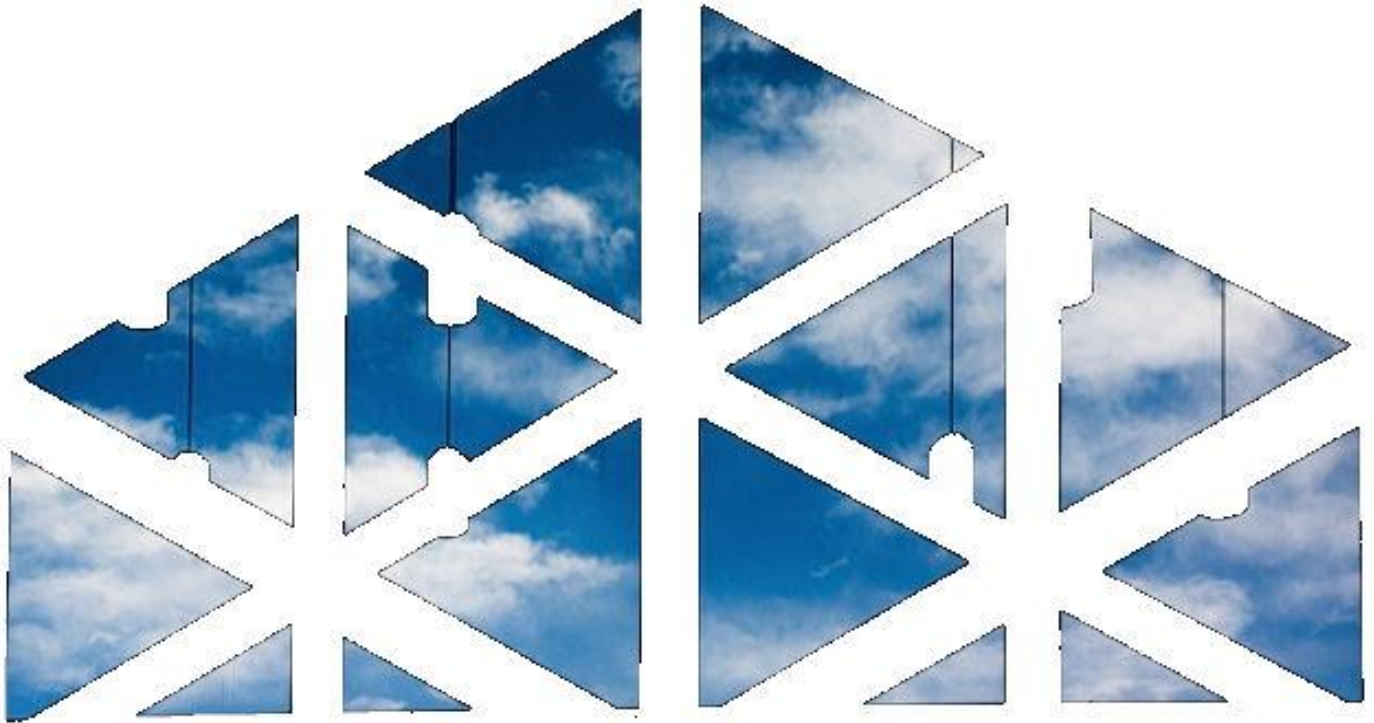


**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 16, 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.
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- 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

Arioso

Franklin Ritter

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

In Thy Temple Lord

Zanineli (Black #7)

***Call to Worship**

**Indicates congregation standing*

One: The Spirit of the Lord is among us!

All: Spirit of the Living God, inspire us to bring our songs and our prayers before God.

One: The God of life is with us!

All: Spirit of the Living God, move us to place our wounds and our dreams before God.

One: Holy God, Maker of us all, we are gathered in your Presence!

All: We are here to worship the Living God! Alleluia!

***Hymn**

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

Red#251

Prayer of the Day

One: As a child finds comfort and safety in a parent's arms, we too come before God seeking spiritual healing and wholeness. Trusting in God's love and grace, we pray together, saying:

All: With-us-God, make us attentive to your Presence in this time of worship. Empty us now of the thoughts that distract us; the fretful preoccupations that burden us; the nagging guilt that cripples us; and the dead certainties that restrain and weaken our faith in you. Draw us close again and restore in us the joy of your salvation, that we may worship you not only with our lips but with our heart, mind and soul. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: May we remember that each one of us is a gift from God to the Church and to the world. Friends, believe the Good News!

