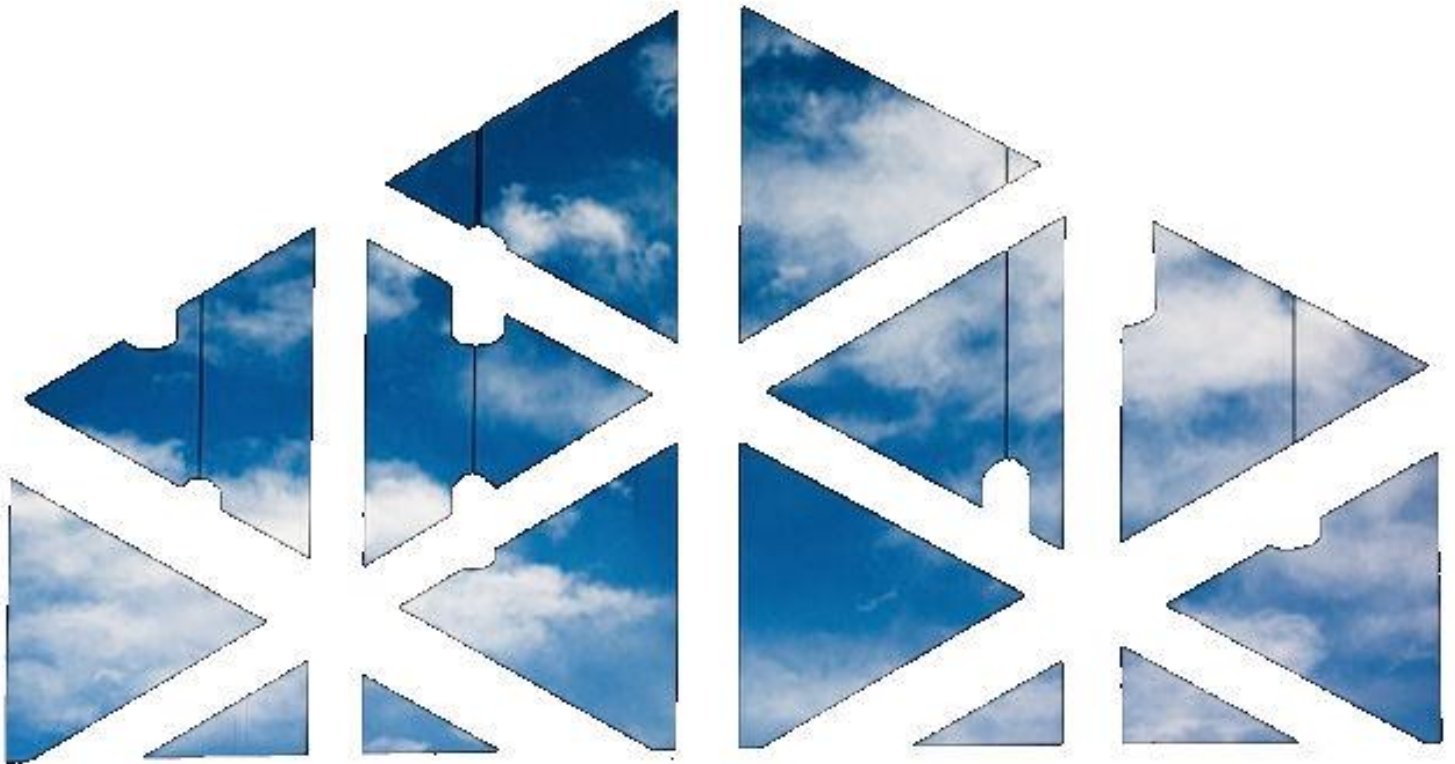


**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 2, 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

Prelude and Fugato on "Beautiful Savior"

Gordon Young

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

## Welcome & Life of the Church

### Centering Music

#### \*Call to Worship

*\*Indicates congregation standing*

One: For the wonder of human life and love, let us praise the Lord!

