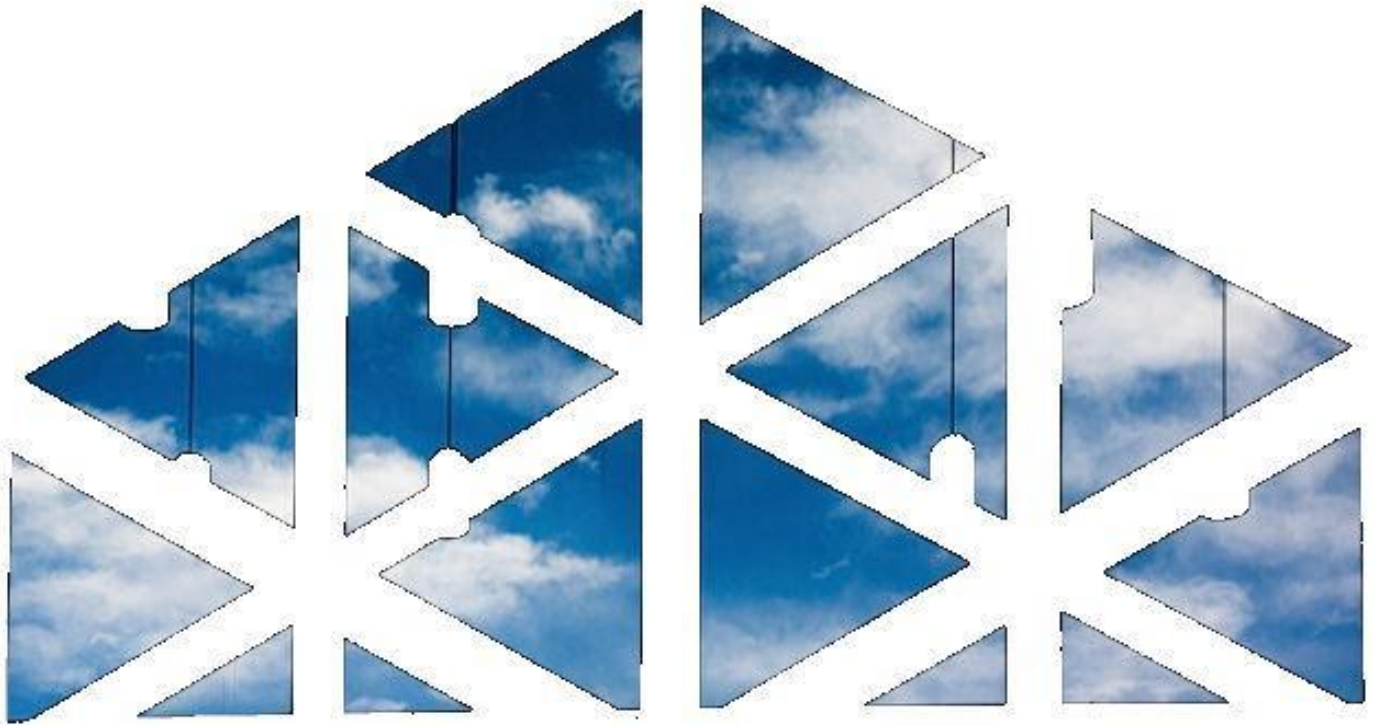


**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

June 24, 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 worship 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 worship 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, you may talk to our Faith Formation Director Cindy Bjerkli or visit our website.
- Our worship service can be heard in the parlor, chapel 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 downstairs immediately after the worship 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 Orientale from 12 Spanish Dances E. Granados

*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 Come and Find the Quiet Center B.F. White

***Call to Worship**

**Indicates congregation standing*

One: Friends, let us gather to worship the Living God.

All: We gather to wonder at the mystery of God's grace.

One: Let us sing praises to the Living God who never sleeps or turns away.

**All: We come before God to name all the things that keep us awake
in the dark night.**

One: Let us stand in the Presence of the Holy One to find shelter and inspiration,
healing and courage.

All: Friends, let us gather to worship the Living God.

***Hymn** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You" BLK#4

Prayer of the Day

One: Breathe in the sacredness of this moment and pay close attention to the
prayerful words we are about to bring before God, saying:

**All: God of mercy, help us to listen to your Word in the midst of the
babble of this noisy world. In this gathering of faith, help us to be
still long enough to open our hearts to your inspiring,
encouraging, forgiving and life-giving love. God of all the earth,
forgive our silent connivance with the willful use of your Word to
cause pain; make us a living sign of your grace and peace in these
tempestuous days. Strengthen us to keep hoping, loving, living,
and believing even when the journey ahead is hard. Amen.**

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Friends, hear the Good News - anyone who is in Christ is a new creation;
everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

All: All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God has reconciled the world to himself, not counting our wrongdoing against us, and entrusting us the message of hope, faith, and love. Alleluia!

