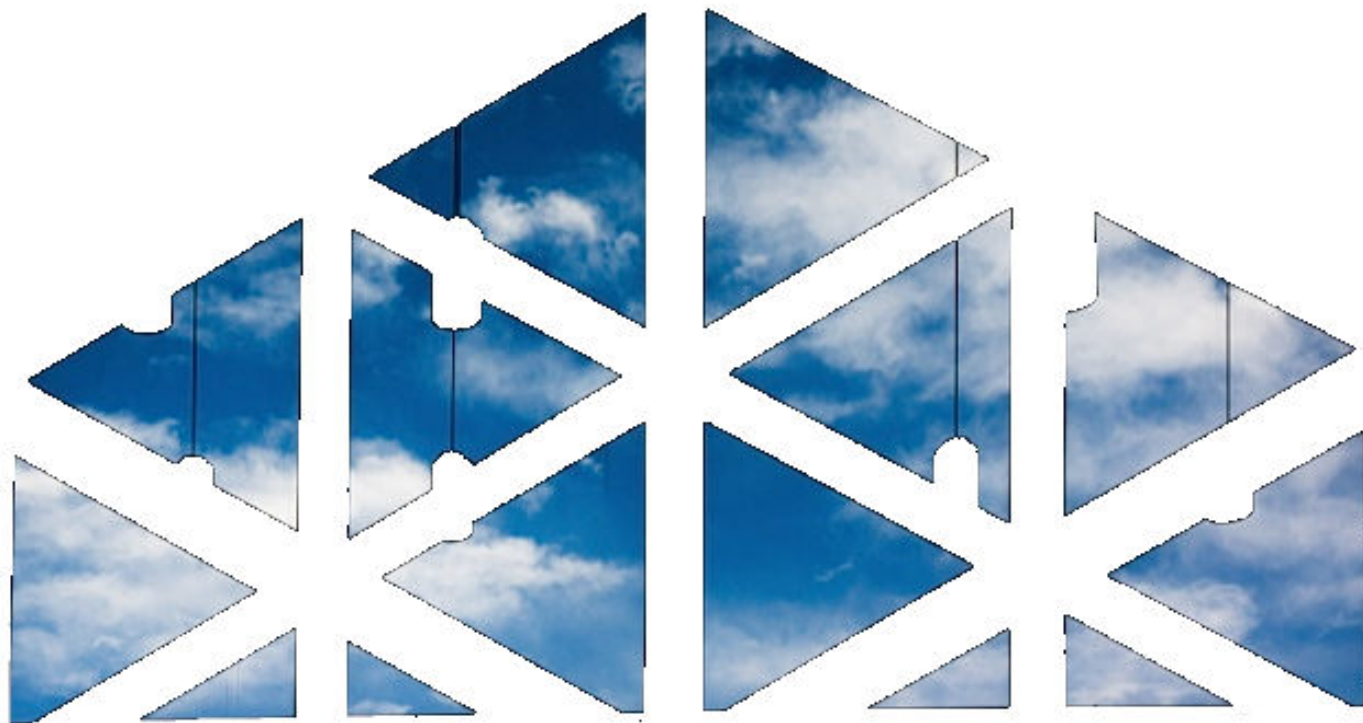


**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 23, 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

*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

### \*Call to Worship

*\*Indicates congregation standing*

One: We are gathered in God's holy presence.

**All: The blessing of God be on us all as we gather.**

One: We are gathered to praise the God of life and grace.

**All: The blessing of God be on us all as we sing and pray.**

One: We are gathered to seek God's blessings.

**All: The blessing of God be on us all in this sacred hour of worship.**

### \*Hymn

"Stand Up and Bless the Lord"  
(v.1 - choir only; vv. 3-4 – congregation)

Red#25

## Prayer of the Day

One: Let us take notice of God's presence among us as we pray together, saying:

**All: Living God, in this sacred gathering of faith, help us to discern what you want of our lives. Teach us to let go graciously of our tendency to wallow in the depths of doubt and disbelief. Give us the courage to take leaps of faith and grant that we may be more like nature, accepting changes that are out of our control. Lord, take our bodies, minds and souls and fill our whole lives with your grace. May everything we say and do in this House of Prayer reveal the beauty of your love. As your children, we ask for your blessings as we bring you our prayer. Amen.**

## Silence for Personal Reflection

### God's Promise of New Life

One: This is the wisdom of God: in a world where so many are driven by the desire to blend in, God dares us to be different! Friends, hear, believe, live, and announce the Good News!

**All: In Christ, God gives us the guts to be wounded healers, even when we are weeping ourselves; to be bearers of justice, even when we are discouraged; to be witnesses of peace, even when we are struggling to believe. Thanks be to God for this gift of faith that reshapes our lives and opens our hearts to the Spirit's leading.**

**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: This is a sacred gathering of peace!

**All: The peace of Christ is in us, over us, and all around us.**

One: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

## Children's Message

# HEARING THE WORD

### Scripture Lessons

One: Listen for the Word of God

Epistle Lesson James 3:13-4:3, 7-8

Gospel lesson Mark 9:33-37

One: May God bless our reading, hearing, and doing of God's Holy Word.

**All: Amen**

### Sermon

"We Have Standards"

### \*Hymn

"Dear God, Embracing humankind"

Blk#502

# 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

**\*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, whose love pervades each moment, bless the gifts we bring today. Touch our hearts and free our hands so that our thoughts and our actions may be markers of joy and signs of hope in Plymouth. Amen.**

# **SENDING**

**\*Hymn**                      "Lord, Make Me More Holy"                      Blk#75

**\*Benediction**

**\*Choral Benediction**

### **Postlude**

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

### **Keeping in Prayer**

*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**

**Announcements**

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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