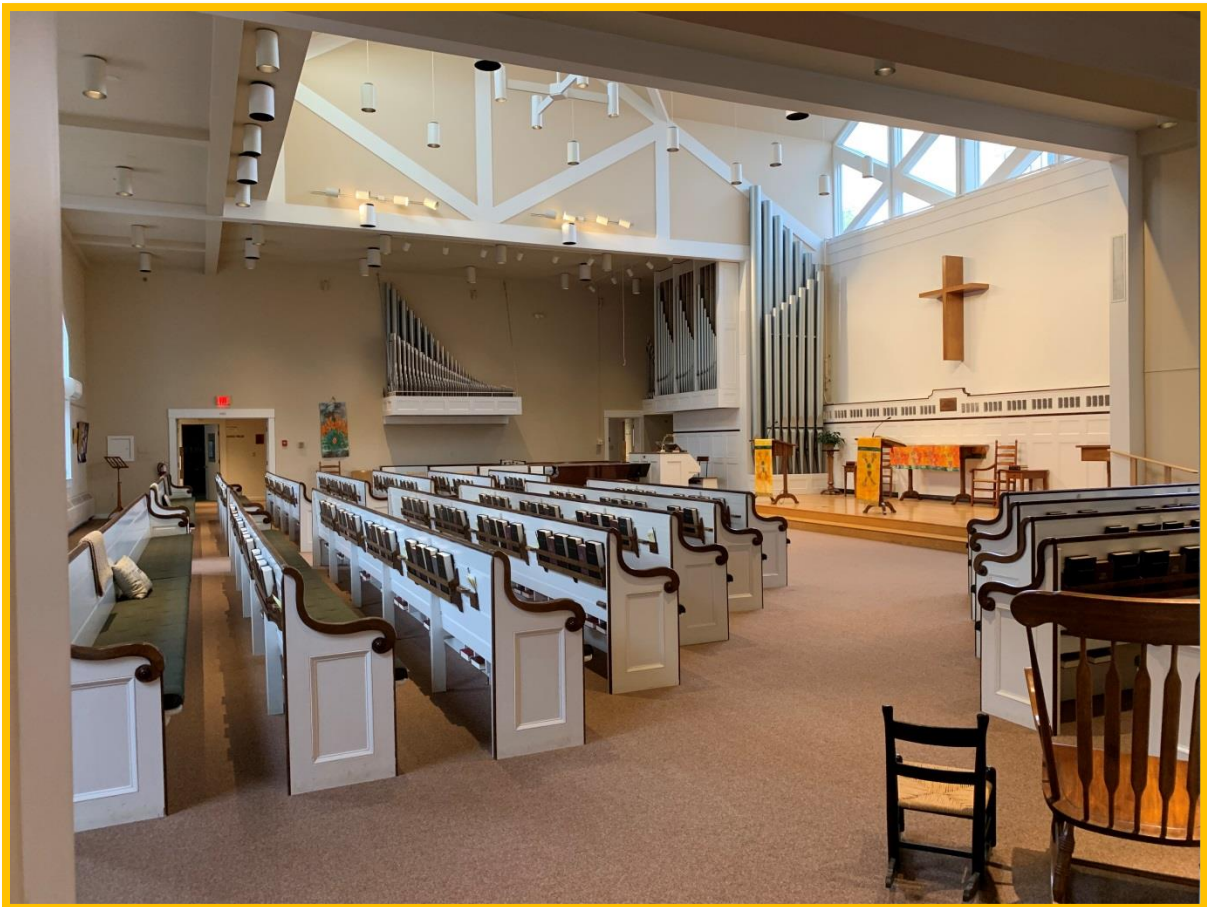


Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

November 10, 2019

9:30 AM



Courtesy, Philip Wei

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

A compassionate community, intentionally inclusive,
openly searching, joyfully serving in the way of Christ.

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
A Just Peace, Open & Affirming, & God Is Still Speaking Congregation

"An inclusive spiritual family shaping a better you for creating a better world.
A place to make a difference."