All: In Christ, God challenges us to use our faith, skills and intellect to create a more whole, peaceful, beautiful, and sacred way of life for ourselves and for our neighbors. Thanks be to God!

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.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1982, 1991

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1982

Text and Music © 1982 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

HEAR MY PRAYER

5.5.6.D

***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.

Reception of New Member

Rev. Mary Jane Barber

Covenant of our church

All: We covenant one with another to seek and to respond to the Word and will of God. We purpose to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world while worshipping God, and striving for truth, justice and peace. As did our fathers and mothers, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God and look with faith toward the triumph of righteous and eternal life.

***Words of Welcome**

All: We rejoice in this opportunity to welcome you to the life and ministries of our Open and Affirming, Just Peace and Global Mission congregation. May we worship, sing, pray, cry, laugh and serve together in love and in friendship to the glory of God, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Children's Message

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Lessons

One: Listen for the Word of God

Epistle Lesson

James 3:1-12

NT p.1055

Gospel lesson

Mark 8:27-33

NT p.875

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

All: Amen

Sermon

"Words Are Also Works"

***Hymn**

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Blk#42

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

Jubilate Deo

Dale Wood (Blue #67)

***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 blessings, may our giving make justice flow like a mighty
stream through our town, our gifts express the language of
Christ's love in the church, and our pledges reflect our gratitude
for the powerful stories of faith that inspire us to give. Amen.**

SENDING

*Hymn

"God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"

Blk#531

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction

Go in Peace

(Black #60)

Postlude

Toccata

Robert Thygerson

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	Arline Bownes
Rob Coonan	Colin Robinson	

Robbin Adams and family, sympathy on death of her father, Robert Keith
Liz Peoples and her children Sidney & Graham Pogue,
sympathy on the death of her mother, Erika Schenkel Peoples.

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 16th – Sunday Niters at the Taylor's, 6:00 PM

September 21st - Coffee House, 6:30 PM

September 30th – Fifth Sunday Potluck Following Worship

October 10th – Open House in Honor of Pastor Paulo @ PCUCC, 6:00-8:00 PM

October 28th – Paulo's Last Sunday Worship with Reception to Follow

Announcements

Sunday Niters is Back – Tonight at 6:00 PM for our first get together of "the new year". We will hold forth with a potluck at Boulder Oaks on Squam Lake. Travel 2.8 miles beyond Holderness Village on Rte. 3 toward Meredith. Look for hanging sign on your left with three names; Antrim, Riely, Taylor. This is Allen Way. On the way in there are three forks. Take a right, another right and then a left. The topic will be the search for our new pastor.

Coffee Hour - On **September 16th**, the Hospitality Committee will continue to host Coffee Hour for all in Fellowship Hall. Please help us by signing up on the Kitchen Crew calendars for either *Set-out and Snacks* or *Snacks and Clean-up*. A list of snack ideas is posted to take with you. We will be working on a three-month rotating schedule so that folks can take a turn with the Hospitality Committee. Also, the Will-U-Tree poster has several dates that haven't yet been claimed for those who want to contribute snacks or other goodies.

Faith Formation - Welcome back to PCUCC! We hope everybody had a fun summer and is enjoying the start of the school year!

Regular Sunday School classes for ages 3-12 and Kids with a Mission for kids 5th grade and older will be back in session on Sunday morning. We're looking forward to seeing all PCUCC kids! In Sunday School we'll be studying the story of Noah's Ark. Kids with a Mission will be planning out their service projects and activities for the church year. Please join us!

As a reminder: With the exception of Communion Sundays which are first Sunday of each month, all kids begin in Sunday Service in the Sanctuary with their families. After the pastor's Children's Message which occurs about 9:40 AM, the kids will head down to the Fellowship Hall for Sunday School and Kids with a Mission activities. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Bjerklie, Director of Faith Formation at faithformation@uccplymouth.org.

Building and Grounds - Thanks to Dale Mosher for finishing the counter, Georgene Fabian for washing the curtains and cleaning the refrigerator in the parlor and Rev. Bob Curry for resealing the front doors three times a year!

We are looking for a wheel chair in good serviceable condition to be kept available for use by anyone in the building. If you know where we could get one, please notify the office. Also, we have a list of little jobs to be done. If you have a few minutes and are willing to help at your convenience, please let us know. Thank you from Donna and Butch Castor!

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!

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**.

The 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!**

Good news!! We have an anonymous donor to cover the cost of buying 20 chapel chairs!! We are most grateful for this generous gift.

We still need donors to sponsor buying a 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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Donna Castor, liturgist
Ruth Gordon, accompanist

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