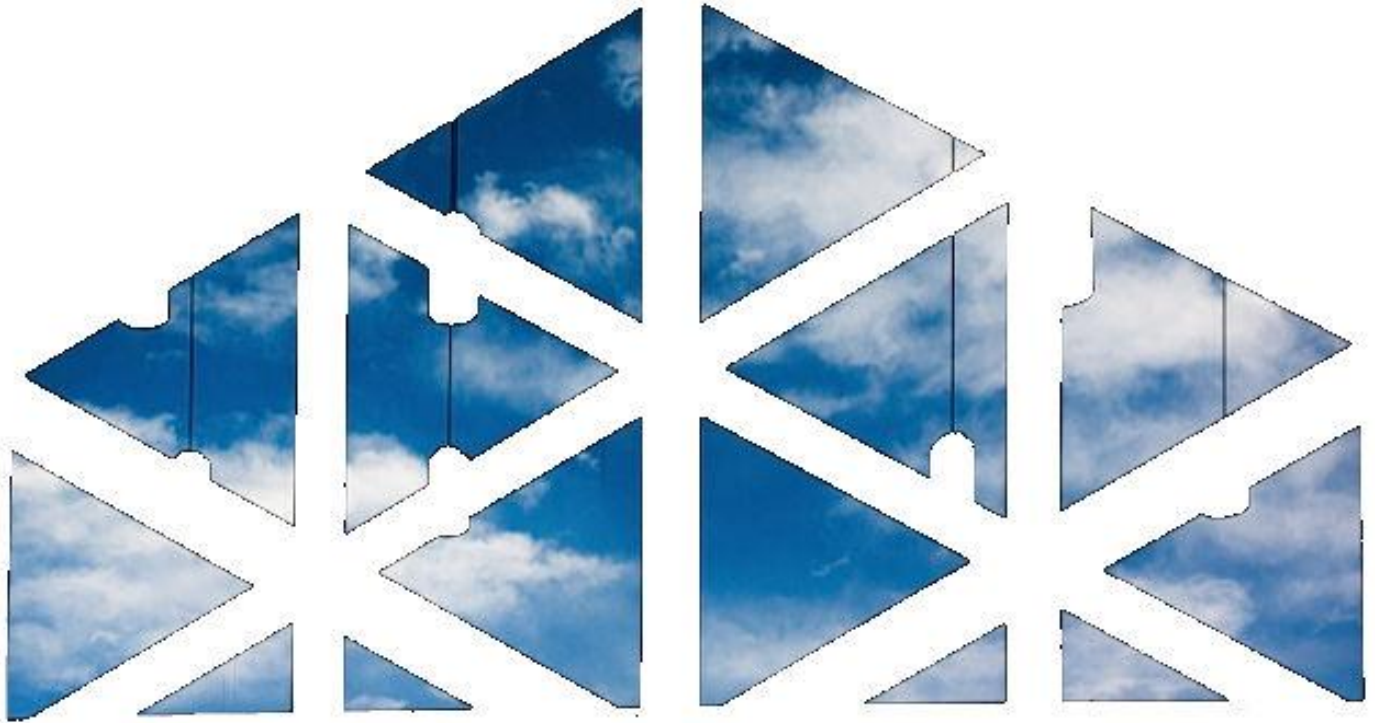


**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**

October 21, 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

*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 Be Still and Know That God is Here Clifford McCormick

*Call to Worship

**Indicates congregation standing*

One: Creator God, we praise you for bright crisp mornings,
For the colorful leaves of autumn
And for wisps of cloud in the blue sky.

All: We gather this morning to praise you, O God of creation.

One: We praise you for all that has been grown, created and achieved this year;

**All: As life settles to see out the winter's cold
And waits to break out in new glories next year,
We gather to praise you, O God of hope.**

One: Sisters and brothers, praise the Lord!

All: The Lord's name be praised!

*Hymn "Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped" Blk#22

Prayer of the Day

One: Take a deep breath, breathe in the peace of God and breathe out your hopes and worries as we pray together, saying:

All: God of kindness and mercy, together in worship we dare to confess what we might not confess if we were alone: that we are wounded by our attachments to the values of the world and our detachment from the teachings of Christ. O God, prepare our hearts to release our anxiety and concerns into the wind of your Spirit and help us to discern your will for us today. Draw us into your grace and hear our prayer. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: If you have faith in Christ's words, you are a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to herself. Friends, hear, believe, and live the Good News!

