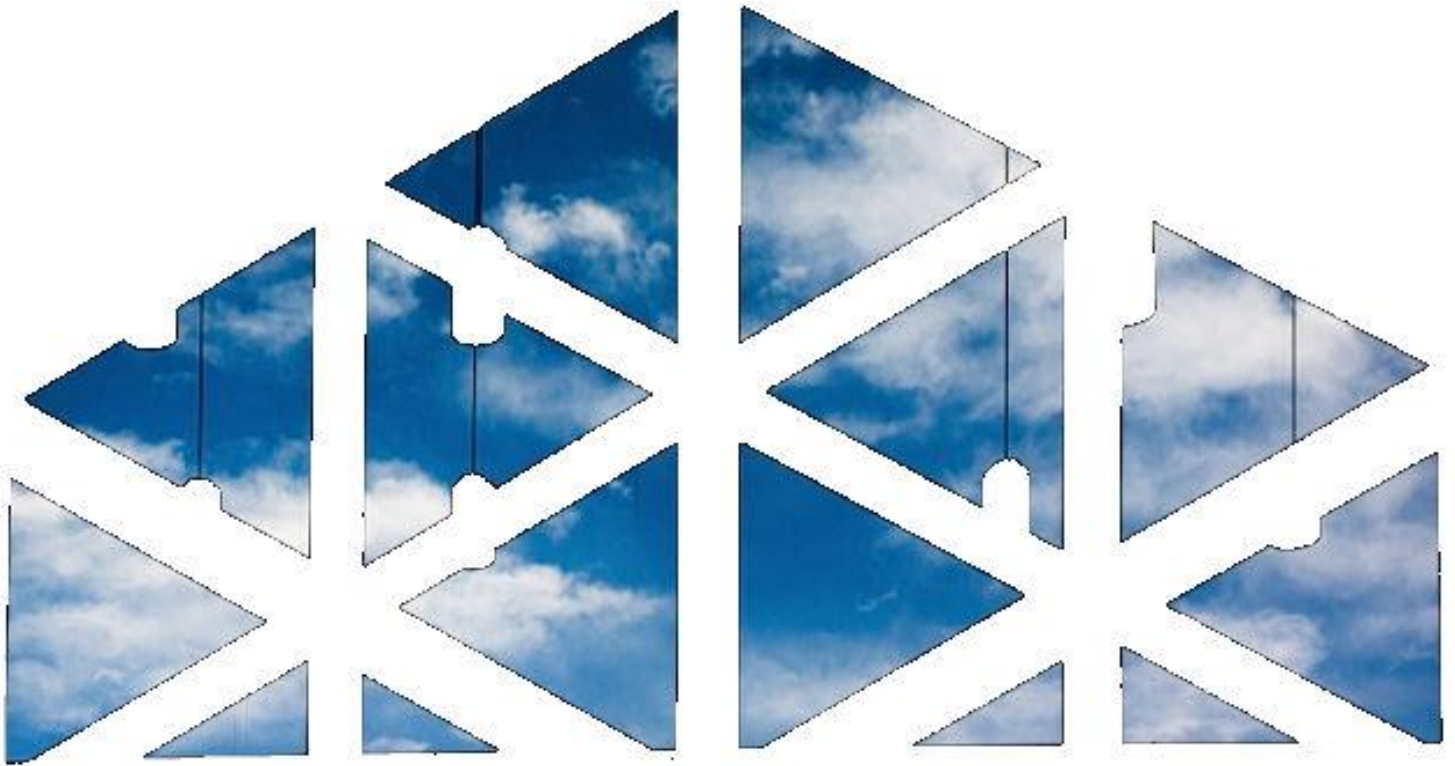


**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost**

August 5, 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.

A compassionate community, intentionally inclusive, openly searching, joyfully serving in the way of Christ

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

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

Welcome & Life of the Church

Centering Music

Whispering Hope

Alice Hawthorn

*Call to Worship

**Indicates congregation standing*

One: Here we are before the Presence of the Living God.

All: We are here, Giver of life, because we want to open our hearts to you.

One: Here, together, we come to be in the Presence of God.

All: We are here, Giver of faith, because we want to make a sacred space for you in our lives.

One: Here we are, together, to worship the Living God.

All: Claim us, inspire us, speak to us, and give us a new breath to praise you, God, Giver of saving truth.

*Hymn

"Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts"
(vv. 1-3, 5)

Blk# 329

Prayer of the Day

One: May we all become more fully aware of God's Presence among us as we pray together, saying:

All: Reveal yourself to us this day, O God of grace. Give us new eyes to see you in bread and cup and draw us deeper into your love. We confess that there have been times when we have not lived as those who know your compassion and forgiveness. We are so absorbed in ourselves that we often fail to give you a place in our lives. Help us today to offer our hearts and minds afresh to you. Refresh our faith, energize our spirits, and heal us from our self-centeredness, that now and always, our lives may serve as a sign of yours. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Friends, who is in the position to condemn? Only Christ! And Christ died for us, Christ was raised for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. If anyone is in Christ that person is a new creation. The old has passed away and, behold, the new has come. Friends, let us proclaim the Good News!