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

November 10, 2019

Sacred Fellowship 9:30 AM

We are delighted that you are here today! We hope you will find us an affirming, uplifting, and committed family of faith. Here we work to make everyone, without any exceptions, to feel accepted, inspired, and encouraged in their spiritual journey. In dialogue, we seek to understand. In encouragement, we seek to heal. In all things we yearn to live by love, for peace, with joy. This is a place where your intellect will be challenged, your heart will be nurtured, and your spirit refreshed. Varying beliefs are expressed openly and freely, and your doubts will not be suppressed. We trust that we are all, every person and part of creation, continuing to be blessed by God's grace; and that in community we can help each other to see this grace alive in our lives and relationships. We hope to share our gifts with you, even as we pray that you will want to share your gifts with us. Whoever you are and wherever you may be in your life's journey, we invite you to be a part of our lives and our spiritual home. Welcome!

CALLED TOGETHER AS SPIRITUAL FAMILY

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the registration pads when they are handed out
by the ushers and pass to your neighbor in the pew.

We ask that you please shut off cell phones and practice quietness during the service.
Please join us for fellowship and refreshments after the worship in the Fellowship Hall.

* = You are invited to stand as you are able.

Prelude

Welcoming the Light of Love in Our Midst Acolyte lights altar candle.
We prepare ourselves for communing with the sacred as love's light is brought into our awareness. The light of love burns within and among each of us, and we carry that light into our sanctuary; visually reminding us of the image of the divine that lives in our hearts, minds, and souls – and that we nourish through our faith-filled fellowship.

Choral Introit

Lift Your Voice in Praise

Affirming God's Presence in Us All

"You Matter!"

Sharing Christ's Peace

As a sign of our reconciliation with God and one another, greet and welcome those around you and share "the peace of Christ."

***Opening Hymn**

Congregation's Choice

***Hymn of Vision for a Better World** "Lead Us from Death to Life" #581

***Centering Our Souls**

By your prophets, O God, you have called us to march for justice and equality.

Do not allow us to have deaf ears and unseeing eyes.

You call us to live with righteousness.

And we too often think that means personal piety rather than advocating for the rights of all.

Grant us courage to stand against the people and the systems that oppress any.

For injustice to any is injustice towards all.

Empower us to break the manacles of cynicism that tell us that the way it always has been is the way it will continue to be.

Teach us to have faith in the moral arc that bends towards justice, and the motivation to work for it day by day.

Shine your light in us that we may illuminate the dark corners of poverty and offer a ray of hope to the "least of these."

Help us to be healers of society's ills so that peace may prevail and love may never fail. In the name of the one who came to the needs of others, may it be so, now and always.

WE LISTEN FOR THE SACRED IN THE MIDST OF OUR LIVES

A Time for All God's Children

"Do You Have a Dream for the World?"

Prayers

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns, and Acts of Compassion or Kindness

Silent Meditation: The Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer Jesus Taught

Unison

Please feel free to do the version you know, or the one below.

“Our heavenly Creator, sacred be your name: your kin-dom* come, your will be done, on earth as if in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen”

*“Kin-dom” is an inclusive, non-authoritarian, and egalitarian term that reminds us that we are all “kin” as the children of God.

***Hymn of Faith’s Integrity** “O God of Earth and Altar” #582

Scripture Lesson A Dramatic Contemporary Reading of Isaiah 58

Message “Isaiah, the Visionary Story-Teller:
Words for Churches in the 21st Century”

***Hymn for Healing Justice** “For the Healing of the Nations” #576

WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD’S SERVICE THROUGH FAITHFULNESS

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Gift of Music: Choral Anthem

The King of Love My Shepard Is
Mack Wilbery

Jan Bass and Peggy Martin, Flutes
Andrew Hotham, Tenor Solo

***Song of Dedication**

Tune: Old Hundredth; p. 7

When we give thanks, then go to sow; Our blessings are assured to grow. We are not known by what we keep; We’re known by deeds that others reap.

