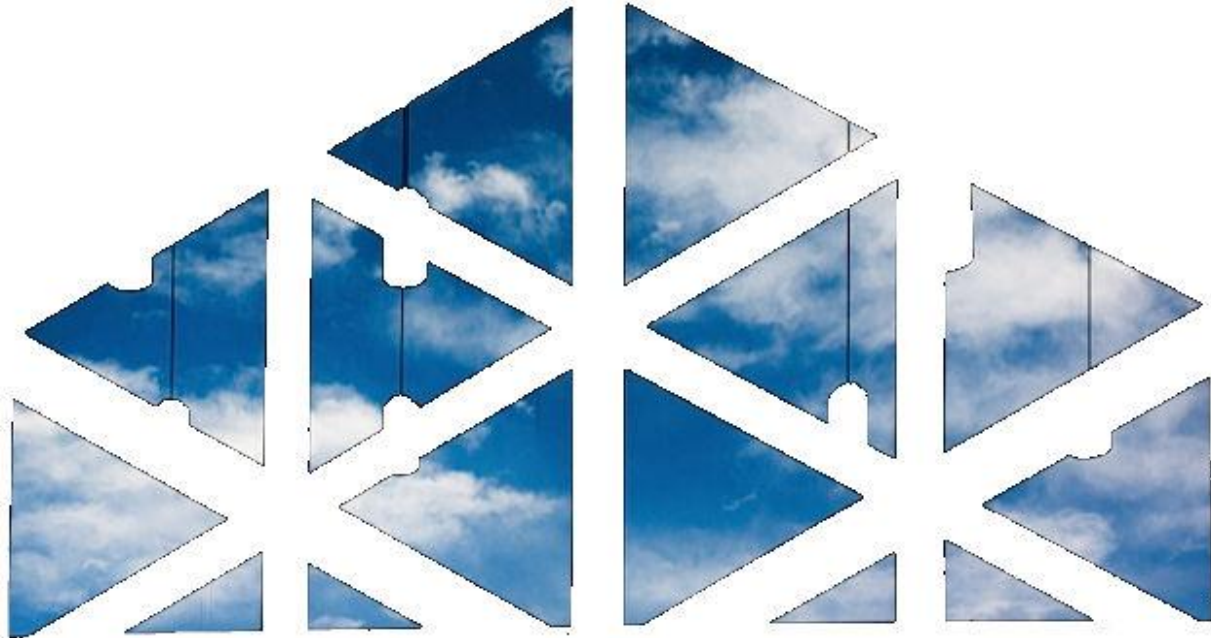


Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

First Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2020

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.

GATHERING

Prelude

The beginning of the prelude is an invitation to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

Welcome & Life of the Church

Please fill out the fellowship pads the ushers hand out.

Introit

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Call to Worship

One: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

All: As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

One: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation.

All: As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

One: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

All: As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Faithful Companion, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

*Hymn

"God Is Here! As We Your People Meet"

Blk#70

**Indicates congregation standing.*

Prayer of the Day

One: God pours out loving kindness upon us so that faith, hope, and love may abide in us as we join our hearts together praying:

All: O God of Wilderness and City, we come to you in gladness and expectation to begin our Lenten journey. You offer steadfast love as our strong refuge; your boundless grace is our sheltering presence, and we rejoice! In the unity of worship, we trust that you will speak to us throughout these forty days. Prepare our hearts to seek you and embrace you, to hear you and follow you, to love you and to serve you. With gladness and expectation, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: The good news is that, in our God, we find that safe place for our lives. In God's forgiveness, we are offered the healing we need.

All: In God's acceptance, we discover the love in which we may abide in every moment of our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Response "Give Me a Clean Heart" Blk#188

"Give me a clean heart so I may serve you. God, fix my heart so that I may serve you. For I am not worthy of all the blessings. Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you."

Sign of Peace

One: When you can see the divine in yourself, you will be able to see the divine in everyone and everywhere.

All: God's grace is beyond us, yet lives in each heartbeat, the source of creation from which peace derives.

One: Let us greet one another with signs of peace.

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Lessons

Hebrew Lesson Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Gospel Lesson Matthew 4:1-11

One: Here end the readings from our tradition. May God grant us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

All: Amen

Message "Bad Choices and Amazing Grace"

***Hymn "Amazing Grace" Blk#547**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory

Gift of Music O Sacred Feast Healey Willan

***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: From a laptop and a daycare center, from retirement and teaching, from construction work and nursing, from all the places where we derive a living, we offer you our gifts, God of grace, so they might become part of all the fruits of hope and of healing, of peace and patience, which you give to others throughout the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

One: Friends, God prepares a feast for all people; a feast of good things, a feast of peace. It is the longing of God expressed fully when we gather here.

