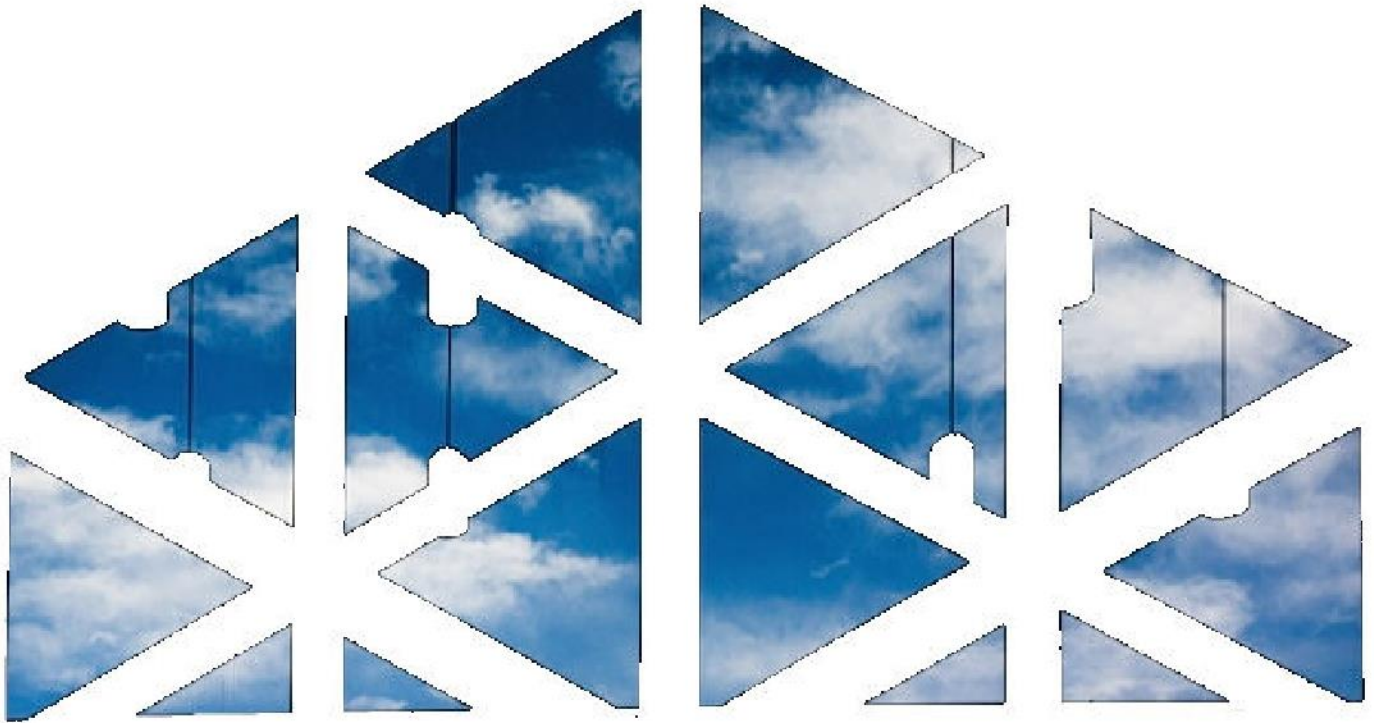


**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

July 29, 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

Remembrances

Edvard Grieg

*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

Allegro

Mozart

*Call to Worship

**Indicates congregation standing*

One: We gather in the Presence of the Living God!

All: We gather to give thanks for God's gift of life;

we gather to pray for God's will to be done;

we gather to give praise to God's holy name;

we gather to find hope in God's love;

we gather to take leaps of faith and to worship the Living God

who is always with us. Alleluia!

