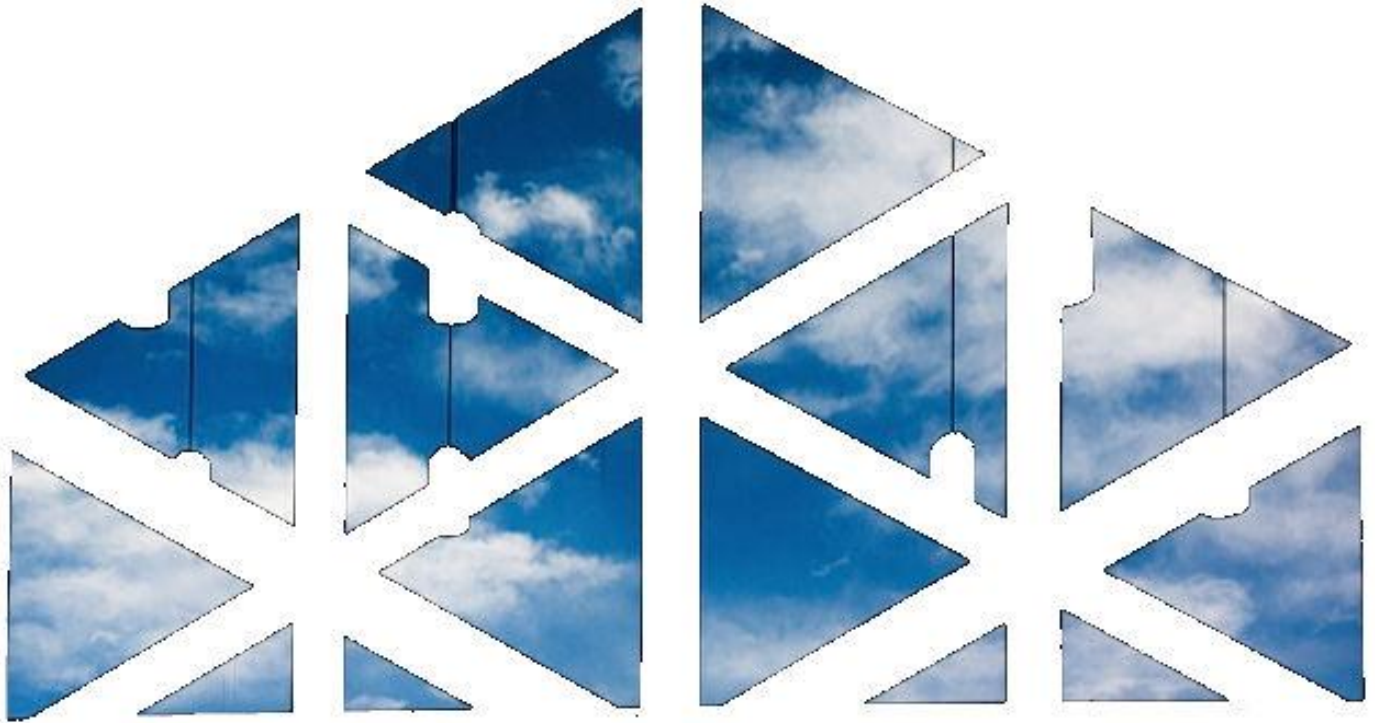


**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

August 26, 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

Ascending Steps

R.F. Swift

*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

Symphony no. 40 in G Minor

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

***Call to Worship**

**Indicates congregation standing*

One: Friends, let us come together into the Presence of God.

All: God our Maker, wrap us round with your love.

One: Sisters and brothers, let us gather in the shelter of God's grace.

All: God our Mother, embrace us with your peace.

One: Beloved, let us bring our whole selves before the Living God.

All: God our Comforter, enfold us into your nurturing Presence.