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

O God who prods us to be earnest in caring, dutiful in sharing, joyful in giving, and abundant in gratitude: We pray that these tithes of our income, and offerings of our spirit, will be blessed for your purposes near and far. We are doubly blessed in our giving – being able to, and doing so freely from our hearts. Remind us not to be prideful in giving, nor ashamed in receiving; for we are here for each other – sowing seeds of compassion that will feed the world, and together reaping a harvest of peace. May it be so.

Choral Benediction

Let Us Go Forth Gladly

Encouragement for the Journey

May God give you the grace never to sell yourself short;
grace to risk something big for something good;
grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything but truth
and too small for anything but love.
So, may God take your minds and think through them;
may God take your lips and speak through them;
may God take your hearts and set them on fire.

Rev. William Sloane Coffin

Postlude

The Light of Love Goes into the World

Love's light is not extinguished from our worship, but is transferred from the flame of the candles to the passion in our hearts that we may go forth to let the light of love shine through us as we go to serve in the world.

WE GO FORTH AS PEACEMAKERS TO CREATE JUSTICE FOR ALL

Our worship is fulfilled, and our purpose is confirmed,
through our service as God's stewards to the world and all creation.
Use the blessings God has given you as you share
the joy in your heart, the wisdom in your mind,
the love in your spirit, and the peace in your soul.

Thank you for sharing sacred fellowship with us.

Plymouth Congregational UCC is an open and affirming church, embracing diversity in our congregation and community, and affirming the dignity and worth of every person. We are an inclusive community of faith that celebrates God's presence through shared stories and experiences of sacred meaning on Sundays, and through the nurturing of divine values and virtues manifested in active practices in our daily lives. We welcome all persons into the full life and ministry of the church, regardless of race, ethnic background, gender/sexual identity, sexual orientation, physical or cognitive capabilities, nationality/citizenship, or circumstance of life. We are also a Just Peace church, emphasizing peace and nonviolence in all our relationships, personally and collectively, because we see the sacred worth of every person throughout this good earth. We are a Progressive Christian family of faith. We invite you to hear our experiences of the divine even as we are curious in learning about your own spiritual journey. We hope our values may intersect as together we strive to make our corner of the world a better place. Get to know us! We'd like to get to know you!

Keeping in Prayer

Ralph Reynold Mike & Michele Ettelston Dick Brace
Kyle Greenwood Jesse Armstrong Janet Taylor
Pastor Bret's Mom, Ruth Ann Myers
P.V. George

Bob Feeny and 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 – Finalize Vision & Mission Meeting in Fellowship Hall
Today – Organist Kristjon Imperio at 3:00 PM
November 19th – Holiday Clean-Up Day in Kitchen
November 22nd – Coffee House at 6:15 PM

Announcements

Director of Christian Education Opening – Position open, part-time, at Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ. Estimated 13 hour per week, includes Sundays, 10-month period. Minimum education required: Associates Degree. Salary commensurate with experience. Send letter of interest to: Human Resources, PCUCC, P.O. Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264.

Coffee Hour - Today, everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall following the Service. Come and have a quick beverage and snack prior to the congregational meeting.

Please follow "The Coffee Cup Plan" by using a disposable cup if you are taking your drink with you to the meeting. It's important to keep the stoneware mugs in the Fellowship Hall/kitchen area instead of relying on someone else to collect them from various areas throughout the church.

Perhaps we will have more surplus garden produce and other items to share. Please leave a cash donation which will go to "Voices against Violence".

Tuesday, **November 19th** will be Holiday Clean-up Day in the kitchen from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. Come and help get the kitchen ready for everyone to use during a busy time of year. Mark your calendars and sign up on the bulletin board. Please note that the day of the week will be on a rotating schedule to allow more helpers to attend.

There are many opportunities to help in the kitchen by setting up prior to the service, cleaning up afterwards or bringing in snacks. You may sign-up on the bulletin board near the pass-through window to help or use one of the dated tags on the Will-U poster at the entrance to Fellowship Hall if you are bringing a snack. Please contact

Chris Pollock at 603-674-8590 or e-mail at rpollock@metrocast.net to sign up or if you have any questions. Thank you from the Hospitality Committee!

