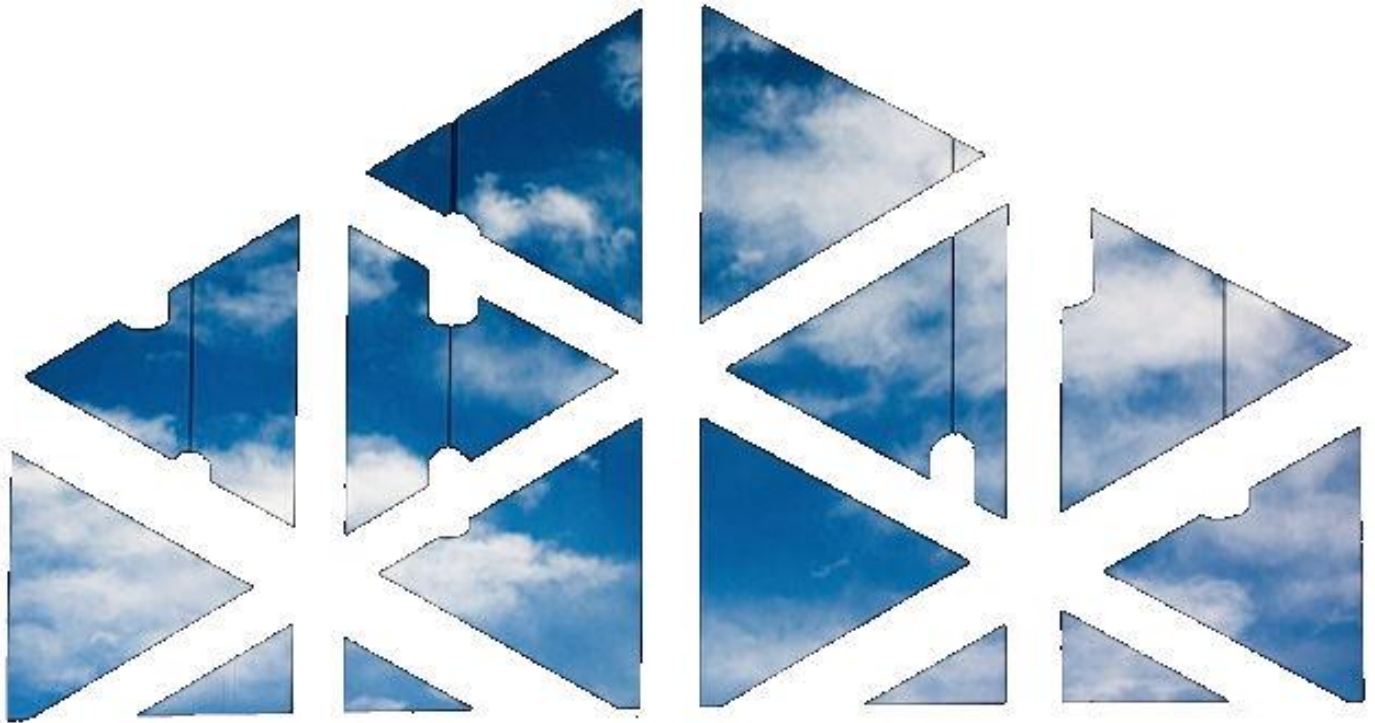


**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ  
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 14, 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

God is in This Holy Place

Brahms arr; Hopson

### \*Call to Worship

*\*Indicates congregation standing*

One: We gather to worship the God who gifted us with "the Pemi" River.

**All: We are here to sing praises to the Giver of clean water that sustains all life.**

One: We gather to give thanks to the God who imagined the autumn woods.

**All: We are here to praise the Maker of aging leaves that color the White Mountains with amber, red and crimson hues.**

One: We gather to sing aloud in praise of God, the Creator of us all.

**All: We are here to worship the Living God whose life-giving love wakens in us the joy of being alive.**

### \*Hymn

"God Reigns o'er All the Earth"

Blk#21

## Prayer of the Day

One: Trusting that God not only speaks but also hears, we bring to God our dreams, our wounds, our secrets, and our longings, saying:

**All: With-us-God, thank you for this new day and for the opportunity of being amazed by your creation every single day. This morning, we ask that you may put in our hearts a holy yearning for a new earth and a fuller faith. Make this time and this space into a gathering of spiritual renewal. Help us to be more like Jesus that we too may offer healing where there is hurt, speak of peace where there is violence, demand justice where there is injustice, and see new beginnings where there are only dead-ends. May our love of living renew humanity's faith in the goodness of everything you have created. In Christ, we make this prayer. Amen.**

## Silence for Personal Reflection

## God's Promise of New Life

One: God promised us that our lives are not destined for darkness and sin, but for hope, friendship, joy and love. Friends, believe the Good News!

