

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Reign of Christ

November 24, 2019

9:30 AM



Courtesy of Eileen Torrey

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."

Reign of Christ

November 24, 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

Romanze

Mozart

Flute Trio: Jan Bass, Peggy Martin, Alison Thatcher

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.

Call to Confession

In Christ, God invites us to be unburdened by our guilt, shame, and fear.

Prayer of Confession

All: God of endless creativity and grace, we confess that our lives need tidying up. We hold onto things that we should let go of. We cling to judgments about ourselves and others. We keep stumbling over the

same things, because we won't sit still and let your mercy surround us. Unburden us, O God, of our desire to be perfect. Help us to throw away the things that keep us from living as you have called us to live. Wash us clean...

Silence

One: Holy God, declutter our hearts and our minds, so that we may love and serve you and one another more fully. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: People of God, in the messy realities of our lives, God meets us without judgment, embracing us in holy love as Her beloved children. Do not be ashamed of your dirty laundry! Come as you are! We are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God, who washes us clean, and folds us into this blessed community.

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."

***Hymn #419** "Nun danket alle Gott (Now Thank We All Our God)"

***Centering Our Souls**

Open our eyes, O God

That we may behold wondrous things.

Open our ears, O God

That we may hear what you will speak to those who turn their hearts to you

Open our minds, O God

That may understand what it means to learn and love your ways

Open our hearts, O God

That we may grasp the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden in Christ

Open our mouths, O God

That we may proclaim Christ's love for all Creation, bringing reconciliation and peace to all who seek faith. Amen

WE LISTEN FOR THE SACRED IN THE MIDST OF OUR LIVES

A Time for All God's Children "What If You Got To Make The Rules?"

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** Come, O Fount of Every Blessing #459

Scripture Lesson Luke 23:33-43

Message “The God Who Bleeds”

***Hymn #575** “O for a World”

WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD’S SERVICE THROUGH FAITHFULNESS

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

***Song of Dedication** #780

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, you heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Christ.

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

Giver of all gifts, you have filled the universe with wondrous things, and you have blessed us with many gifts. Receive these gifts of our time, our talent, and our treasure that we return to you today, and use them in the work of your Church, as we seek to bring comfort, hope, and joy to a world torn apart by hatred, prejudice, and greed. We give you thanks, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction

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
Jesse Armstrong Janet Taylor P.V. George
Pastor Bret's Mom, Ruth Ann Myers
Sheri Stanley

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

November 24th – NH Master Chorale at 4:00 PM
November 25th – PSU a cappella Men & Women
December 1st – Hanging of the Greens
December 14th – Lesson and Carols

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 is our monthly “Reduced Sugar Day” for Coffee Hour. We will be serving foods that focus on vegetables, fruits, and whole-grains. Everyone is cordially invited.

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”.

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!

Service Exchange Fundraiser News – Today is the last day to purchase a service. There are still 16 choices available. PCUCC has received more than \$1,000! Thank you to all for your support!

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!

Music – On Monday, **November 25th**, the PSU a cappella Men & Women will be performing at PCUCC at 8:00 PM. Andrew Hotham will lead the men's group, and Emily Trubey will lead the women's group. AND mark your calendars... On Saturday, **December 14th**, at 3:00 PM is Lessons and Carols at PCUCC. We will have 40 singers!!

Guest Preachers – On Sunday, **December 1st**, Rev. Gordon Rankin will be our guest pastor. In case of emergency, please contact Linda Barnes from the Starr King Fellowship in Plymouth. Rev. Barnes can be contact at 641-351-8762 or minister@starrkingfellowship.org. You may also contact Debbie in the church office at 536-2626 or office@uccplymouth.org. Debbie will be happy to contact Rev. Barnes or a PCUCC retired Pastor for a non-emergency.

Faith Formation - Please come join us in decorating the church for the Christmas Season on Sunday, **December 1st**! Decorating will commence immediately after service with a light lunch available. Please bring something to share. You can contact Chris Pollock at 603-674-8590 or rpollock@metrocast.net and Julie Kelsey at 603-536-4740 or julidekelsey@gmail.com with questions. Thank you! We hope to see you there!

