

**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ**  
**The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**  
**February 16, 2020** **9:30 AM**



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."

## **The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

**February 16, 2020**

**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**

Come Let Us Pray the Lord

### **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."

**\*Hymn for Building Community**      "Community of Christ"      #314

## **\*Centering Our Souls**

We come today to learn about your will for our lives, O God.

**We come seeking to build up our own characters and learning how we can be in better relationship with you, with others, and with ourselves.**

You remind us through Christ that it is not merely the letter of your laws that we need to heed, but also the spirit of them.

**Grant us insight into seeing how the attitudes behind "extreme" behaviors can also be present in our more "normal" behaviors.**

Help us to see the connections between anger and murder, lust and adultery, and swearing and swearing falsely.

**And instead of pointing the finger towards others, let us look at our own need for improving our attitudes and character. In the spirit of Christ we pray, may it be so.**

## **WE LISTEN FOR THE SACRED IN THE MIDST OF OUR LIVES**

**A Time for All God's Children**      "The Importance of Reconciliation"

### **Prayers**

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

**Silent Meditation: The Prayers of the People**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Unison Prayer: "Poetic Prayer in the Spirit of Christ"**

**Loving Spirit, who is here and there,  
we're grateful for your tender care.**

**Your virtues rise, your values prized;  
near and far, and everywhere.**

**Feed our bodies, and feed our souls.**

**And by forgiveness make us whole.**

**And may we all evils deplore,  
as we search and sail for mercy's shore.**

**May peace and love within us rule,  
and justice be your Spirit's tool;  
Now and always, for us and others,  
and for all creation.  
May we make it so, all as one,  
by your inspiration.**

**\*Hymn of Right Relationships** "Help Us Accept Each Other" #388

**Scripture Lesson** Matthew 5.21-37

**Message** "Right Attitude; Not Right Tradition"

**\*Hymn for Right Attitudes** "The Love within My Heart Does Rise"

Tune: Amazing Grace; C.M.

Music: American Folk Hymn; Virginia Harmony, 1831; arr. by Edwin O. Excell, 1900

Words: Rev. Bret S. Myers, 6/21/2012;

inspired by II Cor. 5.16-6.13 & the movie, "The Secret Life of Bees"

**The love within my heart does rise**

**Resentments fall away**

**A new creation I will be**

**On this most holy day**

**When I consider all my faults**

**Or sibling I do blame**

**I hide the light within my soul**

**That heals us both from shame**

**When we forgive the wrongs us done**

**When hate we do not keep**

**We reconcile by God's own will**

**In peace our hearts do sleep**

**Awake, awake, to do the good**

**And do not be afraid**

**Within you lies the power of love**

**Where all your fears are laid**

**Today, salvation comes to you**

**Your heart is open wide**

**Let love rise up and find in you**

**A home where it abides**

# **WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD'S SERVICE THROUGH FAITHFULNESS**

## **Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings**

"Generosity arises from gratitude like heat arises from fire. Like fire, gratitude is lovely to see; but when it warms others with generosity, that is when it becomes a true blessing."

### **Gift of Music: Choral Anthem**

Rejoice in the Lord  
John Behnke

### **\*Song of Dedication**

Tune: Old Hundredth; p. 7

**The light of love does shine most bright  
when all are siblings in our sight;**

**We are one fam'ly on this earth;**

**We are God's children from our birth.**

### **\*Unison Prayer of Dedication**

**O God of Prophets and Peacemakers: We are thankful for your blessings of encouragement as we seek to correct injustices and come to the defense of those without voice. May these tithes and offerings be instrumental in nurturing equality, promoting peace, and establishing harmony between all your peoples and all your creation. Help us to be generous not only with our monetary-giving, but also with our truth-giving, life-giving and soul-giving – for the betterment of your world. May it be so.**

### **\*Choral Benediction**

Let Us Go Forth Gladly

### **\*Encouragement for the Journey**

Go to be a blessing! This is your calling.

Do not worry whether your task is difficult, or your efforts are successful.

Life is serendipitous; so what you may think will or has failed may actually renew a life.

Advocate for justice for those unlike you.

