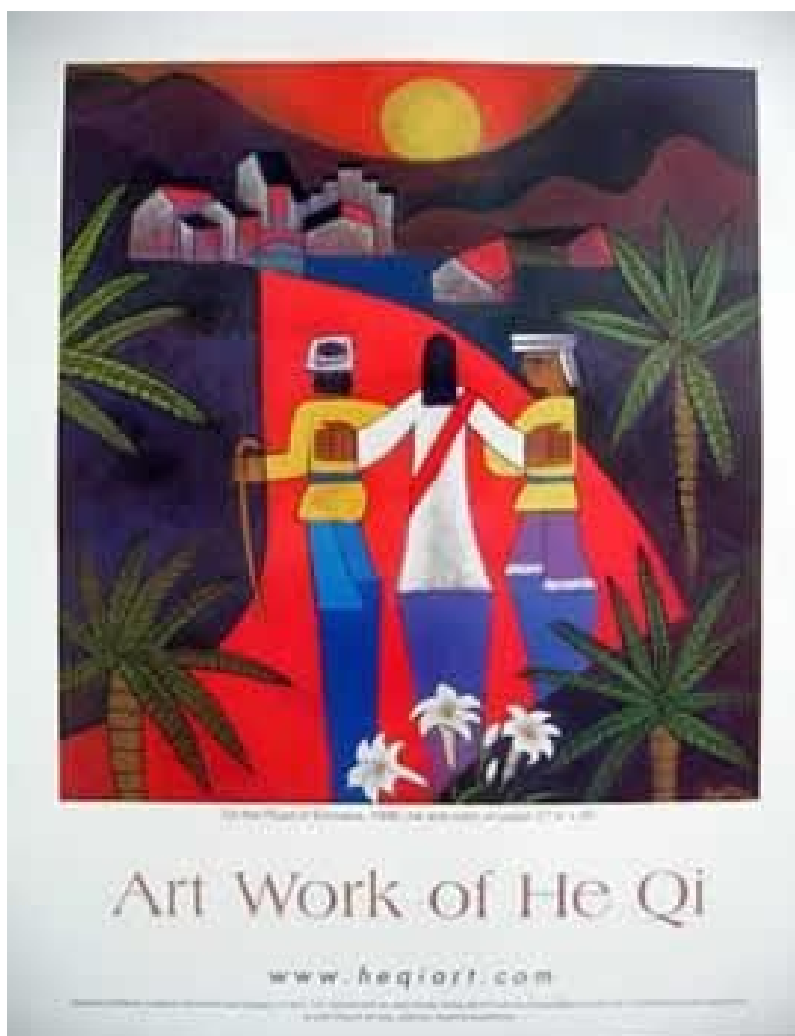


Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Third Sunday of Easter

April 26, 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

Welcome

Prelude

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

Call to Worship

One: The Risen One has come alongside us on our journey from the empty tomb.

All: He speaks to us with love and encouragement the word that frees us from our sorrows.

One: Let us celebrate the promise of life, living with the confidence of God's beloved children, with the security and joy of God's saving grace, for Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Hymn

"Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"

Tune: HYFRYDOL

Verse 1

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hearts to heav'n and voices raise;
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise:
he who on the cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,
now is risen from the dead.

Verse 3

Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits
of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield:
then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine
from the furrows of the grave.

Prayer of the Day

One: Though we may be feeling isolated and alone these days, yet there is the sun in the morning, the moon and stars at night, the wonder of creation unfolding before our eyes and hearts, reminding us that we are blessed with every new day as we pray together, saying:

All: Heavenly Stranger, our Companion on the Way, we yearn for your love and grace. We seek your wisdom and guidance. We relish the joy which burns within our hearts when you are with us. Yet, sometimes we would cling to you, hoard the blessings of relationship with you, and not share your love with others. O God of Easter Joy, remind us that your love is to be carried throughout the world. Encourage us to share the hope and joy of your love, so that someone who hungers for spiritual food may be filled by our witness to your grace. Shine the light of your Spirit through us, so that we may show your Way to those who long for peace and help to revive those in whom hope has died. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: This is the day of resurrection and new life. This is the day God offers us steadfast hope and love which will never end.

All: We will sing and rejoice and give thanks to the God who keeps creating new opportunities to experience overflowing grace!

Response

"I Greet You, Sure Redeemer"

Verse 4

You have the true and perfect gentleness,
no harshness have you and no bitterness;
Grant us the grace that flows in you so free
that we may dwell in perfect unity.

Children's Message

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Reading Luke 24:13-35

One: Here ends the reading from our tradition. May God grant us strength and courage to live our faith with Easter joy.

All: Amen.

Message

"Hearts on Fire"

Hymn

"Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day"

Blk#241

Verse 1

Joy dawned again on Easter Day,
the sun shone out with bright array;
For when the Apostles hid in fear,
the Risen Christ to them appeared.