*Hymn

"Morning Has Broken"

Red#38

Prayer of the Day

One: We come from our separate lives to bring before God our hopes and dreams, our needs and longings, our worries and concerns. In humility and faith, we lift our prayer to God, saying:

All: Holy God, together we gather within these walls where hope has been offered to the hopeless, joy has been given to the broken-hearted, peace has been shared with the troubled in heart, healing has been embraced by the wounded, sanctuary has been extended to asylum seekers and prayers have been said by your people through the years. Hear our prayers today, O God. In this sacred moment, in the shelter of this house of prayer, in your loving presence, we bring to you the things that are weighing on our hearts, life circumstances that threaten to harm us, difficult decisions that we have to make, actions that make us feel ashamed, sins that keep us away from your love. God, have mercy on us. In this time of prayerful silence, hear our prayers.

Silence for Personal Reflection

***Sign of Peace**

One: May the peace of Christ be among us.

All: Let us dare to put peace into a hug, into a handshake, and into words of welcome and friendship.

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

Blessing Sabrina Tedeschi, Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Taiwan.

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Lessons

One: Listen for the Word of God

Gospel lesson

John 6:1-15

NT p. 27

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

All: Amen

Sermon

"Bread Is Love Among Strangers"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Offertory

Gift of Music

Pastorela

Tomanek

***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 blessings, we bring these gifts in the same generous spirit of Christ, who saw possibilities where others were paralyzed by fear. Take our offerings and let them be used to make your love real and visible in this church. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn**

"O For a World"

Blk#575

***Benediction**

Postlude

Ride On, King Jesus

Spiritual, arr. Shackley

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
Virginia Paul

Penny Colgan-Davis
Christine Waite
Doug Paul
Alison Hares

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 29th – Special Congregational Meeting
August 1st - Mission Trip to Greece 2018
August 11th – Sunday School Farm Day
August 25th – Fisher Cats Faith & Family Night
September 9th – Sunday School Resumes

Announcements

Coffee Hour – The summer schedule will be followed on **July 22nd** and **August 5th-12th-26th**. We are looking for volunteers to host Coffee Hour during this time. If there aren't volunteers for a particular Sunday, Coffee Hour will be cancelled. Please let Chris or Georgene know if you can help. Chris can be contacted at 603-674-8590 or rpollock@metrocast.net. Thank you from the Hospitality Committee.

Faith Formation

We hope all of our children and families are enjoying a happy and fun-filled summer!

Upcoming summertime fun:

- 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 and Family Night
Saturday, August 25th at 6:30 PM
Only a few tickets are still available.
- This fall a new Junior Choir will be formed! Watch for more information coming soon!

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

Mission Trip to Greece 2018 - The youth and young adult mission trip participants will be holding an informal presentation of slides, conversation and baklava on Wednesday, **August 1st** at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please come and learn more about their travels and experiences working with Perichoresis and the refugee children and families involved in this life changing program.

Stewardship

Thank you for your pledges!

To date, we have received \$177,000 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

Staff News - Rev. Paulo will be on vacation from **August 7th-22nd**. For pastoral emergencies, please contact Rev. Mary Jane Barber at 978-421-5441.

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

Conference Minister Search Committee Recommends Reverend Gordon M. Rankin be Called as New Conference Minister

Special Meeting to be held August 4, 2018, in Laconia

The [Reverend Gordon M. Rankin](#) has been nominated to be the new Conference Minister. Read the [letter from Neal Cass, Chairperson of the Conference Minister Search Committee](#).

Since Conference bylaws require election of a Conference Minister at a meeting of the Gathered Conference, and because the Annual Meeting in October contains a full agenda, the Board of Directors has authorized a special meeting for the purpose of calling the Rev. Rankin as Conference Minister. Read more in the [letter from Marcie Miller, Conference President, and Dawn Berry, Conference Secretary](#).

The special meeting will be held on Saturday, August 4, 2018, at Laconia Congregational Church, UCC, at 11 AM. ([Click here](#) for directions to the church.) The agenda will include time to hear Gordon speak and a brief business meeting with vote. A reception and celebration will follow. Churches are entitled to send the same number of delegates as they would for the Annual Meeting.

Opportunities to "meet and greet" Gordon prior to the special meeting are also scheduled. Attend the one most convenient for you:

- Thursday, August 2, 6-8 p.m.,
at Gorham Congregational Church
- Friday, August 3, 9-11 a.m.,
at the Conference Center
- Friday, August 3, 6-8 p.m.,
at Keene Congregational Church

