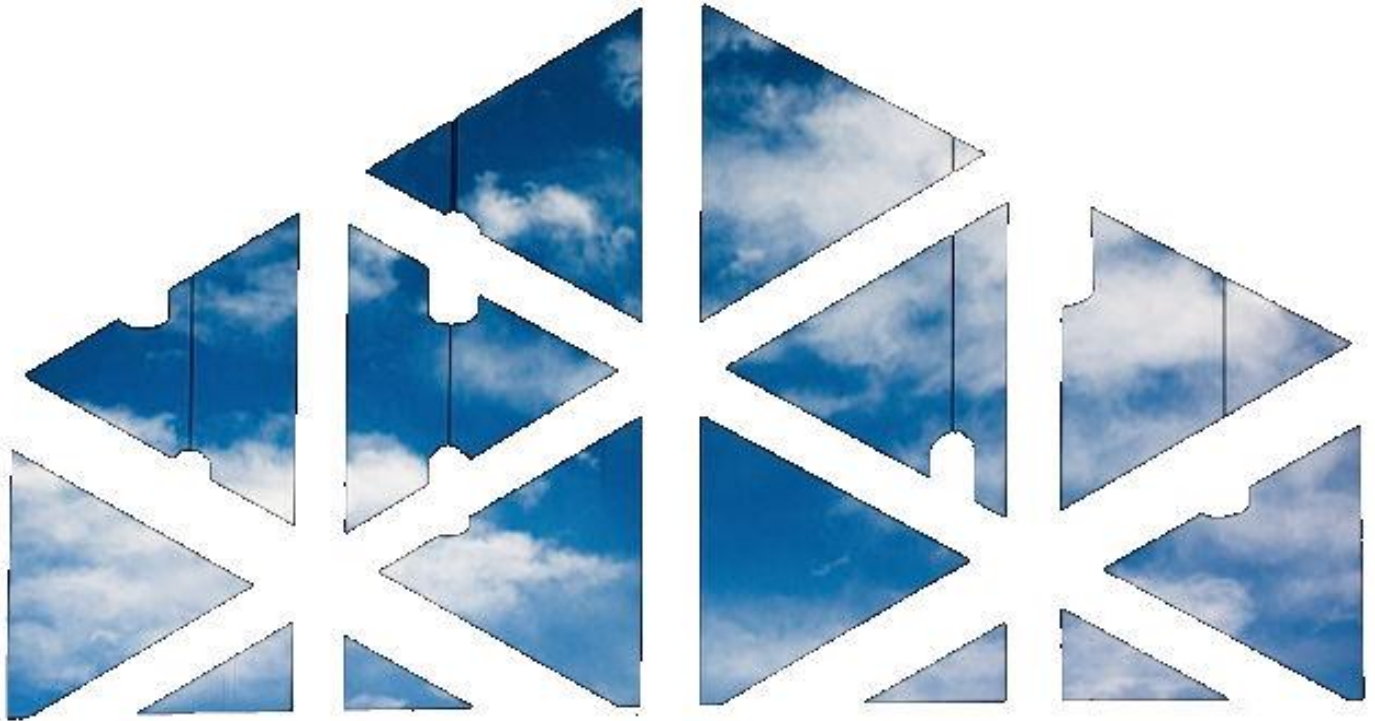


**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ  
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 19th, 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**

Piece

Gabriel Faure

*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**

Asturiana

Manuel de Falla

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

*\*Indicates congregation standing*

One: We gather on this holy day to become open to God's Creative Spirit.

**All: Come, Spirit of the Living God, challenge heart and mind! Come and beckon us into God's life-giving embrace.**

**\*Hymn**

"Rejoice, You Pure In Heart"

Blk#55

### **Prayer of the Day**

One: With hearts wide-open to God's Spirit, we pray together, saying:

**All: In the sacred stillness of this moment, we tiptoe with awe toward you, O God, our Rock and Salvation. Thank you for those in this gathering who have made a choice to celebrate your love this morning. As we gather to worship, keep your divinity near enough so our humanity may be perfected in your Holy Presence. Arise within us, Holy Mystery, and make this place a hallowed ground. Amen.**

### **Silence for Personal Reflection**

#### **God's Promise of New Life**

One: Friends, believe the Good News!

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are loved and restored to new life. Alleluia!**

**Prayer Response**

"Spirit of the Living God"

Blk#283

### **\*Sign of Peace**

One: This is a place of peace!

**All: Peace between us, peace over us and peace all around us.**

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

New Testament Lesson

Luke 15: 11-32

NT p.909

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

**All: Amen**

## Sermon

"Perspective"

## \*Hymn

"O Savior, Let Me Walk With You"

Blk#503

# 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

The Winter Waltz

Danielle Martin

## \*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: We are entirely yours God; life and breath and heart and soul. We hold our wallets in our hands; we find here the power to buy, and the power to give. All power we have is a gift from you. We give this offering generously in the spirit of Christ who gave life and breath and heart and soul to you, freely and with deep love. Amen.**

# **SENDING**

## **\*Hymn**

“Called as Partners”

Blk#495

## **\*Benediction**

## **Postlude**

Cancion

Manuel de Falla

*The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us into the world where our true service begins.*

### **Keeping in Prayer**

Pat Andrews  
Matthew Sanchez  
Sara Willingham  
Steven French

Bethany  
Christine Waite  
Doug Paul  
Sam Allen

Ana Christina Franca  
Jesse Armstrong  
Dave Talbot  
Julien “Shoe” Shoemaker

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**

August 25<sup>th</sup> – Fisher Cats Faith & Family Night

August 30<sup>th</sup> – Choir Rehearsal

September 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday School Resumes

## **Announcements**

**Music** - Choir Rehearsal begins Thursday, **August 30<sup>th</sup>**, at 7:00 PM! The choir is open to all who sing. There is no audition – all are welcome!

**Coffee Hour** – The Summer Schedule will be followed **August 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>**. 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** - Fisher Cats Faith and Family Night is Saturday, **August 25<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 PM. There are only a few tickets still available. Contact Cindy at faithformation@uccplymouth.org if you'd like to attend.

**Support Our Church** - If you shop at any Hannafords, please purchase pre-paid grocery cards from our Finance Committee. The church receives 5% of each card purchased through the church. Cards are available Sundays after the service and come in denominations of \$50 and \$100. **This is a great way to support the ministries and mission of the church every time you shop at Hannafords.**

**Building & Grounds** - With the most recent potential organ disaster, we are reminded that we have a beautiful church home. We are all responsible for maintaining it and keeping our eyes open for potential threats. Please let us know if you have any concerns with the building and grounds so they can be addressed. Thank you - Butch & Donna Castor, Co-Chairs

**Staff News** - Rev. Paulo will be on vacation from **August 7<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>**. For pastoral emergencies, please contact Rev. Mary Jane Barber at 978-421-5441. Debbie Healey will be on vacation **August 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>**. The office will be open for two hours in the morning on those days thanks to Eileen!

## **General Information**

- 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!
- During the Summer season, the air conditioner may be turned on. Please bring a lite sweater 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  
Larry Spencer, Church Treasurer  
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling

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[treasurer@uccplymouth.org](mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org)  
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Rev. Mary Jane Barber, guest preacher  
Enid Reed, liturgist  
Noelle Beaudin, accompanist  
Tom Robertson, special music

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