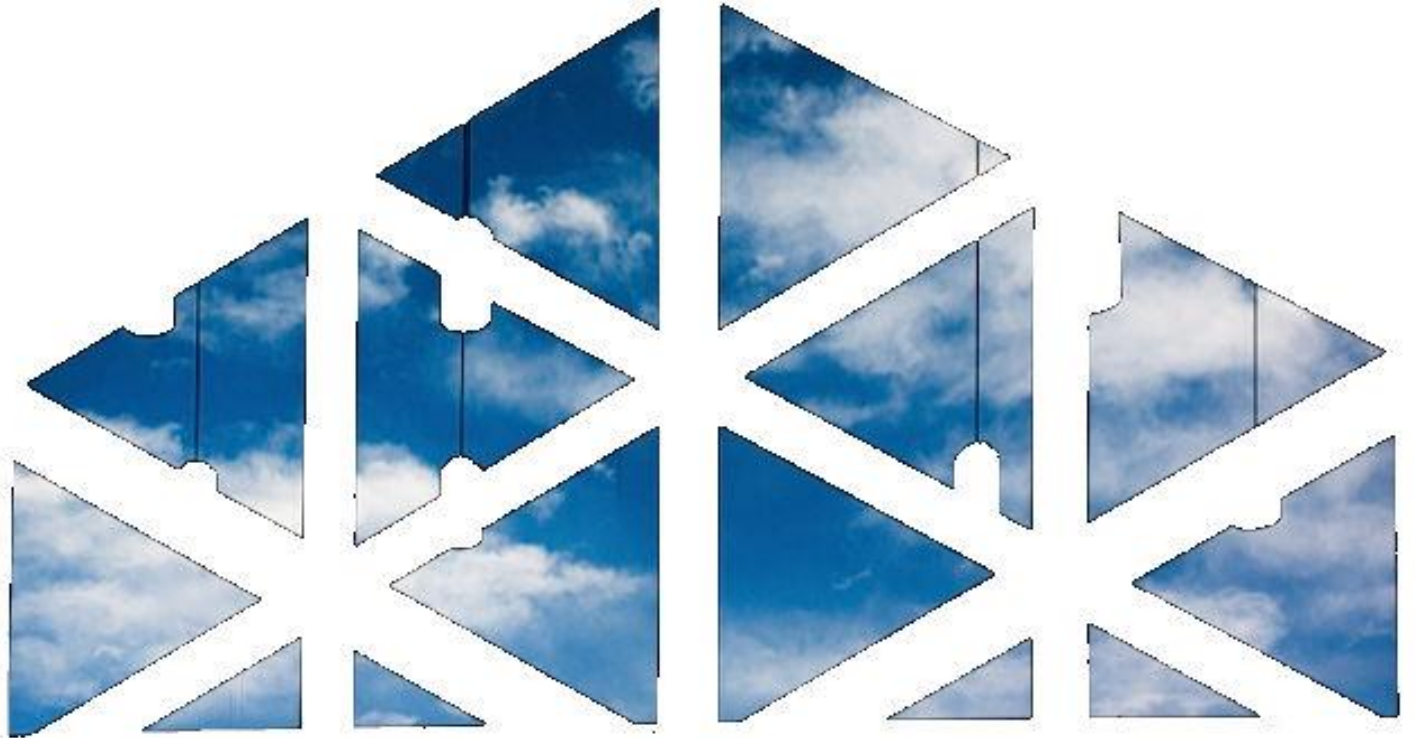


**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ**  
**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 1, 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 Bjerklie 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](http://www.uccplymouth.org).

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

# GATHERING

**Prelude**                      Holy God, We Praise Thy Name                      Arr. Donald Busarow

*The beginning of the prelude is an invitation to silent,  
personal preparation for the worship of God.*

## **Welcome & Life of the Church**

**Centering Music**                      Locus Iste                      Anton Bruckner

### **\*Call to Worship**

*\*Indicates congregation standing*

One: Holy God, Source of all freedom, we gather to praise you for the dreams of peace and liberty that still haunt the human soul.

**All: Gracious God, Giver of justice, we gather to praise you for the daring courage of visionaries that still provokes us to change and grow.**

One: Living God, Sustainer of life, we gather to praise you for our common humanity that transcends all divisions and separations.