Work for peace with those opposed to you.

Kindness offered and love delivered can transform relationships.

Trust in this! Live by this!

Let God be responsible for the outcome;

just commit yourself to the journey of sacred living.

If you do, you will find that you will have not only been a blessing to others,  
but that the synergy of life will have created a blessing for you.

Rev. Bret Stuart Myers, 3/9/2017

## 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**

Mike & Michele Ettelston	Dick Brace	Jesse Armstrong
P.V. George	Cassie & Kevin	Sheri Stanley
Barbara		Vickie Flener

Wayne Myers, uncle of Rev. Myers,  
who is in the hospital and will be undergoing surgery in early February.  
Thoughts and Prayers for the family of Ralph Reynolds.

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**

February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Pot-Luck Luncheon Sunday  
February 26<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday at 7:00 PM  
February 28 – Coffee House  
March 9<sup>th</sup> – New Hampshire Master Chorale Concert  
April 15<sup>th</sup> – New Hampshire Chamber Singers at 7:30 PM

### **Announcements**

**Coffee Hour – Today**, we will be having Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the Service. Please join us for refreshments and conversation.

Sunday, **February 23<sup>rd</sup>**, is our **Pot-Luck Luncheon for Pastor Bret's last Sunday as our Interim Minister**. To provide a "balanced diet" of food, we ask those whose last names begin with the letters A-H provide a main dish; those with I-P bring a salad or vegetable dish; and those with Q-Z bring a dessert. **A basket will be available for cards**. Thanks for making this an enjoyable event.

There are many opportunities to help in the kitchen by setting up prior to the service, cleaning up afterwards or by bringing in foods to share. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next to the pass-through window. You may use one of the dated tags on the Will-You Tree 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 [rpollcock@metrocast.net](mailto:rpollcock@metrocast.net) to sign up or if you have any questions. Thank you from the Hospitality Committee.

**Coffee House** – Our next Coffee House will be Friday, **February 28<sup>th</sup>** at 6:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The mission of First Star Tonight is simple ... to bring light into the lives of the neediest of our children and young adults.

First Star Tonight was organized in 1986 by a group of business and professional people who recognized the need for a local focus in providing support for terminally ill children and young adults.

We will be joined by Directors, Brian Chalmers and Bill Clark, who will speak to us about the work of this community based organization as it seeks to support the most needy of our young, while maintaining the privacy and dignity of all to whom they provide assistance.

**Music** - Paid Singing Positions – PCUCC is seeking 1 tenor, 1 bass and 1 soprano to sing with an open-minded group of passionate singers during Spring semester. Choir is open to all regardless of faith background. Rehearsals are Thursdays between 7:00-8:30 PM and Sundays between 8:30- 9:15 AM plus 9:30 AM Service. For more information contact David Williams at [musicdirector@uccplymouth.org](mailto:musicdirector@uccplymouth.org).

**Book Group** - Our new book will be "The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah. The discussion dates are Mondays, February 24<sup>th</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Rev. Bret S. Myers, Interim Pastor	<a href="mailto:pastor@uccplymouth.org">pastor@uccplymouth.org</a>
Deborah Healey, Church Office Administrator	<a href="mailto:office@uccplymouth.org">office@uccplymouth.org</a>
David Williams, Director of Music	<a href="mailto:musicdirector@uccplymouth.org">musicdirector@uccplymouth.org</a>
Ashley Paine, Organist/Accompanist	<a href="mailto:organist@uccplymouth.org">organist@uccplymouth.org</a>
Gale Adams-Davis, Co-Director of Faith Formation	<a href="mailto:windygla2@yahoo.com">windygla2@yahoo.com</a>
Julie Kelsey, Co-Director of Faith Formation	<a href="mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org">faithformation@uccplymouth.org</a>
Larry Spencer, Church Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org">treasurer@uccplymouth.org</a>
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling	<a href="mailto:gracecounseling@uccplymouth.org">gracecounseling@uccplymouth.org</a>

Liturgist, Rebecca Larson

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

(603)536-2626 • [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org) • [www.uccplymouth.org](http://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](mailto: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.*