

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ World Communion Sunday

October 7, 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

Prelude

Arthur Foote

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

Welcome & Life of the Church

Centering Music

Be Still and Know that God is Here

Clifford McCormick

*Call to Worship

**Indicates congregation standing*

One: We come together to praise God from whom all blessings flow.

All: Meet us here, O God! Through the word and songs, bread and cup, draw us into your holy Presence.

*Hymn

"Let Us Build A House"



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshipping community.

Prayer of the Day

One: We gather from east and west, from north and south, to pray in one voice, saying:

All: Living God, Inspirer of Hope, today we come together seeking to be closer to you. We give thanks for each person in this gathering of faith whose faces and stories reflect the radiance of your love. As we gather to remember the simple and yet life-changing words of Christ, fill our worship with grace more persistent than our deepest doubts. Nudge us toward your peace. Teach us to love each other and to live in harmony with our neighbors. Make us a blessing today, that through our words and actions something of your truth may be revealed in this time of worship. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Persistently, patiently, lovingly, God pours out grace and hope into our lives, healing our brokenness and forgiving our sinful divisions. Friends, dare to proclaim the Good News of our faith!

All: Loved, we are sent to love; forgiven, we are freed to forgive; graced, we can offer our gifts to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God!

Prayer Response

"Peace of God Be With You"

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), C3 (quarter). The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The notes are: D3 (quarter), C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), F2 (quarter), E2 (quarter), D2 (quarter), C2 (quarter), B1 (quarter), A1 (quarter), G1 (quarter), F1 (quarter), E1 (quarter), D1 (quarter), C1 (quarter). The lyrics are: Peace of God be with you. Peace of God be with you. Sa - As - sa - laa - mu la - kum. As - sa - laa - mu la - kum. Sa - laam, sa - laam. Peace of God be with you. laam, sa - laam. As - sa - laa - mu la - kum.

*Sign of Peace

One: Here, in this gathering of hope, we share the peace the world cannot take away or destroy.

All: In Christ, we are no longer strangers, but sisters and brothers through faith, hope, peace and love.

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

Romans 12:1-3, 9-21

NT p.986

Gospel Lesson

Mark 2:1-12

NT p.868

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

All: Amen

Sermon

"God's Greatest Gift to Humankind"

*Hymn

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

1 Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O God of love; make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
4 Come, hope of u - ni - ty; make us one bod - y.

Come, O Lord Je - sus; rec - on - cile all peo - ple.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory

Gift of Music Praise, O Zion, Thy Salvation Mozart, arr. by Walter Ehret

***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: Creative Spirit of God, teach us to rejoice in the privilege we have to give. May our gifts and our lives prepare the way for your Kingdom of peace to come. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table "Come to The Table of Grace"

Capo 3: (D) F (A) C (Bm) Dm (D7/A) F7/C (G) Bb

1 Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the

(A) C (D) F (A) C (D) F (Em) Gm

ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's

(D/A) F/A (G) Bb (D/A) F/C (A7) C7 (D) (G) (D) F Bb F

not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

- 2 Come to the table of peace...
- 3 Come to the table of love...
- 4 Come to the table of hope...
- 5 Come to the table of joy...

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Generous God whose story and song are now and always the hope of the world:


All: We praise you for the stories of creation and incarnation redemption and resolution – the unending words of love.

One: We rejoice in your song of yearning and calling, waiting and welcoming, gathering and cherishing – the eternal music of hope.

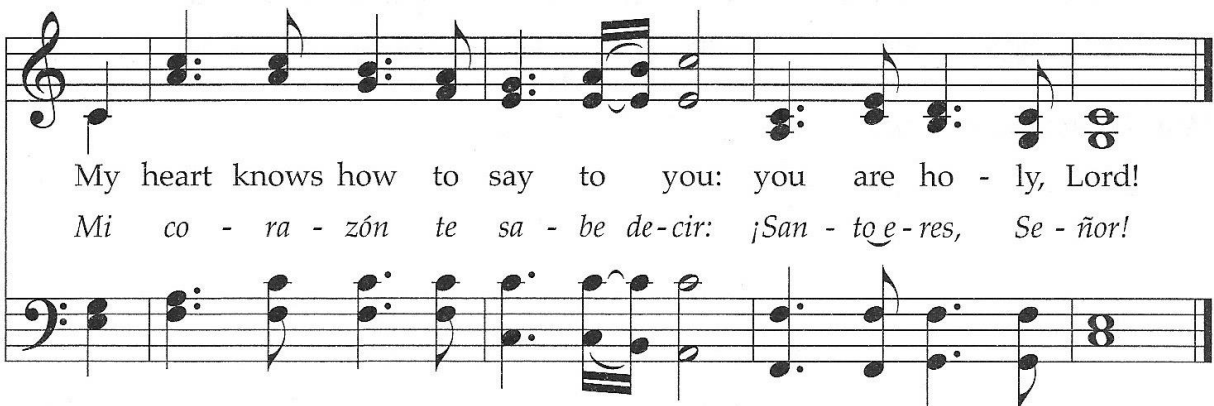
All: And we join our voices now in that great song of love and adoration that creation sings back to you.