Prayer Response "O God, You Are My God"

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.

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: This is the House of God! This is a gathering of peace!

All: In this sacred room, we proclaim and live the peace of Christ.

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

Hebrew Lesson

1 Samuel 17:1, 4-11, 32-49

OT p.248, 249

Gospel lesson

Mark 4:35-41

NT p.871

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

All: Amen

Sermon

"Instructions for Surviving the Storms of Life"

*Hymn

"The Love of God Comes Close" Tune: *Love Unknown*

by John L. Bell & Graham Maule

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1 The love of God comes close
where stands an open door
to let the stranger in,
to mingle rich and poor:
the love of God is here to stay
embracing those who walk his way.

2 The peace of God comes close
to those caught in the storm,
forgoing lives of ease
to ease the lives forlorn:
the peace of God is here to stay
embracing those who walk his way.

3 The Joy of God comes close
where faith encounters fears,
where heights and depths of life
are found through smiles and tears:
the joy of God is here to stay
embracing those who walk his way.

4 The Grace of God comes close
to those whose grace is spent
where hearts are tired or sore
and hope is bruised or bent:
the grace of God is here to stay
embracing those who walk his way.

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

Sonata No. 1 Adagio

J.J. Quantz

***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 compassion and justice, we are among the privileged people of the world. We are grateful for the blessings of life and food, freedom and peace, shelter and jobs, loved ones and friends. We bring our gifts and pledges as an act of thanksgiving. May our giving offer kindness, provide hope, sustain dreams and make justice roll down like streams of living water. In Christ and through Christ, we pray. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn

"I Want Jesus to Go with Me"

Blk#490

*Benediction

Postlude

Ciaconna Variations

GF Handel

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

Keeping in Prayer

Pat Andrews
Ana Christina Franca
Jesse Armstrong

Bethany
Matthew Sanchez
Sara Willingham

Penny Colgan-Davis
Christine Waite

Bob Feeny & Sam Lovett, members-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

July 1st – NH Friendship Chorus & Kids4Peace in worship
July 15th – Sunday School BBQ
July 23rd – Chanticleer
July 29th – Fifth Sunday
August 11th – Sunday School Farm Day
August 25th – Fisher Cats Faith & Family Night

Announcements

Coffee Hour – We are about to enter our “Summer Schedule”. On **July 1st**, we will be having the Kids4Peace as our guests. Perhaps, you could contribute a plate of cookies or brownies for this event. **July 29th** is our Fifth Sunday. Mark your calendar for fun and fellowship time with PCC members and visitors! For the remainder of Sundays from **July 8th – August 19th**, we are looking for volunteers to host Coffee Hour. Please let Chris or Georgene know if you can help in the kitchen.

- Finally we have a housekeeping concern in the kitchen. We have found many items on the counters without a note indicating why they are there. The Kitchen Crew does not have much space to prepare for Coffee Hour if items are being left. Please help with putting items away or labeling them. Thank you from the Hospitality Committee.

Faith Formation – Mark your calendars for summer fun!

- **Sunday School BBQ at the Kelsey’s on Sunday, July 15th** at 11:30 AM. It’s a potluck, so please plan to bring and share your favorite dish. Utensils, drinks and desserts will be provided. Directions to the Kelsey’s and more information will be available soon.
- **Sunday School Farm Day at the Bjerklie’s on Sunday, August 11th at 2:00 PM.** Come on over and see the goats, rabbits, chickens, ducks and more!
- **Fisher Cats Faith & Family Night on Saturday, August 25th at 6:30 PM.** Tickets are still available!

Please contact Cindy Bjerklie at faithformation@uccplymouth.org if you have any questions.

Chanticleer – July 23rd at 8:30 PM, The World’s Reigning Male Chorus presented by Great Waters Music Festival & New Hampshire Music Festival

Stewardship – Thank you for your pledges. To date, we have received \$157,305 out of \$210,000. If you have not pledged yet, please do so online or pick up a pledge card at the church and return as soon as possible. Also, we are at the end of the 17/18 fiscal year. Please catch up on your pledges and note in the memo line on your checks if you are completing 17/18 pledge or prepaying your 18/19 pledge. We are grateful for your steadfast support! - The Finance Committee

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

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Bev Newton, liturgist
Peggy Martin, flutist
Noelle Beaudin, guest accompanist

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