Book Group – The Book Group will meet on Monday, **November 18th**. We will discuss *My Stroke of Insight* by Jill Bolte Taylor, and on, *Gilead* by Marilyn Robinson.

Service Exchange Fundraiser News – There are 16 opportunities still available. 18 items have been purchased. Early donations are over \$400.

Sign-up will be available today in the Fellowship Hall today or by phoning Peggy Martin at 726-3033.

If you are interested, contact the volunteer directly. All donations must be received by **December 8th**. Make check available to PCUCC with Service Fundraiser and the volunteer's name on the envelope. Payment can be dropped in Sunday's collection plate or mailed to the church office to Finance's attention. Thank you for participating!

Greetings members of Plymouth Congregational UCC! We will be having a meeting to finalize our vision and mission statements of our church as we prepare for a new era of ministry in a changing world. The meeting will be after worship **today, November 10th**. To assist us in creating an accurate, meaningful and inspiring statements, please review the following documents. It includes the Core Values of our Church as determined on September 8th, the vision and mission statements created by the small group envisioning our future meetings and alternative set of statements for your consideration. These will be used as a basis of inspiration for the final statements we adopt. Please take time to study these statements carefully and prayerfully, letting the Spirit speak to you as to who God is calling us to be into the future. We will collectively decide what statements we affirm as we listen to God's still-speaking voice. May God's wisdom and blessings abide with us in our discernment.

Coffee House - Our Speaker will be Marcia Morris, Program Coordinator of the Caring Campus Coalition at PSU. She will update us on the work of the "Campus Ministry" which our church helps support.

Please join us on Friday, **November 22nd** at 6:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring finger food to share if you can. Everyone is welcome ~ bring a friend.

Guest Preachers – PCUCC will have the following guest preachers for the next few weeks: **November 17th** – Rev. Ruth Mosher, **November 24th** – Rev. Bob Feeny and **December 1st** – Rev. Gordon Rankin.

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

4 Post Office Square
Plymouth, New Hampshire
603.536.2626

WELCOMES

Organist Kristjon Imperio



Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
WILL HOST

Organist Kristjon Imperio

Sunday, November 10th at 3:00 PM

Doors open at 2:30 PM.

The recital is free of charge, and donations
to support this concert series will be gratefully received.

Boston-born Organist Kristjon Imperio will present a program of works by
J.S. Bach, Buxtehude, Franck, Howells and Leighton.

The organ he will be playing, which dominates the church sanctuary, is a 1985 Austin Organ
Opus #2695 which contains 1247 pipes driven from 21 ranks in 3 divisions, 24 stops.

Currently, the Minister of Music at the Congregational Church of West Boylston, MA,
Mr. Imperio is active throughout New England
as a soloist, collaborative pianist, and chamber musician.

A highly sought after conductor, he has served in numerous music festivals
as well as serving on the faculty at Anna Maria College in Paxton.

The Rev. Bret S. Myers, Interim Pastor
Deborah Healey, Church Office Administrator
David Williams, Director of Music
Ashley Paine, Organist/Accompanist
Larry Spencer, Church Treasurer
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling

pastor@uccplymouth.org
office@uccplymouth.org
musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
organist@uccplymouth.org
treasurer@uccplymouth.org
gracecounseling@uccplymouth.org

Donna Castor, Liturgist

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
4 Post Office Square, PO Box 86
Plymouth, NH 03264

(603)536-2626 • office@uccplymouth.org • www.uccplymouth.org

*Please make an appointment with Rev. Myers if you would like to meet with the pastor.
You may call the church office at 603-536-2626,
email him at revbmyers@yahoo.com, or call/text his cell at 608-370-9472.*

*Bret's office hours are Sunday 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM, Tuesday 1:00-7:00 PM,
Wednesday 1:00 – 8:00 PM, Thursday 2:00-5:00 PM and other hours by appointment.*