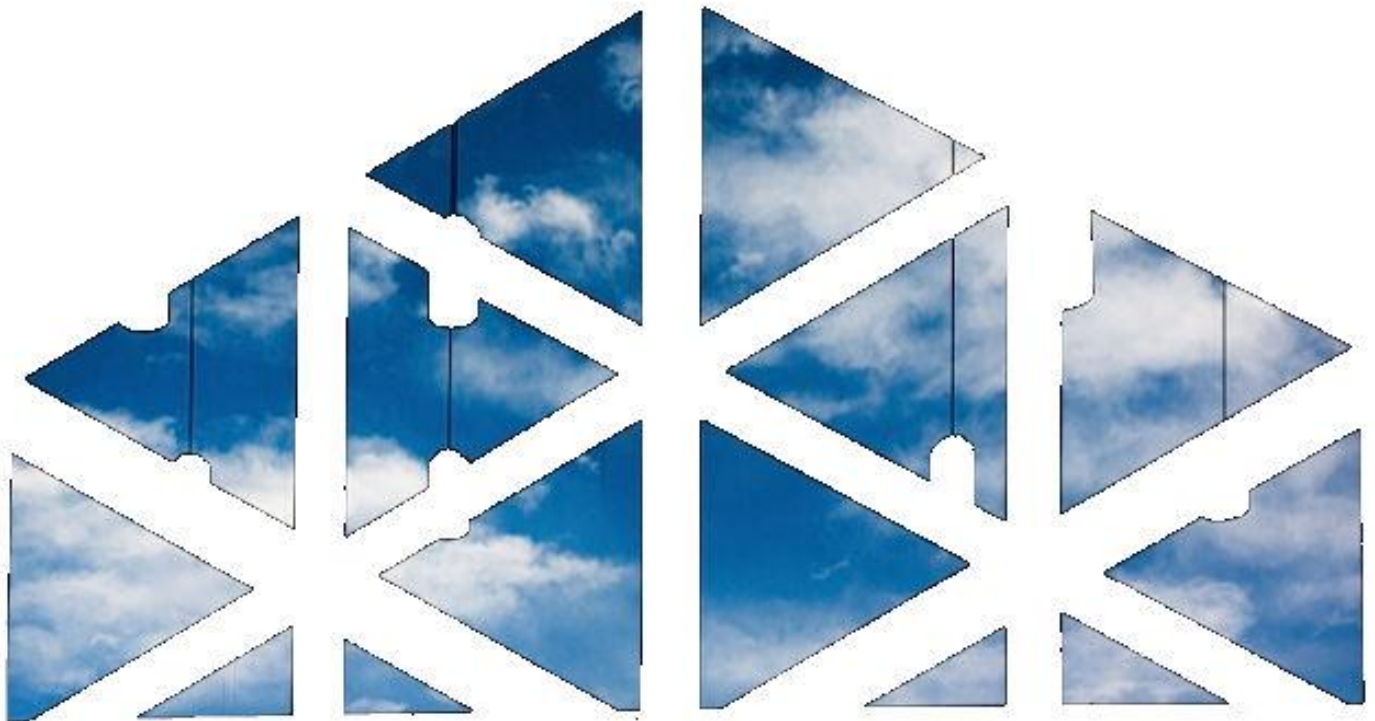


Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Third Sunday in Lent

March 15, 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

Introit

Call to Worship

Leader: Early each morning, God waits to greet us with joy and wonder.

People: We awake to find ourselves enveloped in grace.

Leader: During the day, Jesus comes to invite us to serve.

People: We rise from our work and leisure to bring healing and hope to others.

Leader: In the shadowed evenings of our fears and worries, the Spirit is with us.

People: The Light of life shines on us in every moment of every day.

*Hymn

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Blk#4

**Indicates Congregation Standing*

Prayer of the Day

One: Our pioneers in the faith dared to trust God; they left all to follow a call and a promise. Let us continue that walk of faith this Lenten season as we join our voices in praying together, saying:

All: You alone know, O God, the depth of the longing in our hearts; the intensity of the thirst in our souls, and in answer, you have come to us, lived among us, taught and healed us, demonstrated what the good life looks like; then died, to reveal the value of this life you offer. You alone know, O God, what we need to satisfy our need, to lead us to the life we instinctively seek, and in answer, you have opened the door to life for us, constantly whispered to us of your love and grace, gently nudged us in the direction of our best life. And so, now, as you come to us again, as your life is proclaimed to us again, shape us into your faithful people, witnesses to your grace and truth as seen in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Up, on your feet! Grace has been poured into our hearts, love has flooded our souls, the light of hope shines in us.

All: This is the light which has come to all, the light we will carry and give to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God.

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: You and I are now the ones who step forth to bring hope, to share a word of grace, to carry healing into the brokenness of the lives around us.

All: Called to servanthood by the Beloved, filled with the peace of the Spirit, we are indeed God's peacemakers!

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

Children's Message

HEARING THE WORD

Gospel Lesson

John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 33-34

Inclusive Text

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

Message

"How Blind Am I?"

*Hymn

"God Is My Shepherd"

Blk#479

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

***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, your heart abounds with gifts. Receive this offering as a
sign of our trust in you and our intention to live surrounded by
your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your
presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your
world. Amen.**

SENDING

***Hymn**

"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"

Blk#18

*Benediction

Pastor: Now go to take the love of God into the world.

People: We will show others the way to God's fields of grace.

Pastor: Now go to take the grace of Jesus into the world.

People: We will seek to bring others to the still waters of peace.

Pastor: Now go to take the community of the Spirit into the world.

People: We will work to restore the lives of all whom we meet.

Choral Benediction

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	P.V. George
June Thomas	John Smathers	Patti Dyszinsky
	Wendy & Steven Colby	

Sam Lovett, Member-in-discernment in the Merrimack Association

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

This Week and More at PCUCC

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

10:30 am Fellowship

Tuesday 7:00 pm Search Committee

Thursday 6:15 pm Vesper Service in Chapel

Thursday 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

March 29th – New Hampshire Master Chorale Concert 4:00 pm

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. We can observe St. Patrick's Day by sharing green-themed snacks. We are still looking for donations of crackers, especially variety boxes, or pre-sliced cheese or dip.

There are many opportunities to help in the kitchen by setting up prior to the service, cleaning up afterwards or bringing in snacks or other foods 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 the 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.

Vespers Service - On Thursday evening, March 19th, we will hold a Vespers Service in the Chapel beginning at 6:15 pm. These services, taken from the Latin for "evening" are designed to be a time for prayer and reflection. Before the fourth century allusions to this form of evening prayer are found in the writings of the early Church Fathers and took on a more formal form in the 6th century. Come join us for this opportunity to deepen our Lenten journeys.

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 – The next meeting on Monday, **March 23rd**, will be held at Mary Reynold's house in Holderness. She will supply art materials and inspire us to draw an emotion provoked by "The Nightingale".

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 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 plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org,
calling the church office at 603-536-2626 or his cell phone at 603-960-0196.

The Rev. Michael Carrier, Bridge Pastor

Deborah Healey, 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, Treasurer

Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling

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Liturgist, Wayne Martin

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Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Each gift to ***One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)*** helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. For more than 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Christians come together every year to work toward a better world.

Lenten Prayer: Loving God, you call us to be repairers of the breach: people who look at the world, see the things that are broken and work together to make them better. In your church here in Plymouth, may we be helpers in our community. We are thankful that, through the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, we can partner with many groups to do your work. May we always try to help repair broken places and to share your love in our world. Amen.

