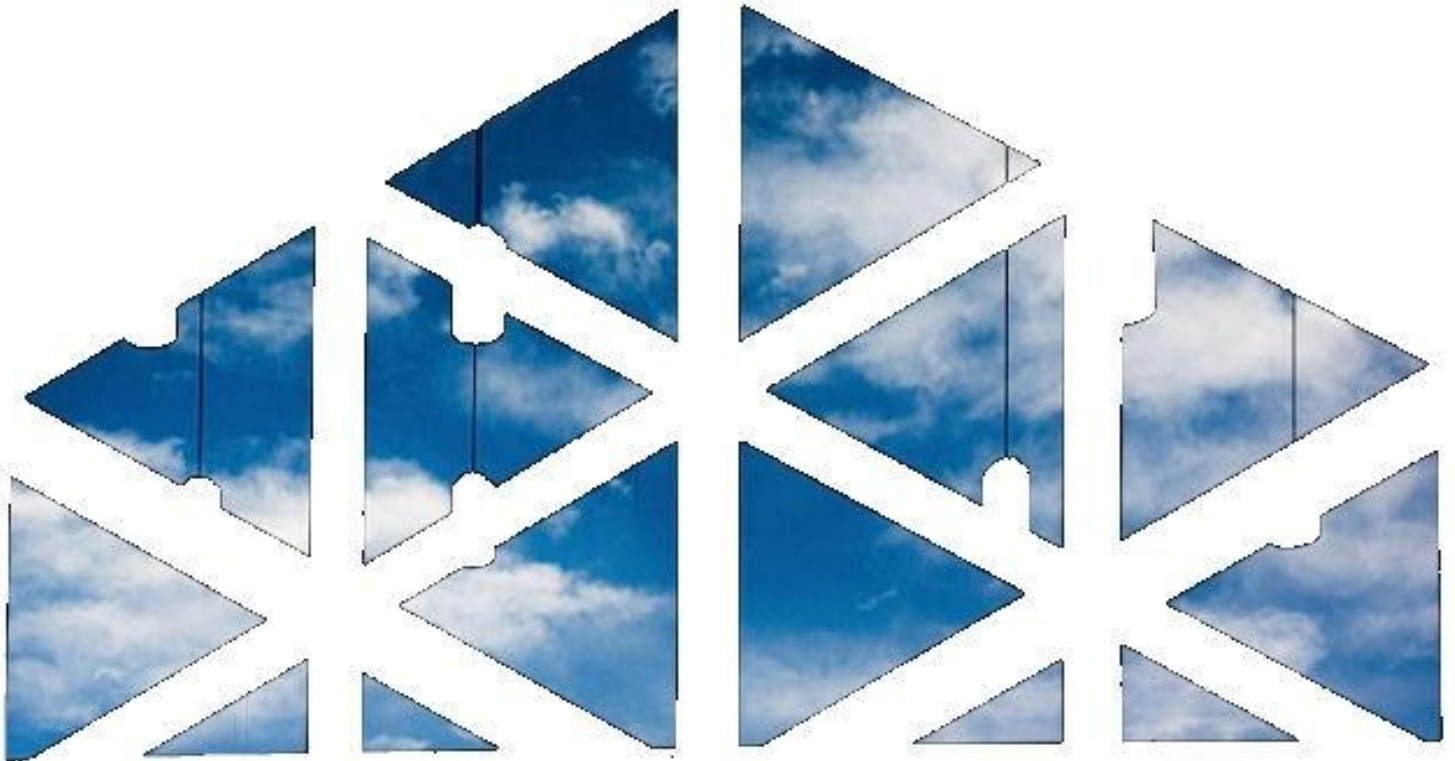


Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

July 8, 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.

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

GATHERING

Prelude

Appalachian Tune

Wilbur Held

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

Welcome & Life of the Church

Centering Music

***Call to Worship**

***Indicates congregation standing**

One: God calls us in our wanderings to hear words of hope,

All: Satisfy our longings, O Lord, and be present with us.

One: God calls us from our separate and private lives to bless us in this community,

All: Unite us in your love, O Christ, and grant us your peace.

One: God calls us to this time of worship to heal and to make us whole,

All: Soften the hard spots of our lives, O Holy Spirit, with your gentle touch and change our lives.

One: Sisters and brothers, in joyful adoration, let us worship God!

All: Let us praise God's Holy Name!

