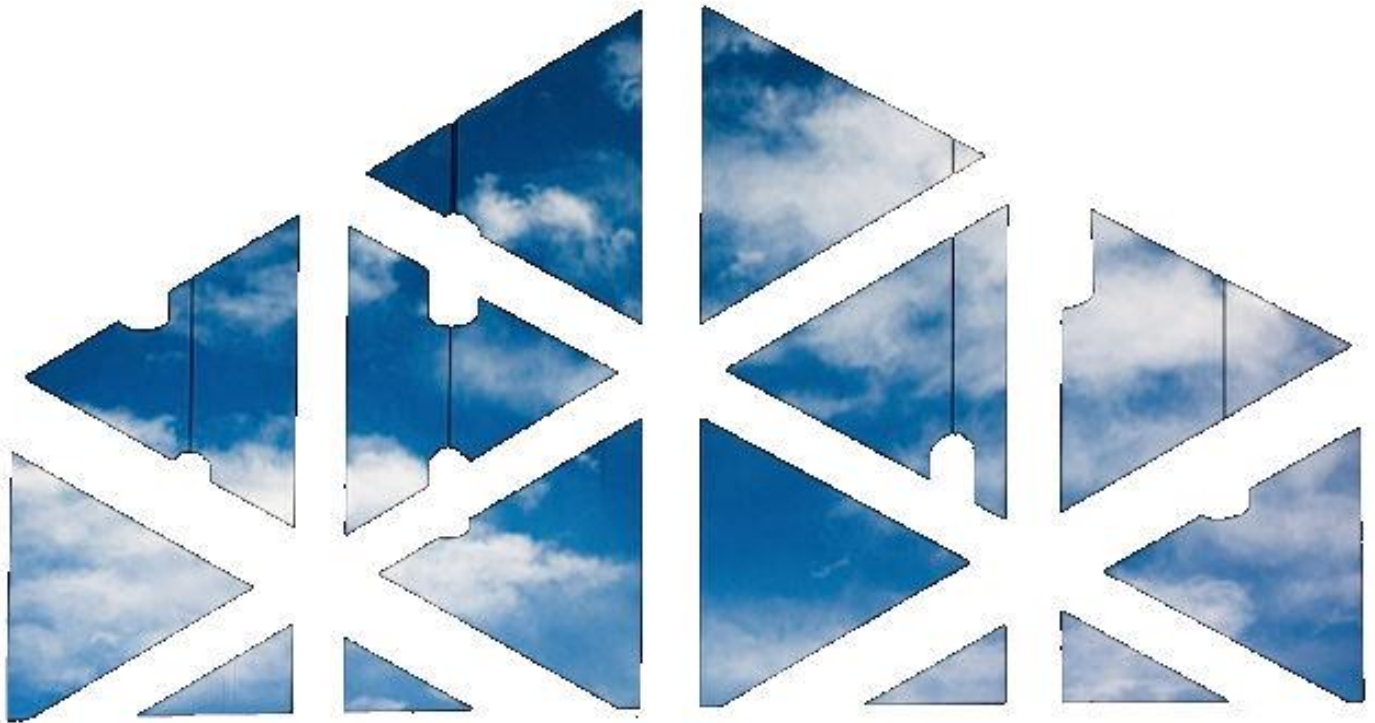


**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Back from Summer Service**

September 9, 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

How Great Thou Art

Greg Sewell

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

We Come to Sing Praise

***Call to Worship**

**Indicates congregation standing*

One: We gather before the God who gives everything a season.

All: We come to worship the Loving God who breathes life and faith into our hearts.

One: We gather to praise the God who frees us from all anxiety about the future.

All: We are here to worship the Living God who inspires us to take wild and brave risks.

One: We gather to open our minds and hearts to the God of this new season.

All: We come to let our souls be filled with wonder and gratitude for another chance to gather to worship God. Alleluia!

***Hymn**

"God Is Here! As We Your People Meet"

Blk#70

Prayer of the Day

One: In this sacred moment of prayer may each one of us be awakened again to the mystery of God-with-us as we pray together, saying:

All: God of this new day, surprise us with possibilities and opportunities that we do not yet see. Help us to believe in new beginnings. Guide us as we seek to make a beginning for all the people who call this church their spiritual home. Move us away from our weary minds into fresh dreams. Deliver us from presuming that we have already changed and dreamed enough when your Spirit is still calling us to be a new beginning of faith, love and hope for the sake of our world. God of this new season, renew our faith. Lead us into the promises of this day and every new day. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Sisters and brothers, yesterday is gone, tomorrow remains a mystery, but today God is with us to surround us with grace and love. Friends, believe, live and proclaim the Good News!