Verse 2

O Jesus, Savior, Gentle One,
come take our hearts to be your own,
That we may give you all our days
the willing tribute of our praise.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

You will be invited to offer your personal prayers from 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

We invite you to remember your support for the ministry of PCUCC.

Offertory Prayer

**All: Loving God, we pray that the gifts we make this coming week,
given with love, may be further transformed like echoes of
grace, delighting all who receive their blessings. May our lives
speak of a God who is still full of Easter surprises. Amen.**

SENDING

Hymn

“O Christ, the Great Foundation”

Verse 1

O Christ, the great foundation
On which your people stand
To preach your true salvation
In every age and land
Pour out your Holy Spirit
To make us strong and pure,
To keep the faith unbroken
As long as worlds endure.

Verse 4

This is the moment glorious
When Christ who once was dead
Shall lead the church victorious
Their champion and their head.
The Sovereign of creation
A new dominion brings,
The final consummation,
The glory of all things

Benediction

Postlude

Keeping in Prayer

Dick Brace	Jesse Armstrong	Cassie & Kevin
Sheri Stanley	Barbara	Vickie Flener
Mary	P.V. George	June Thomas
John Smathers	Patti Dyszinsky	Family of Bob Rines
Maroni Family	Stephanie Herr	Elaine Boniface
	Jack Surine	

Prayers for Our Nation and for the World!

Bob Feeny as he explores his Call to ordained ministry

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

*If you have a prayer request you'd like Pastor Mike to include in Sunday worship,
please email him at pastor@uccplymouth.org.*

Announcement

Building and Grounds - *Please note the update for our many thanks...* Many thanks to the Rick Fabian fund for this wonderful gift and to Dale Mosher for his tremendous work on the stairs at the church office entrance to the church. It looks fabulous! Please check out the photo on our Facebook page or newsletter.

Finance Committee - CHOOSE OUR CHURCH as your favorite charity on AMAZON SMILE and support our ministries and mission. Yes, HANNAFORD prepaid grocery cards are available during this "stay-at-home" time of practicing safe distancing. Denominations of \$100, \$250 and \$500 are available. Finance orders cards regularly. Please let Linda or Larry know via phone or email what you would like to purchase. We'll let you know when to mail your check to the church. If you shop at HANNAFORD for your essentials, please purchase a prepaid card. The church receives 5% of each card purchased. Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship Team - It's stewardship time and this year, we are asking for \$200,000 in pledges to support the mission and ministry of our congregation. Your contributions are invaluable to the life of this church. We are very much aware that we're going through a period of economic uncertainty that could make pledging challenging, to say the least. In the face of this turbulent time, we ask you to prayerfully consider what you feel you can give to support the life and work of PCUCC. Once we are through this crisis and the future looks clearer, you can always adjust your pledge. If you did not receive a pledge card please contact the church office office@uccplymouth.org. Please return your pledge with the pledge card by regular mail or e-mail to the Treasurer at: treasurer@uccplymouth.org by **May 7th**. We will dedicate and bless all our gifts on Stewardship Sunday, May 10th. Thank you, PCUCC Finance Stewardship Team

Nominating Committee - I am interested in any member who would be willing to take on Chair of Missions. Please contact Hanna Stark, Former Chair. Members are also needed for Human Resources and Christian Education. Thank you, FranTaylor, Chair Nominating

Zoom Fellowship Gatherings - As one way of trying to keep us all connected during this time of "being apart," the Church Staff is in the process of organizing a series of Fellowship Gatherings utilizing the Zoom platform. In the near future, you will be receiving an email which contains an invitation to join in on a particular Fellowship Gathering. If you would like to participate, all you have to do is click on the link and you will be brought into the "room" with your fellow members and friends at PCUCC. If you have not yet made use of this video conferencing technology, all you need to do beforehand is go to www.zoom.us and download the app to your computer, iPad or phone. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Pastor Mike at 603-960-0196.

HOPE Fund - The need for assistance through our HOPE Fund will increase as families at risk need assistance paying for rent, heating, electricity and medications. Please consider giving to the HOPE Fund. You can send your check to PCUCC and write HOPE Fund in the memo. Send to Plymouth Congregational UCC, P.O. Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264.

A Message from Susan Wei... - If anyone is in need of a cloth face mask, please call Susan Wei at 968-7516. Susan will make and deliver masks.

Book Group - The next fiction book of our list is Boston Girl by Anita Diamont. This book will be discussed on **May 4th & 18th**. Stay safe and stay well. Cheers, Peggy

Our church is closed to all events until further announcement.
The Worship Services will be live-streamed on our Facebook page.
Please check for Constant Contact and the Facebook page
for information about upcoming Worship Services.

Pastor's Office Hours

During this time of "physical distancing" and working remotely,
Pastor Mike will be at the church periodically.
Please feel free to contact him by email at pastor@uccplymouth.org
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, 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
Special Music, Peggy Martin

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