***Hymn**

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

Blk#12

Prayer of the Day

One: With open hearts, may we all pray together in our voice, saying:

All: We have come, O God, seeking you, seeking your presence, seeking peace, seeking your redeeming love. May we sense your presence here among us as we gather to sing your praises and to announce your saving grace. In your mercy, hear us as we pray together, saying:

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Those who come to God will not be turned away! This is the Good News!

All: In Jesus Christ, God reaches out to us, forgives us, instructs us, and calls on us to follow in the Way of Jesus Christ. 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: We are no longer strangers! In Jesus Christ, we are members of the household of God, sisters and brothers through baptism, friends on the journey of faith and followers of the Prince of Peace.

All: We come from our separate lives to celebrate our unity in Christ. He is our hope and our salvation. The Risen Christ is the reason we gather. His peace brings us peace. Thanks be to God!

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

Hebrew Lesson

Ezekiel 2:1-5

OT p.714

Gospel Lesson

Mark 6:1-13

NT p.872

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

All: Amen

Sermon

"The Daring Simplicity of the Gospel"

***Hymn**

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

Blk#495

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory

Gift of Music

***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, Source of all good things: we offer these gifts as a portion of that which you have given us. May these gifts be your gift for those who find themselves in poverty or hunger. May this act of giving bring about change:

change in our lives,

change in the lives we touch,

change in the systems that harm.

Through Christ, who gave so much to save. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

One: Brothers and sisters, God invites us to this most joyful of feasts. All are invited to share the bread and cup; all are invited to come as they are.

All: At this table forgiveness is possible and becomes meaningful. At this table our unity is enriched; our diversity is accepted and valued and our faith is made strong in Christ Jesus.

One: This is not the table of the United Church of Christ; this is the table of the Lord, where no one is excluded and where all men and women of faith have a place.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to God, our Lord.

All: It is right to give God both thanks and praise.

One: It is indeed right to give you praise, O God, Maker of the universe. From the depths of chaos, you created all that is beautiful and good. When the times had at last grown full and the earth had ripened in abundance, you made humanity in your image. But we turned away from you, choosing disbelief, sin, and death; so you sent prophets to call us back into your glory and grace, and you promised liberation to all who seek you in spirit and truth. From your own being you also sent Jesus, incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary our sister. Jesus revealed your care for all you have made, and showed us your way of reconciliation.

Looking forward to the joy of new life Jesus suffered the pangs of the cross and in rising again became the first-born among all people of faith. You sent your Holy Spirit and gave birth to us your church. Your Spirit is here with us to nurture and to guide us. Now we join around your table, and with all creation we sing a hymn of praise for your unending love, singing:

Sanctus

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you!
San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra!

My heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly, Lord!
Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res, Se - ñor!

One: To you indeed be glory, almighty God, because on the night before he died, your Son, Jesus Christ shared a sacred meal with his disciples. Our Lord sat at the table and called his disciples, friends. Trusting that you love us and have also invited us to this table, we make known to you our prayers:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(You are invited to say your prayer aloud or in the silence of your heart)

One: In the breaking of bread and sharing of the cup, Jesus became known to his people and so in this great sacrament we celebrate and proclaim the mystery of our faith:

All: We declare that Jesus did die. Jesus was buried. On the third day, he was raised. The Risen Christ is with us now and for all eternity.

One: Therefore, loving God, recalling now Christ's death and resurrection, we ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration, that we may be fed with the hope and courage of your Son and be filled with your life and goodness.

All: Blessing, honor and glory be yours, O Giver of this meal, here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Cup Sharing of the Bread & the Cup

Prayer of Gratitude after Communion

All: Strengthen us to do your work, O God, and to be your body in the world. Unite us in Christ and give us your peace. Through your Holy Spirit, burning as a flame, gentle as a dove, may we who have received these gifts live lives of justice, love, and prayer, and be a voice for those who are not heard. 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.**

SENDING

***Hymn** "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" Blk#77

***Benediction**

Postlude Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise Wilbur Held
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
Doug Paul

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

Announcements

Coffee Hour – We are now in our Summer Schedule. For the remainder of **Sundays from July 8th through August 12th**, 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 29th** – 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 9th** 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 15th** at 11:30 AM
- Sunday School Farm Day at the Bjerklie's, Saturday, **August 11th** at 2:00 PM – Come on out and see the goats, rabbits, chickens, ducks and more!
- Fisher Cats Faith & Family Night, 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

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

A Sanctuary Note – During the Summer season the air conditioner may be on. Please bring a lite sweater or jacket if needed.

Stewardship - Thank you for your pledges! To date, we have received \$171,980 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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Alice O'Connor, liturgist
Ruth Gordon, guest accompanist/organist

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