**All: Let us all give thanks for our human community, for faith without fanaticism and understanding of opinions not always shared, for kindness and relationships that help us to dream of peace and liberty for all human beings.**

**\*Hymn**                      "God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command"                      Blk#592

## **Prayer of the Day**

One: Friends, open your hearts to God's Presence as we pray, saying:

**All: God of all nations: you led men, women and children to this land, and out of our many human beings you have created in us a love for peace, justice and liberty. Remind us, O God, that when we neglect rights and restrict freedoms, we fail you. When we turn away neighbors in need and refuse to extend the opportunities of this land to new immigrants, we offend your justice and your love. Forgive us, Eternal God. Forgive pride that will not acknowledge national wrong and that justifies injustice. Forgive our divisions of race and class. Raise up in us a right kind of patriotism that seeks our nation's good as well as the world's peace and prosperity. Amen.**

## Silence for Personal Reflection

### God's Promise of New Life

One: Hear once again God's promise, "If my people who are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." Friends, let us proclaim together the Good News!

**All: May we not live by our fears, but by the hope of the gospel. In Christ, God will not allow the mistakes from our past to keep us from working for peace and justice today. Thanks be to God.**

### Prayer Response

Like a Mighty Stream

Moses Hogan

### \*Sign of Peace

One: We come from east and west, from north and south, to be with each other. In this sacred place, we are not strangers, but brothers and sisters through Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

# HEARING THE WORD

### Scripture Lessons

One: Listen for the Word of God

Epistle Lesson            2 Corinthians 8:7-15

NT p.1008

Gospel Lesson            Mark 5:21-43

NT p.871

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

**All: Amen**

### Sermon

"Keep on Walking into Freedom Land"

### \*Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing

BLK#593

# 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**

I Dream a World

Dwight Bigler

**\*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 God, we thank you for this land, the goodness of our people and the ideals of justice and liberty that still sustain our democracy. May our giving this morning reflect our commitment to working for freedom, equality and peace for all human beings.  
Amen.**

# **SENDING**

### **\*Hymn**

"This Is My Song"

Blk#591

### **\*Benediction**

### **Choral Response**

Tebe Poem

Dobri Hristov

### **Postlude**

Prelude in Classic Style

Gordon Young

*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 15<sup>th</sup> – Sunday School BBQ  
July 23<sup>rd</sup> – Chanticleer  
August 11<sup>th</sup> – Sunday School Farm Day  
August 25<sup>th</sup> – Fisher Cats Faith & Family Night  
September 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday School Resumes

## **Announcements**

**Coffee Hour** – We are now in our Summer Schedule. For the remainder of **Sundays from July 8<sup>th</sup> through August 12<sup>th</sup>**, we are looking for volunteers to host Coffee Hour. If there are not volunteers for a particular Sunday, then the Coffee Hour for that day will be cancelled. The exception is **July 29<sup>th</sup>** – more details will be announced later. Please let Chris or Georgene know if you can help in the kitchen during this time.

**Faith Formation** – Sunday School resumes on **September 9<sup>th</sup>** with Juggling Jim on board to provide some fun and entertainment for the kids! While we're enjoying summertime, let's stay in touch. All families are invited to our summer activities:

- Sunday School BBQ & Potluck at the Kelsey's, Sunday, **July 15<sup>th</sup>** at 11:30 AM
- Sunday School Farm Day at the Bjerklie's, Saturday, **August 11<sup>th</sup>** at 2:00 PM – Come on out and see the goats, rabbits, chickens, ducks and more!
- Fisher Cats Faith & Family Night, Saturday, **August 25<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 PM – Tickets are still available!

Please contact Cindy Bjerklie at [faithformation@uccplymouth.org](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org) if you have any questions.

**Chanticleer** – **July 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 8:30 PM, The World's Reigning Male Chorus presented by Great Waters Music Festival & New Hampshire Music Festival

**Fifth Sunday** – The mission project scheduled on **July 29<sup>th</sup> is cancelled**. The event will be in September.

**Special Note - Today's flowers are in honor of Joe's 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday.**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion** will be celebrated on the second Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Church Building** – The church building will be closed between Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. All regular scheduled meetings will continue as usual.

## Stewardship

### Thank you for your pledges!

To date, we have received \$166,820 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**

### Stewardship Season - 2018/19



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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[treasurer@uccplymouth.org](mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org)  
[gracecounseling@uccplymouth.org](mailto:gracecounseling@uccplymouth.org)

Donna Castor, liturgist  
New Hampshire Friendship Chorus, guest choir  
Dr. Dan Perkins, Director  
Charles Blood, accompanist

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