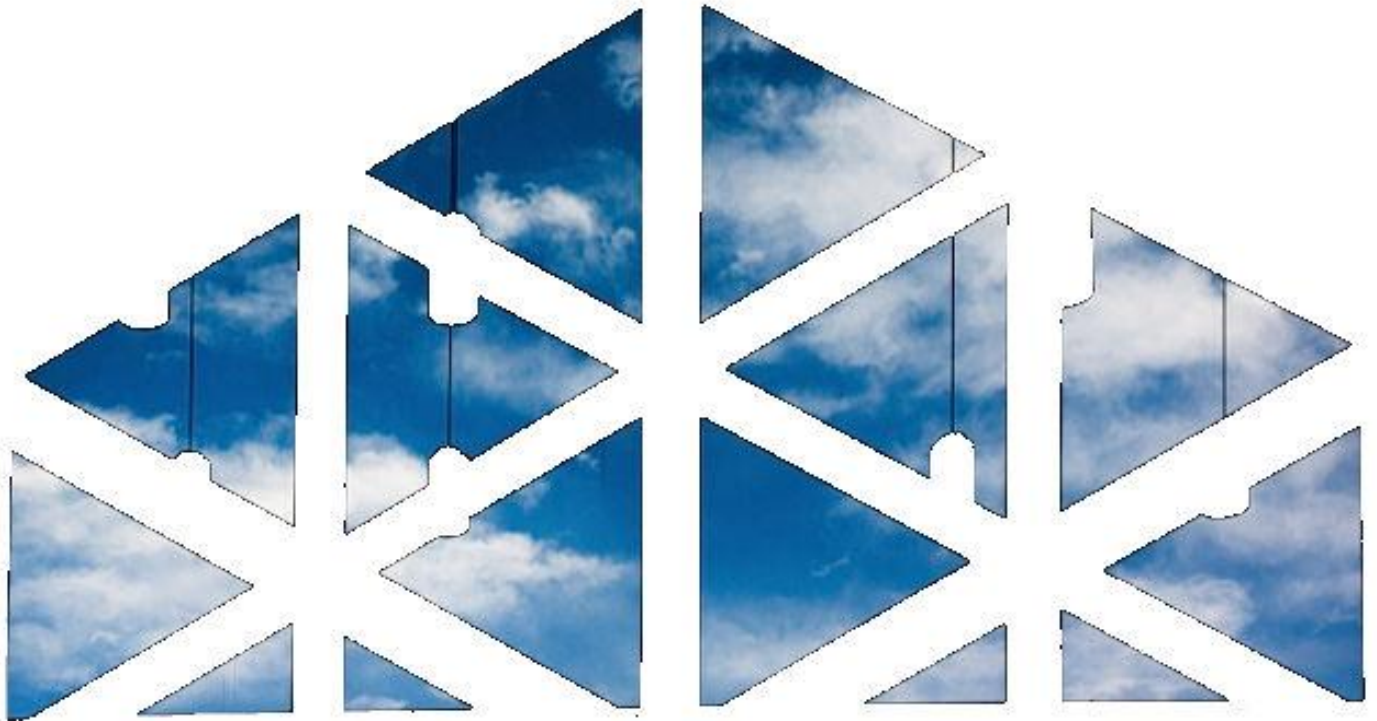


Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Second Sunday in Lent

March 8, 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 and Life of the Church

Please fill out the fellowship pads the ushers hand out.

Introit

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Call to Worship

Leader: O God, you send us out, like Abram and Sarai.

People: We travel by day, in confidence.

Leader: You draw us close, like Nicodemus.

People: We travel by night, with questions.

Leader: With our hopes and our doubts,

People: We embark on our journeys of faith.

Leader: With the saints of every age,

People: We seek the way that leads into your love.

Leader: We pause on our journey to praise you,

All: And rejoice to find you with us, guiding every step.