Sanctus

"Santo, Santo, Santo"



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: In humility and in faith, we now bring our petitions and supplications to the Living God:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

One: And so, as we do in this place what Christ did in an upstairs room, we gather around the table to eat the bread of life and drink from the cup of salvation. In this sacred moment, we remember Jesus' life, his death and his resurrection and, with Christians in all countries and places, we dare to speak the mystery called faith:

**All: Christ died, crowned with death's thorns.
Christ was raised, crowned with resurrection's wonder.
Christ will come, to crown us with peace and life abundant.**

One: Send your Spirit upon the gifts of the bread and the cup, and bring joy, healing, and new life to those who gather around your table.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, and graciously nourish us so we may receive food for the journey and be bound in solidarity with all who follow the Risen Christ. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Cup

Sharing of the Bread & the Cup

Prayer of Gratitude after Communion

All: God of Community, we thank you for this meal that proclaims the peace and healing of people and nations. We thank you for this table where a little is enough to change our lives; where a little is more than enough to feed those whose hearts yearn for communion in community. May this bread and fruit of the vine nourish us so that we may grow in the faith and knowledge that in you, we are one. Hear now as we repeat prayerfully the words Christ taught his disciples, 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** "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" Blk#400

***Benediction**

***Choral Benediction** The Lord Bless you and Keep You Peter C. Lutkin

Postlude Voluntary William Selby

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	Arline Bownes	Rob Coonan
Colin Robinson	Judith & Larry Gooch	Robbin Adams
Barbara LaShier	Annie Rice	

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

October 8th – Book Club at 10:00 AM in Parlor
October 10th – Open House in Honor of Pastor Paulo @ PCUCC, 6:00-8:00 PM
October 14th – Sunday Niters at the Shaw's in Moultonborough
October 19th – Coffee House at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall
October 28th – Paulo's Last Sunday Worship with Reception to Follow

Announcements

Sunday Niters - ...is set for **October 14th** at 5:00 PM at the Shaw's home in Moultonborough. Take Rte. 25 onto 109 past Moultonborough Village, continue and turn right to the Suissevale. The lake is straight ahead, take a right and proceed to take another right to Cannes Street. Proceed to number 74 which is a gray/brown house on the right with all the lights on.

Coffee Hour – Many thanks to all who came to our Fifth Sunday Pot-Luck Luncheon last week! We enjoyed a delicious variety of food and good fellowship!

Everyone is welcome to Coffee Hour. Come and have snacks and other goodies in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Please sign up to help in the kitchen on the bulletin board under the flowers poster or on the Will-U-Tree to bring in snacks.

We've noticed Coffee Mugs from the Kitchen are finding their way to the parlor's kitchenette and not being returned. If you need to take a mug of coffee upstairs, please return to the kitchen or use a paper cup that can then be discarded. Several events are planned during this month, so we need all the mugs in the kitchen. Thank you from the Hospitality Committee!

Faith Formation - Please join us **today** for Sunday School. We'll be learning about Manna from the Old Testament. We'll also be practicing our new songs, sharing a snack and having loads of fun!

Kids with a Mission will meet as well when they'll be talking about this month's service project, Socktober.

If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Bjerklie at faithformation@uccplymouth.org.

Book Club – The Book Club has returned! We will meet on Monday, **October 8th**, at 10:00 AM in the Parlor. All are welcome to join!

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 today, **October 7th**.

Coffee House – Our next Coffee House is Friday, **October 19th**, at 6:30 PM. Come and join a conversation about what matters in Plymouth and Grafton County. Tri-County Community Action Program is gathering information about the key areas of need in Grafton, Carroll and Coos counties for a community needs assessment. Come share your concerns. Your voice is important!

Thank you all! The food our church collected on our Faith-in-Action Sunday has been delivered to the pantry run by the Student Support Foundation at Plymouth State University. Thank you all for putting your faith into action! Thank you for turning God's love and Christ's commandment to care for the neighbor into food for the students in our town.

You are invited to attend an
Open House for the Rev. Paulo G. Franca
On Wednesday, Oct. 10th
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
In the PCUCC Fellowship Hall
Light refreshments will be served.

The Reverend Paulo G. França, Minister
Deborah Healey, Church Office Administrator
Cindy Bjerklie, Director of Faith Formation
David Williams, Director of Music

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Larry Spencer, Church Treasurer
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling

Enid Reed, liturgist
Ruth Gordon, accompanist

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