All: In Jesus Christ we are loved, forgiven and restored to new life. Thanks be to God.

Prayer Response "Peace of God Be With You"

Am G F Am G F C

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 -

Dm F Am G F Am

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: We are God's people! We are followers of Christ! May the peace of the Risen Lord be with you.

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

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

Children's Message

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Lessons

One: Listen for the Word of God

Psalter

Psalm 90:12-17

OT p.516

Gospel lesson

Mark 10:17-31

NT p.878

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

All: Amen

Sermon

"The Growth Choice"

***Hymn**

"The Church of Christ, in Every Age"

Blk#306

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

Cry Out with Joy to the Lord

Richard Lloyd

***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 possibilities, may our offerings take us beyond the barriers
of our former thinking and doing. May these gifts carry the
promises of growth, change, renewal and new life to all of us.
Amen.**

SENDING

***Hymn**

“The Church’s One Foundation”

Blk#386

***Benediction**

***Choral Benediction**

Go in Peace

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	Jamie McDougall

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 - UCC Zimbabwe Visitor Sitshengisiwe Tsododo

Today – Mission Trip to Greece Presentation

October 22nd – Book Group Meeting

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

UCC Zimbabwe – Today, October 21st, PCUCC will welcome Sitshengisiwe Tsododo, a member of the UCC Zimbabwe delegation visiting New Hampshire. Yesterday, **October 20th**, she attended the NHUCC Annual Meeting. Mrs. Tsododo, an occupational health nurse, is from Iveme Church in Gweru, Zimbabwe partnered with South Newbury Union Church. She is married and has an 18 year old son and 14 year old daughter. Also, she is the Chair of the UCCZ Western Conference Ukama Partnership, and is a member of Ruwadzano (Women's Fellowship) and the Volunteer Council.

Mission Trip – Today, October 21st, there will be an informal power point presentation on the Mission Trip to Greece during Coffee Hour. We hope you will be able to stay and learn more about our travels and experiences working with Perichoresis and the refugee children and families.

Faith Formation – Today, October 21st, we'll be working on a special presentation for Pastor Paulo, enjoying a snack, singing, reading a Bible story and more!

A reminder: Family Sunday is scheduled for **October 28th**. On Family Sundays, children are invited to stay in the sanctuary for the entire service. There are no Sunday School classes. Also, Kids with a Mission do not meet downstairs, but instead should plan to be involved in the regular service in the sanctuary.

The 28th is a day devoted to celebrating our friendship with Paulo and Erik and to say good-bye to them during the service and after. The nursery will be open for little ones. There will be an activity on this special Family Sunday in the Fellowship Hall during the regular service in case any children would like to help set-up for the luncheon scheduled for after worship.

Watch Constant Contact for more information about our holiday plans: Caroling, The Christmas Pageant, Christmas Eve and more!

Coffee Hour - The **October 28th** Celebration is an important day in the life of PCUCC. Following Paulo's last service with us, we will be honoring Paulo and Erik with a special luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Be sure to make reservations by today, **October 21st**, by indicating the number of attendees after your name in the pew pads or by signing up on the poster in the Fellowship Hall. You can contribute by helping in the kitchen during the luncheon. We will need folks to help prior to the service to setup tables and chairs, setup food before we eat, look out for the buffet tables and cleanup after the luncheon. Please sign up on the kitchen bulletin board or on the clipboard in the kitchen. If you have questions, you may contact Chris Pollock at 603-674-8590 or e-mail at rpollock@metrocast.net. Thank you from the Hospitality Committee!

Book Group – The next meeting for the Book Group is Monday, **October 22nd**, between 10:00-11:30 AM in the parlor.

Rev. Paulo and Erik's Farewell Sunday, October 28th - 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.

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 5th**. Socks will be donated to a local homeless shelter. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Bjerklie at faithformation@uccplymouth.org.

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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Bill Heron, liturgist

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