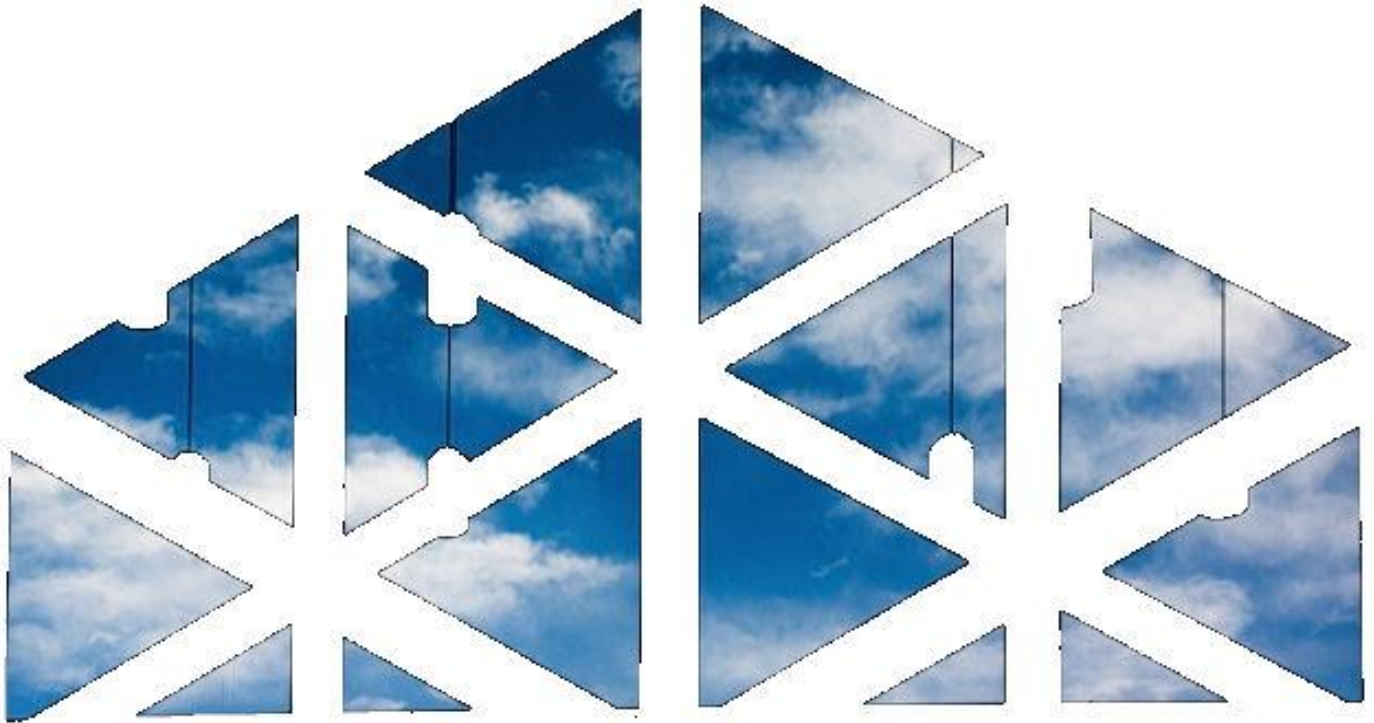


**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Eighth Sunday After Pentecost**

July 15, 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

Organ Piece in G Major

Adolph Hesse (1808-1863)

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

*Call to Worship

**Indicates congregation standing*

One: Through every age and in every place the Christ in whose name we gather calls us with a simple and challenging invitation, "Come and follow me."

All: He leads us among strangers, calling us to regard all persons as friends.

One: He leads us into uncharted places where the Word and Will of God are the only reliable guides.

All: He leads us to lose ourselves so that we may be found. As we gather to worship the Christ who leads us, may we gain the wisdom and courage to follow.

*Hymn

"Love Divine All Loves Excelling"

Blk #43

Prayer of the Day

One: In humility and faith, let us pray in one voice together, saying:

All: Gracious God, help us to recognize that Jesus left behind both in poetry and parables of his teaching and the power to be his followers. Energize us with your creative and sustaining spirit. As we come to deeper understanding of our reliance upon you, inspire us to confront the false gods of our culture. Enable us to be bearers of hope to the stricken, companions to the lonely and lost, up builders to the downcast. Teach us the humility to recognize that we, too, are in need of grace. Give us the courage to serve wherever our faith calls us. In the name of our lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Hear the Good News – anyone who is in Christ is a new creation; everything old has passed away; 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 with the message of hope, faith and love. Alleluia!

Prayer Response #769

All: Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God, incline thine ears to us, and grant us thy peace.

***Sign of Peace**

One: This is the House of God! This is a gathering of peace with one another!

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

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

Children's Message

Somebody loves you!

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Lessons

One: Listen for the Word of God

New Testament Lesson Galatians 5:16-25

NT p.1015

Gospel lesson Matthew 25:14-19

NT p.860

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

All: Amen

Special Music

"Everybody Should Love Somebody Sometime"

Duranti

Sermon

The Parable of Talents: "Use it or Lose it!"

***Hymn**

"Spirit of God Descend upon my Heart"

Blk #290

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

***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, of whose bounty we have all received, accept we pray, this offering of your people. Remember in your love those who have brought it and for those whom it is given. Bless it so it may promote peace and goodwill among all people and advance the kingdom of our Lord and Savior. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn "O Savior, Let me Walk with You" Blk#503**

*Benediction

Postlude Nun Frent Euch Lieben Christen JS Bach (1685-1750)

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
Dave Talbot

Bethany
Matthew Sanchez
Sara Willingham
Steven French

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
July 29th – Special Congregational Meeting
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 15th 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.

Staff News – This Sunday, July 15, Rev. Paulo will be preaching at the Union Church in Meredith Neck. Rev. Bill Torrey will be our preacher for the day. Rev. Paulo will be on vacation from July 17-18 and August 12-22. For pastoral emergencies, please contact Rev. Ruth Mosher at 603-315-3368.

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

The Reverend Paulo G. França, Minister
Deborah Healey, Church Office Administrator
Cindy Bjerklie, Director of Faith Formation
David Williams, Interim Director of Music

pastor@uccplymouth.org
office@uccplymouth.org
faithformation@uccplymouth.org
musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
organist@uccplymouth.org
treasurer@uccplymouth.org
gracecounseling@uccplymouth.org

Larry Spencer, Church Treasurer
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling

Bill Torrey, guest minister
Bill Heron, liturgist
Sharon Beaty, accompanist
Micah Delventhal Saffian, special music

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
4 Post Office Square, PO Box 86
Plymouth, NH 03264
(603)536-2626 ♦ office@uccplymouth.org ♦ www.uccplymouth.org