**All: Jesus came to open our eyes to the gifts of God that dot our lives: the smile of a child, the hug of a spouse, a singing bird, the touch of raindrops on our skin, and the faith of friends that carries us on when doubts hold us back. Thanks be to God!**

## Prayer Response

"Peace of God Be With You"

The musical score is written in 6/8 time and consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Chords above the staff are Am, G, F, Am, G, F, C. 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 -". The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are: Dm4, C4, Bb3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3. Chords above the staff are Dm, F, Am, G, F, Am. The lyrics are: "laam, sa - laam. Peace of God be with you. laam, sa - laam. As - sa - laa - mu la - kum."

TEXT: Arabic greeting

MUSIC: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, 2004

Music © 2004 Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ (admin. The Pilgrim Press)

AS-SALAAMU LAKUM

6.6.4.6

## \*Sign of Peace

One: Friends, this is a gathering of peace!

**All: Not an easy peace, not a conditional peace, not a half-hearted peace, but the peace of Christ is with us now.**

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

## Welcoming New Member

Jason and Amy Moran  
Rev. Steven and Kelley Small

## \*Words of Welcome

**All: With joyful hearts, we welcome each one of 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.**

## **\*Covenant of the 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.**

## **Children's Message**

# **HEARING THE WORD**

## **Scripture Lessons**

One: Listen for the Word of God

Hebrew lesson

Numbers 22: 22-35

OT p.136

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

**All: Amen**

## **Sermon**

"The Unexpected Voice of God"

## **\*Hymn**

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

Blk#531

# **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

**\*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 grace, use these gifts to take us outside where women are hurting, children are detained, young adults are at crossroads and men are struggling. Use not only our gifts but our lives also, so this building may continue to be justified and our town may bless you for the works of love we do in Christ's name. Amen.

# SENDING

### \*Hymn

"In the Midst of New Dimensions"

Blk#391

### \*Benediction

**\*Choral Benediction** The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Peter Lutkin

### Postlude

*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 14<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Nitters at the Shaw's in Moultonborough  
October 19<sup>th</sup> – Coffee House at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall  
October 28<sup>th</sup> – Paulo's Last Sunday Worship with Reception to Follow

### **Announcements**

**Sunday Nitters** - ...is set for **Tonight** 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** – The **October 28<sup>th</sup>** Celebration will be an important day in the life of PCUCC! We will host a farewell reception for Pastor Paulo. You can contribute by helping in the kitchen during the buffet luncheon. We also need folks to help prior to the service by setting up tables and chairs, setting up food, and cleaning up after the luncheon. Please sign up on the poster in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, contact Chris Pollock at 603-674-8590 or e-mail at rpollock@metrocast.net.

Assistance is always welcome on the Sundays. Thank you from the Hospitality Committee.

**Faith Formation** - Kids with a Mission (KWAM), is participating in Socktober as their first local mission project this fall. Socktober is a community effort to help people in need. Clean, new socks are one of the most needed items in homeless shelters. You can help by donating pairs of new and unused, clean socks. They can be dropped off by the door to the sanctuary. The deadline for sock collections will be Sunday, **November 5<sup>th</sup>**. Socks will be donated to a local homeless shelter.

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

**Coffee House** – Our next Coffee House is Friday, **October 19<sup>th</sup>**, 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!

**Rev. Paulo and Erik's Farewell Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>** - Following worship, we will be having a celebration buffet luncheon and special cake honoring Paulo's 5 years of ministry with us. The luncheon will be prepared by our own Michael Nicholas. If you plan on attending the luncheon, please sign up, indicating how many people in your family will be present, on the sign-up poster downstairs **OR** after your name on the attendance sheet, say "yes" and indicate number of persons attending.

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

Rev. Gordon Rankin, Conference Minister  
John Anderson, liturgist  
Sharon Beaty, accompanist

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