CALLING ALL BAKERS! - Food for Finals is a time when some of the PSU campus ministries deliver comfort food in the form of homemade cookies and bars – free of nut products, please – to all dorms the first day of Finals Week.

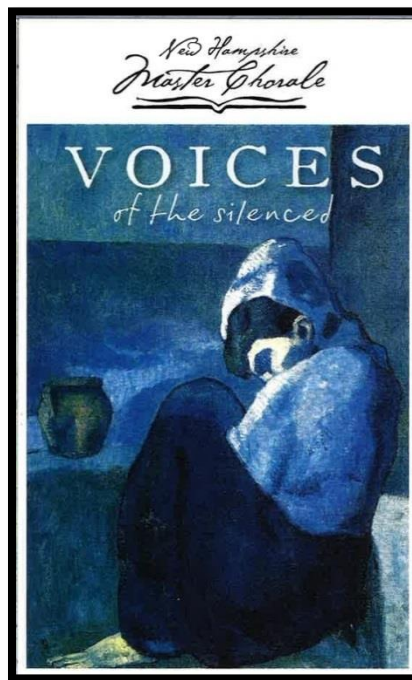
Baked goods should be dropped off at the Reflection & Spiritual Care Center between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM on Saturday, **December 7th**. The Center is located on Highland Street, across from Lamson Library, the next building up from Citizens Bank.

Mission News - We will be collecting items for the organization, Voices Against Violence in Plymouth. Please bring items and put them into the laundry basket near the choir area. The wish list includes toilet paper, large trash bags, kitchen size trash bags, gas cards, laundry and dish detergent.

Volunteers Needed – PCUCC is in need of 15 readers for our Christmas Eve Candle Light Service on **December 24th** at 7:00 PM. Please contact Eileen or Debbie if you are able to help. Thank you!

Office News – Please remember to wear your nametags. Also, the church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, **November 28th and 29th**.

From the desk of Rev. Myers - This Advent is going to be extra special Plymouth Congregational UCC! We're going to create an Advent Devotional booklet made by our members! We are asking you to share your stories or thoughts about Advent and Christmas with one another by writing about your memories or the importance of the season to you. Sharing the meaning of the season with each other encourages us to connect ourselves closer together by sharing our faith experiences regarding Advent and Christmas. It is an opportunity to grow our spirits while blessing one another, and we invite you to do just that! Whether it is a heartfelt personal or family story, a reflection on a particular scripture, or a significant experience, tradition, or a rumination that blesses your soul, **we want to hear/see what you have to write, draw, color, or paint to convey the meaning of this sacred time.** We need at least 24 entries (one for every day of Advent plus Christmas Day) to be **submitted in digital format and up to one page (or so) in length by Tuesday, November 26th**, so that we may compile and print them for the reading/viewing of our congregations. If we have 35 entries, we may also cover the remaining 12 days of Christmas. If we have more than this, we can put several on each day. Children, youth, and adults are invited to contribute more than one devotional piece – perhaps reflecting different times of your life. **Please include your name on each submission to the office email at office@uccplymouth.org.** This intergenerational sharing will warm your hearts in this season. We hope you and each member of your family can contribute to this sharing of our spirits. The devotionals will be distributed by email and on our Facebook page before the 1st Sunday of Advent, December 1st. Please let the office know if you are in need of a hard copy.



New Hampshire Mastor Chorale and Chamber Orchestra
Season 17

World premier by Kim Andre Arnesen
Also works by Saunder Choi, Simon and Garnfunkel,
Michael Conley, and David Conte

Dan Perkins, music director

Sunday, November 24, 4 p.m.

Tickets: 30. Adults, 25. Seniors

Available at nhmasterchorale.org and at the door.

Free admission for students in grades K-undergraduate.

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

Guest Pastor, Rev. Bob Feeny

Liturgist, John Anderson

Special Music, Jan Bass, Peggy Martin, Alison Thatcher

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.*