All: We gather because the God who cares for each one of us invites us to this Table of Grace. We recognize at the deepest levels of our beings that it is at this Table that we are affirmed and made whole, where no one is a stranger.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: May the God of discipleship be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us begin our Lenten journey with open hearts.

People: We offer them to the One who walks with us.

Pastor: Let our voices resound with thanksgiving to the One who shows us faithful care.

People: We rejoice in our God of hope and love.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(You are invited to say your prayer aloud or in the silence of your heart.)

Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Cup

Sharing of the Bread & the Cup

Prayer of Gratitude after Communion

All: God of truth, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life: strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray together, saying:

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.

SENDING

*Hymn

"Lead On Eternal Sovereign"

Blk#573

*Benediction

Pastor: Now let us go from this place of haven God has given to us.

People: Led by the Spirit, we will go to be with those who are filled with fears, with hopes.

Pastor: Now let us go from the refuge of this beloved community where we have been filled with the first fruits of grace.

People: Led by the Spirit, we will go to feed those who hunger for companionship and life.

Pastor: Now let us go into the world, living out God's reality that there is no distinction between people.

People: Led by the Spirit, let us go to serve our sisters and brothers who are our true family.

*Choral Benediction

Amen

Postlude

The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us into the world where our true service begins.

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

- 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.
- 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.

The Rev. Michael Carrier, Bridge Pastor
Deborah Healey, Church Office Administrator
David Williams, Director of Music
Ashley Paine, Organist/Pianist
Gale Adams-Davis, Co-Director of Faith Formation
Julie Kelsey, Co-Director of Faith Formation
Larry Spencer, Church Treasurer
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling

pastor@uccplymouth.org
office@uccplymouth.org
musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
organist@uccplymouth.org
windygla2@yahoo.com
faithformation@Uccplymouth.org
treasurer@uccplymouth.org
gracecouncounseling@uccplymouth.org

Liturgist, Bill Heron

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86
Plymouth, NH 03264

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

Keeping in Prayer

Mike & Michele Ettelson
Cassie & Kevin

Dick Brace
Sheri Stanley
Vickie Flener

Jesse Armstrong
Barbara

Bob Feeny & Sam Lovett,
Members-in-discernment in the Merrimack Association

*If you have a prayer request, please fill out a prayer card
located in the pew rack and drop it in the offering plate.*

Save the Date

March 8th – Daylight Savings

March 17th – Vesper Service in Chapel 6:15 PM

March 29th – New Hampshire Master Chorale Concert

April 5th – Palm Sunday 9:30 AM

April 9th – Maundy Thursday, Communion Service 7:00 PM

April 10th – Good Friday, Tenebrae Service 7:00 PM

April 12th – Easter Service 8:00 & 9:30 AM

April 15th – New Hampshire Chamber Singers 7:30 PM

Coffee Hour - It's March 1st already, and the Hospitality Committee invites everyone to gather in Fellowship Hall after the Service for an enjoyable Coffee Hour. There will be various refreshments for all. Occasionally, we will be letting you know of items that need replenishing. At this time, we are asking for donations of crackers, especially variety boxes, or pre-sliced cheese or dip. Thank you for your help.

There are many opportunities to help in the kitchen either by setting up prior to the service, cleaning up afterwards or by bringing in snacks to share. There is a sign-up page on the bulletin board next to the pass-through window. You may use one of the dated seasonal 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 to sign up or if you have any questions. Thank you from the Hospitality Committee.

Member-in-discernment – Bob Feeny, member-in-discernment, has been approved to go to the Ecclesiastical Council of our Association. This council is comprised of clergy and lay delegates who will vote to allow Bob to be ordained. He would love to see a group of friendly faces to support him at this event. It is scheduled for Sunday, **March 8th**, at 3:00 PM in the First Congregational Church, 1548 Hopkinton Road, Hopkinton. If you think you will attend or would like more information, please contact Carol Hahn.

Book Group - We had a meaningful discussion of "The Nightingale" this past Monday. I look forward to **March 9th** when additional members will be back for our second discussion on this same book.

The following meeting, **March 23rd**, will be held at Mary Reynolds house in Holderness. She will supply art materials and inspire us to draw an emotion provoked by "The Nightingale".

On **March 9th**, we will select our final book of this season. We will also plan our trip to visit Mary Chivers.

Pantry Food – PCUCC is in need of donations for our pantry located in the church office. Many families come in during the year asking for assistance. Following are items that would be greatly appreciated: canned vegetables, beans, soups, spaghetti sauce, apple sauce, pineapple bits & tuna fish; boxed pasta & rice; and peanut butter. Items can be dropped off at the church office. Thank you for your support!