All: Christ came not to condemn the world, but to free us from our selfishness and reconcile us with God and one another. Thanks be to God!

Prayer Response

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray - ing. Lord, send your

The first line of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Spir - it in this place. Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and bass line from the first line. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

pray - ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

The third line of musical notation concludes the prayer response with a final cadence. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

This chorus from a longer song has become a popular sung prayer for the presence of the Holy Spirit. Easily memorized, it makes a very suitable sung response at appropriate points during a series of prayer concerns or with repeated singing can open or close a time of prayer.

***Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Lessons

One: Listen for the Word of God

Epistle Lesson

Ephesians 4:1-16

NT p.1018

Gospel Lesson

John 6:24-35

NT p.928

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

All: Amen

Sermon

"What is Your Why?"

***Hymn**

"As We Gather at Your Table"

Blk#332

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory

Peace Like a River

Joel Raney

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: Merciful God, 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.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

One: This is the table of our Lord on which Christ sets his gifts of love and hope.

All: So we come together, ready to receive these sacred gifts. Alleluia!

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: God's Presence is within us and all around us.

One: Beloved of God, open your hearts to the Living One.

All: Here, in this place, we lift our hearts to God.

One: People of faith, praise God with gladness of heart.

All: Sacred songs of joy flow from our very being on this day.

One: Holy God, it is truly our greatest honor to give you our thanks and praise. Before all that is, you were God; outside all we know, you are God and after all is finished, you will always be God. This morning, at this table, we remember your son, our Lord Jesus Christ. His life with the humble, his death on the cross, and his resurrection for all. We thank you for sending Christ to show the world your wisdom, justice, love and grace. In humble adoration we join our voices with all who believe in you, singing:

Sanctus

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Capo 5: (Am) (Em) (Dm) (Am) (F) (Em) (Esus) (E7)
Dm Am Gm Dm B^b Am Asus A7

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

(F) (G7) (E7) (Am) (Dm) (Em7)
B^b C7 A7 Dm Gm Am7

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

(Asus) (Am) (D) (G) (Em) (Am) (F) (D7/F#)
Dsus Dm G C Am Dm B^b G7/B

high - est. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the

(G) (G7) (Em7) (Am7) (Em) (A)
C C7 Am7 Dm7 Am D

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

One: All praise be given to you, O God, Giver of bread and juice. Through your son, Jesus Christ, you gifted us with a life-affirming faith. Inspire us to model our lives to the contours of Christ's teachings. Strengthen our resolve to be agents of his love. Keep us faithful to Jesus and circle us with your grace as we bring to you our joys and concerns:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

One: As we gather to remember Jesus' last meal with his friends, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.

One: Loving God, bless these gifts on the table, so that as we come to receive bread and cup, we may become one with you and with all Christians throughout the world.

All: All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Cup

Sharing of the Bread & the Cup

Prayer of Gratitude after Communion

All: God of life, thank you for this sacred meal. We pray that this sacrament of the Church may keep challenging us to be outwardly focused – quick to feel compassion, ready to pray, eager to give, and determined to follow Christ. 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**

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

Blk#394

***Benediction**

Postlude

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 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 – The Summer Schedule will be followed August 5th, 12th and 26th. We are looking for volunteers to host Coffee Hour during this time. If there are not volunteers, Coffee Hour will be cancelled. Please contact Chris or Georgene if you can help. Chris can be reached at 603-674-8590 or rpollock@metrocast.net.

Faith Formation

Have you met Owen, Martin, Lulu and Ginger? If not, you'll want to visit Half-Pint Farm on Sunday School Farm Day at the Bjerklie's. Those are just a few of our animals and they're anxious to meet everybody! **Sunday School Farm Day at the Bjerklie's is Saturday, August 11th at 2:00 PM.** Come see the goats, rabbits, chickens, ducks and more! Please RSVP to Cindy Bjerklie at faithformation@uccplymouth.org.

- **Fisher Cats Faith and Family Night is Saturday, August 25th at 6:30 PM.** There are only a few tickets still available. Contact Cindy if you'd like to attend.

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

Staff News - Rev. Paulo will be on vacation from **August 12th-22nd.** For pastoral emergencies, please contact Rev. Ruth Mosher at 603-315-3368.

Announcements – If you have an announcement or posting you would like to see on the Bulletin or Constant Contact, please forward to office@uccplymouth.org by Wednesdays at 10:00 AM. Thank you!

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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Eileen Torrey, liturgist
Sharon Beaty, accompanist
Carol Stewart and Family, special music

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