***Hymn**

"Be Now My Vision"

Blk#451

Prayer of the Day

One: Together we bring our prayers to God and we voice what is hidden in our hearts, saying:

All: Caring God, breathe your healing love into our hearts and minds today. We come to you with mixed emotions welling up in our souls. An unsettling blend of doubt and faith, sadness and hope, anxiety and trust, disappointment and understanding, grievance and gratitude runs through our whole bodies. Keep us in touch with all our feelings, O Lord, and grant us a sense of peace. We ask not to be delivered from the changes that will come, but to remember that you will be with us as we go on in faith to a new day in our lives. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Friends, take to heart God's words given to us through the prophet Jeremiah: "For I know what I have planned for you," says the Lord. 'I have

plans to prosper you, not to harm you. I have plans to give you a future filled with hope.” [Jer. 29:11]

All: We are not alone! We belong to God. We are called to be the Church in the heart of Plymouth. In Christ, God gives us openness of mind, persistent courage, and irrepressible faith to step bravely into the uncertainty of a new day. Thanks be to God!

Prayer Response

“Spirit of the Living God”

Blk#283

***Sign of Peace**

One: We are not strangers, but sisters and brothers in Christ. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

Deuteronomy 34:1-9

OT p.184

New Testament lesson

Philippians 1:3-6

NT p.1022

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

All: Amen

Sermon

“The Work Is Not Finished Yet”

***Hymn**

“Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers”

Blk#397

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

Excerpts from Fantasia in D Minor, k. 397

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

***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 our yesterdays and God of our tomorrows, we give thanks for today and for the privilege we have to give. Bless our offering and use our gifts to nurture the life of our church. As we journey on, make us one in Christ, keep us generous, unite us in service, encourage us to hope, inspire us to love and remind us that you will reveal the bigger picture for our church in the fullness of time. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn

"In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

Blk#433

*Benediction

Postlude

All Creatures of Our God and King

arr. Mark Hayes

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

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and refreshments.

Keeping in Prayer

Pat Andrews
Matthew Sanchez
Sara Willingham
Steven French

Bethany
Christine Waite
Doug Paul
Sam Allen
Sheri Stanley

Ana Christina Franca
Jesse Armstrong
Dave Talbot
Julien "Shoe" Shoemaker

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 29th – Council Meeting at 6:00 PM

August 30th – Choir Rehearsal

September 9th – Sunday School Resumes & Rally Sunday

Announcements

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

Coffee Hour – On **September 2nd**, Coffee Hour will be in the Narthex as a farewell to summer, and on **September 9th**, we return to the Fellowship Hall for a full spread to start the fall season. Please help by signing up on the Kitchen Crew calendars for either *Set-out and Snacks* or *Snacks and Clean-up*. A list of snack ideas will be available to take with you. We will be working on a three-month rotating schedule.

The fall Kitchen Clean-up Day is Thursday, **September 13th**, from 9:00 to 11:30 AM. Please come and make the Kitchen spotless to begin the 2018-2019 program year! If you are available for the fall Clean-up Day, please contact Chris at 603-674-8590 or rpollock@metrocast.net. Thank you from the Hospitality Committee.

Faith Formation - As summer draws to a close, it's time to resume Sunday School! Rally Sunday is scheduled for **September 9th**! All children (younger kids and Kids with a Mission) are invited to attend beginning at 9:30 AM to kick off another wonderful church year. We will be entertained by Juggling Jim who is so much fun! Please join us on every Sunday at 9:30 AM!

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

Children's Choir - The Children's Choir was formed to provide opportunities for the children of Plymouth and surrounding communities to participate in a quality choral music education program outside of the classroom. We create a positive environment for learning and your children will work with an experienced Children's Choral Director and Accompanist. Your child's relationship with us will be not only positive, but life changing. This program is designed for the child's beginning and advancing musical experience. For additional information, you can contact Noelle at 603-284-6550. An online registration form will be available in late August 2018 at www.nhisom.org/programs/.

Neighbors in Need Offering – Neighbors in Need is the UCC’s annual offering to support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Some of these include Council for American Indian Ministries, justice and advocacy efforts and direct service projects funded by the UCC's Justice and Ministries. The annual offering is Sunday, October 7th.

Staff News - Debbie Healey will be on vacation **August 30th-31st**. 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, Director of Music

Larry Spencer, Church Treasurer
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling

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

Bill Torrey, liturgist
Margot W. Swift, pianist
Emily Lombardo, special music
Michael Truong, flutist

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