All: In Christ, God reminds us to turn to each other with understanding and acceptance, with challenges and changes. As followers of Christ, we are blessed to be reconciled through faith. Together, we move faithfully and courageously into our tomorrows. Alleluia!

Prayer Response "O Lord, Hear my Prayer"

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
Or The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise:

When I call, an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer. O
all my hope comes from God. The Lord is my song; the

Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.
Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

This chant from the Taizé Community in France is provided with two sets of words, either of which can be used as best suits the occasion. The first text is based on Psalm 102:1-2, and the second is an amalgam of phrases drawn from Psalms 118:14, 25:5, 36:9, and John 4:14.

***Sign of Peace**

One: Since we have been reconciled to God and one another, we are no longer strangers; we are all children of God! May Christ's peace 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

Epistle Lesson

James 2:1-17

NT p.1054

Gospel lesson

Mark 7:31-37

NT p.874

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

All: Amen

Sermon

"Faith & Human Agency"

***Hymn**

"Christian, Rise and Act Thy Creed"

Red#416

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

Let all the World in Every Corner Sing Hugh S. Robertson

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: Living Creator, Giver of blessings, may these simple gifts we bring offer a new beginning to others. As we give, let a surge of gratitude rise within our souls for the privilege we have to make something beautiful happen in our world. In Christ and through Christ, we pray. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn** "Now Let Us All, in Hymns of Praise" Blk#529
(use alternate tune: Ellacombe)

***Benediction** Dismiss Us with Blessings of Peace

***Coral Benediction**

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

Keeping in Prayer

Pat Andrews	Bethany	Paulo & Erik
Matthew Sanchez	Christine Waite	Jesse Armstrong
Sara Willingham	Doug Paul	Dave Talbot
Steven French	Sam Allen	Julien "Shoe" Shoemaker
Sheri Stanley	Bill Borden	Malcolm Eaton
Dick Brace	Peter & Hanna Starck	

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

Today – Sunday School Resumes with Juggling Jim
September 13th – Kitchen Clean-up Day
September 21st – Coffee House at 6:00 PM

Announcements

Coffee Hour – On **September 9th**, the Hospitality Committee will host Coffee Hour for all in Fellowship Hall. Please help us by signing up on the Kitchen Crew calendars for either "Set-out & Snacks" or "Snacks and Clean-up". We will work on a three-month rotating schedule so folks can take a turn with the Hospitality Committee. Also, the Will-U-Tree poster is ready for those who want to contribute snacks or other goodies. A list of snack ideas will be available to take with you. The fall Kitchen Clean-up Day will be Thursday, **September 13th** from 9:00 to 11:30 AM. Come help to make the Kitchen spotless for the 2018-2019 program year! If you are available, let Chris or Georgene. To contact Chris, you may phone her at 603-674-8590 or e-mail at rpollock@metrocast.net. Thank you from the Hospitality Committee!

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!**

We are elated to share that PCUCC has been chosen by the Plymouth, NH Hannaford as the latest beneficiary of the Hannaford Helps Reusable Bag Program! Every time the reusable Community Bag is purchased at the Plymouth, NH Hannaford during the month of September, we receive \$1. This is truly a great opportunity for us! Please visit the store, find the reusable bag rack and buy the Community Bag!

Building & Grounds – September is an incredibly busy month for the use of the church. Almost every day, all day long there will be groups. It will be a challenge for Mike to find time to get in and do his work. Thank you Mike for being flexible with your schedule!

Sylvia Shaw was seen using her wonderful gardening skills cleaning and pruning all the shrubs and plantings in front of the church. She reportedly took out 4 large bags! Thank you Sylvia for all your hard work! What a difference!

There will be a delay in replacing the panels in the mens' downstairs bathroom. One of the toilets needs to be replaced and that will happen first... But the completion of the bathroom renovation is in sight!!! Thank you from the Building & Grounds Committee!

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.

Chapel News - The Chapel is painted and we are ready to move forward with adding amenities to make the chapel a peaceful, meditative space.

Stained-glass Windows for our Chapel are being created by local artist Judy Detzel who is an accomplished stained glass artisan. She is creating 4 exquisite window panels of nature scenes. **Our deep appreciation to** Wayne Martin who will be making cherry wood frames for the windows. Judy will have the windows ready before the end of the year.

The \$4000 cost of these windows is being sponsored by a generous, anonymous donor to whom we are most grateful!

Council voted to ask for matching fund donors to cover the cost of 20 chapel chairs, meditation altar, lighting and other items to complete our chapel. If you would like to be a matching donor please mark your checks in memo line "Chapel" and mail to the church office or put in the Sunday offering. If you have questions or comments, please contact Eileen Torrey at 968-6348 or eileen@weisshouse.net.

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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Eileen Torrey, liturgist
Ruth Gordon, accompanist

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