**All: We come together to celebrate God's goodness forever at work in ourselves and in the Church.**

One: For the blessings of summer days and family gatherings, let us praise God!

**All: We come together to celebrate God's kindness forever at work in ourselves and in the world.**

One: For the beauty of every new day and sunsets, let us praise our Maker!

**All: We come together to celebrate God's grace forever at work in ourselves and in the world.**

One: For the miracle of faith and sacred moments, let us praise the Holy One!

**All: We come together to celebrate God's Spirit forever at work in ourselves and in the Church.**

#### \*Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Blk#28

### Prayer of the Day

One: Pay close attention to the words we now bring before God, saying:

**All: Living God, who came to earth as the child of a carpenter, hear our prayer on this Labor Day weekend. We give thanks for the gift of work, which offers us a way to enjoy life, provide for our families, and serve our neighbors. May we find joy in the work we do in the church and in the world. Help us to build a new world in the midst of the old, a world where all workers live with dignity. May we never fail to weep over injustice and seek to make our society, including the Church, more equal, more peaceful, more forgiving and more hopeful. In Christ, we pray. Amen.**

## Silence for Personal Reflection

### God's Promise of New Life

One: Our God is a God of grace. When we ask, God gives us the courage and strength to live out our faith in the workplace and the marketplace, as well as in the Church. Friends, hear, believe, and live the Good News!

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored and called to tell others about our hope for a world where every human being can take the time to enjoy and play in God's good creation.**

### Prayer Response "O God, You Are My God"

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chord symbols are placed above the notes. The lyrics are: "O God, you are my God, and I will ev-er praise you. O God, you are my God, and I will ev-er praise you. I will seek you in the morn - ing, and I will learn to walk in your ways. And step by step you'll lead me, and I will fol-low you all of my days."

Though this refrain from a longer song is not a paraphrase of any particular psalm, the language in the first six lines has definite scriptural overtones (such as Psalms 31:14, 5:3; Deuteronomy 26:17). The final two lines sound more spontaneous and lead to a confident conclusion.

## **\*Sign of Peace**

One: We are not strangers anymore, but brothers and sisters in Christ. May His peace 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

James 1:17-27

NT p.1054

Gospel Lesson

Mark 7:1-8

NT p. 874

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

**All: Amen**

## **Sermon**

"It's Time to Improvise"

## **\*Hymn**

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

Blk#495

# **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

## **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, we ask that through our gifts, comfort may be offered, friendship may blossom, neighbors may be reconciled, and those who are thirsting for justice may be satisfied. In and through Christ, hear our prayer. Amen.**

# CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

## Invitation to the Table

One: Merciful and loving is our God, who gives us this bread, the fruit of the earth and of human labor; let it become for us all the bread of life.

**All: Blessed be God now and forever.**

One: Gracious and caring is our God, the Lord of the universe, who gives us the fruit of the vine; may all who drink from the cup on this table find eternal joy in God's holy presence.

**All: Blessed be God now and forever.**

## The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: God be with you.

**All: The Spirit of the Living God is among us.**

One: Open your hearts.

**All: Our hearts are open to God's love.**

One: Give thanks to God.

**All: We are here to give God thanks and praise.**

One: Summer days and wind rippling the surface of the water on Squam Lake, dogs with muddy feet, cats with whiskers that tickle, bears ambling around the garden, and children jumping in rain puddles – You, O God, made all this and much more. You imagined a good life for all people. You gifted us with a planet where the sun and the rain dance together to sustain biodiversity. And you whispered in human ears stories of hope and faith that open our eyes to the beauty of creation and the goodness of life.

Humanity has not always been thankful for life or for the Earth. So you sent Jesus, your Child, to remind us of the joy that fills our heart when we love our neighbors. Jesus inspired his followers to find joy in small things like in the taste of bread and juice. Jesus' teachings still wakens in us a sense of joy for being alive and invites us to join our voices to praise, you, O God, singing:

## Sanctus

### "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you!  
San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra!

My heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly, Lord!  
Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res, Se - ñor!

One: Thank you, God, for loving us and for making your love real in the life of Jesus Christ. Because we have faith in you through Christ, we bring to you our prayers, our petitions and our supplications:

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

One: As we gather around this table to celebrate the sacred meal Jesus shared with his friends, may we never forget the mystery of our faith:

**All: Jesus came to embody God's love in human history.**

**Jesus died to affirm God's love for all humanity.**

**Jesus was raised to keep God's love alive in human hearts.**

One: Spirit of God who gave new life to Jesus, come now, and make this bread we are about to eat taste so good that we'll want to share it with everyone we meet. Make the juice in the cup so sweet that we'll want to go out and tell others about how much God loves them and all creation.

**All: Thank you, Jesus, for loving us so much; thank you, Holy Spirit, for helping us so much; thank you, God, for being with us, and for bringing us to this table of hope, faith, and joy. Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Cup**

### **Sharing of the Bread & the Cup**

### **Prayer of Gratitude after Communion**

**All: God, you came in Christ Jesus to fill us with hope and peace; in remembrance, we go forth to bring hope where despair has taken up residence; to share good news to those who are broken; and to love life as selflessly as we are loved by Jesus, our Savior. Draw near to us, O God, as we pray for your Kingdom to come among us, saying:**

### **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**

"Take My Life, God, Let it Be"

Blk#448

### **\*Benediction**

### **Postlude**

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Gordon Young

*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  
Sheri Stanley

Bethany  
Christine Waite  
Doug Paul  
Sam Allen  
Bill Borden  
Peter & Hanna Starck

Paulo & Erik  
Jesse Armstrong  
Dave Talbot  
Julien "Shoe" Shoemaker  
Malcolm Eaton

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**

September 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday School Resumes & Rally Sunday  
September 13<sup>th</sup> – Kitchen Cleanup Day

## **Announcements**

**Coffee Hour** – On **September 2<sup>nd</sup>**, Coffee Hour will be in the Narthex as a farewell to summer. On **September 9<sup>th</sup>**, 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 13<sup>th</sup>**, 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** - Mark your calendars for Rally Sunday, **September 9<sup>th</sup>**! PCUCC Sunday School and Kids with a Mission resume. Beginning at 9:30 AM, we'll welcome Juggling Jim with his funny jokes, magic and amazing juggling to entertain us. You don't want to miss it! See you there!

**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** – Progress is being made on our to-do list. Many thanks go to our wonderful volunteers and the projects they have been accomplished.

- Dale Mosher for installing two motion sensitive LED lights in the entryway, building the microwave shelf, eliminating the hot plate, building countertop to be used for communion and flower prep in the Parlor and offering to head the group to paint room 202 for the choir.
- Carole Curry for weeding the Peace Pole flower bed.
- Chris Pollock for planning the Kitchen Cleanup Day on September 13th. Please come and help!
- Music committee with Peggy Martin for Room 202 cleanup and preparation for the choir.
- Wayne Martin for creating the frames for the new Chapel windows.
- Butch Castor for the many, many hours revamping the mens' room in the basement.
- Jim LaPrad and Butch Castor for planning on cutting down the dead maple tree this fall.

We are still in need of help for the following tasks:

- prune and mulch the shrubs in front of the church
- touchup painting thru out the church – just a couple of hours will do
- The kitchen is always in need of dish towels. If you have gently used towels, please donate to the kitchen.
- The furnace room is scheduled to be cleaned, and we will be discarding any unclaimed "junk". If you or your group have items stored in the furnace room, please clean them out and organize them by Sept 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please let us know of any concerns and help us keep our church home in the best possible condition! Many thanks to everyone again! Donna & Butch Castor

**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/](http://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 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **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](mailto: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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Alice O'Connor, liturgist  
Ruth Gordon, accompanist  
Micah Delventhal Saffian, special music

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