*Hymn

"The God of Abraham Praise"

Blk#24

**Indicates congregation standing.*

Prayer of the Day

One: Each day we receive fragments of holiness, glimpses of eternity, brief moments of insight. Let us gather them up for the precious gifts that they are and, renewed by their grace, move boldly into God's future as we join our voices in praying together, saying:

All: Beckoning God, like Nicodemous you plant in us urgent questions, wonderings, and calls that lead us to you. You gather us into your Church: Prophets and Ponderers; Travelers and Builders; you make room for us and challenge us to be your Beloved Community. Bless us so that we may become a blessing in your world, as daily we seek to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Thus says the God who created you and formed us in God's image: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." This is the good news!

All: May God grant us love for others, peace in disagreement, kindness toward all people, and gentleness in the face of opposition.

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: Darkness is gone. New Hope has arisen for each of us.

All: Come, Spirit of God, and rest upon us. Enable us to be people of hope and peace.

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

Children's Message

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Lessons

Hebrew Lesson Genesis 12:1-4a

Gospel Lesson John 3:1-17

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

Message "From Clueless to Confident"

***Hymn "If You But Trust in God to Guide You" Blk#410**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

You will be invited to offer your prayer aloud or in the silence of your heart.

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 The Deepest Woe I Cry to Thee Peter Pindar Stearns

***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: Holy One, you trust us enough to place your blessings in us,
so may we be as faithful in offering them back to you, so others
might be kept in their loneliness, might be fed in their emptiness,
might receive hope in their despair. This we ask in the name of
Jesus. Amen.**

SENDING

*Hymn

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

Blk#82

*Benediction

Pastor: Now go with the Spirit from the comfort of this place.

People: We go to bring hope to the world.

Pastor: Now go to carry the Light of Christ with you.

People: We will go into life's shadows with this gift.

Pastor: Now go to trust in God who is always with you.

People: As we go, we will embrace that life called discipleship.

Choral Benediction

Amen

Postlude

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

Keeping in Prayer

Mike & Michele Ettelson

Dick Brace

Jesse Armstrong

Cassie & Kevin

Sheri Stanley

Barbara

Vickie Flener

Mary

Fran Lewis

P.V. George

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.*

This Week and More at PCUCC

Today *Welcome to Daylight Savings!*

9:30 am Worship a Sunday School for Children and Youth

10:30 am Fellowship

11:15 am Confirmation

3 pm Ecclesiastical Council, Hopkinton

Tuesday 7:00 pm Search Committee

Thursday 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

March 19th – 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 – Today, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall after the Service for an enjoyable Coffee Hour. There will be various refreshments for all. We are asking for donations of crackers, especially variety boxes, 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.

The History of Our Congregational Church is on display at the Plymouth Historical Society building on Court Street behind the town office building. It's an exhibit with documents going back to 1764 when Congregationalists first came here from Hollis, copies of the original covenant, celebration of our 100th anniversary, the names of many old Plymouth area families, church procedural manuals, even two windows rescued from the 1983 fire and so much more. The historical building is open **Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM** or by special arrangement.

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. Hope to see you there, Peggy Martin!

A Special Word To Our Guests

- Families with infants and children are especially welcome to our worship service. However, 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.
- If you do not wish to keep your bulletin from this morning's service, help us to protect the environment by dropping it 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.

Pastor's Office Hours

Pastor Mike is generally at the church Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM through 3:00 PM and by appointment. Please feel free to contact him by email at pastor@uccplymouth.org, calling the Church Office at 603-536-2626 or his cell phone at 603-960-0196.

The Rev. Michael Carrier, Bridge Pastor	pastor@uccplymouth.org
Deborah Healey, Church Office Administrator	office@uccplymouth.org
David Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
Ashley Paine, Organist/Pianist	organist@uccplymouth.org
Gale Adams-Davis, Co-Director of Faith Formation	windygla2@yahoo.com
Julie Kelsey, Co-Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@Uccplymouth.org
Larry Spencer, Church Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling	gracecouncounseling@uccplymouth.org

Liturgist, Bill Torrey

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

