

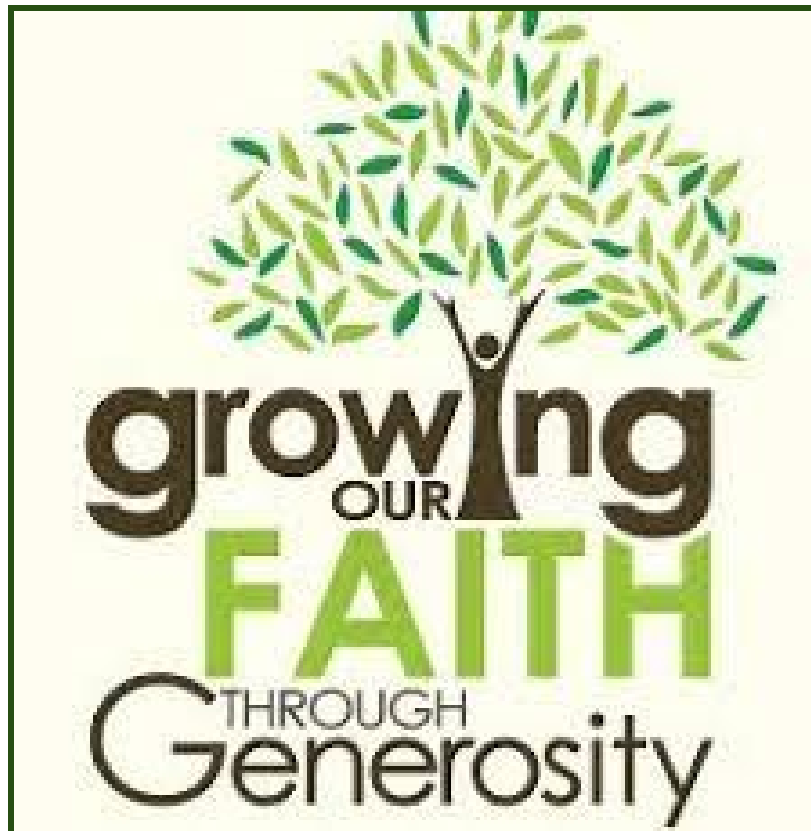
Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Fifth Sunday of Easter

“Stewardship Sunday”

May 10, 2020

9:30 a.m.



A Just Peace Church
An Open and Affirming Congregation
A God is Still Speaking Congregation 9

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: We are God's household, crafted by the Architect of creation:

All: our hearts a shelter for the outcast; our hands open to the stranger.

One: We are God's people, created in the divine image:

All: to tell others of God's love, to offer mercy as freely as we have received it.

One: We are God's children, called to give of ourselves:

All: chosen to serve the lost and lonely, gifted to minister to a hurting world.

Hymn

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Blk#43

Verse 1

**Love Divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, on earth be found,
Fix in us a humble dwelling,
All your faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, you are all compassion,
Pure unbounded love impart;
Visit us with your salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.**

Verse 2

**Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast
Let us all in you inherit
Let us find your promised rest
Take away our love of sinning
Alpha and Omega be
End of faith, as its beginning
Set our hearts at liberty**

Gathering Prayer

One: Our Way, our Truth, our Life, meets us in this time of worship to bring peace to our troubled hearts and hope as a foundation for faith. Let us lift our hearts and voices in prayer, saying:

All: Ever-gracious God, from generation to generation you call forth faithful women and men to be willing servants of truth. You fill us with strength and hope, yet there are days and times when we struggle to keep walking in your Way. When challenges seek to overwhelm us, let your Spirit renew us that we might be witnesses to your unending grace revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: We are no longer alone - we are God's Beloved. We are residents of God's Kingdom where forgiveness and reconciliation are a way of life.

All: Each one of us, all of us, knows the freedom that comes with forgiveness, with being made whole by the love that will not let us go. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response

"I Greet You, Sure Redeemer"

Blk#251

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 Readings Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
John 14:1-14

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

All: Amen.

Message

"Troubled Hearts"

Hymn

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

Blk#565

Verse 1

**God, whose giving knows no ending,
From Your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
Costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by You, we turn to You,
Offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever,
Gracious donor of our days.**

Verse 3

**Treasure too You have entrusted,
Gain through powers Your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred,
And to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands, in sharing,
As we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
Serving You by loving all.**

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.

Dedication of our Pledges and Gifts

One: We dedicate our gifts to you, O God.

All: May these gifts become tangible reminders of your blessings.

One: We dedicate our pledges to you, O God.

All: May we use them to be a blessing as a community of faith.

One: We dedicate our lives to you, O God.

All: May we be a blessing to others as we live out your call.

One: We pray that we will be good stewards of all that you have given to us.

All: We pray over these gifts, blessing them to the work of building your kingdom of justice and love. Amen.

SENDING

Hymn

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

Blk#436

Verse 1

**God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

Verse 3

**Set our feet on lofty places;
Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces,
In the fight to set us free,
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
In the quest for liberty,
In the quest for liberty.**

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	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.

UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL GATHERINGS

During this time when we are continuing to "physical distance" in order to keep everyone safe and well, we still can "meet" together via **Zoom**. So far, we have had a number of fellowship gatherings using this platform, and it has been wonderful to see and hear one another. Knowing how successful these gatherings have been, the Church Council has decided to move forward with one fellowship event on **Sunday, June 7th** to be followed by our **Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 14th**. Below are the details.

Gathering One

Coffee Hour! On **Sunday, June 7th**, we will have a **Zoom Coffee Hour at 10:30 am** following the morning Worship Service on Facebook live. An invitation to join this Zoom gathering will come from the Church Office via email.

Gathering Two

Annual Congregational Meeting - The Council has set the Annual Meeting for **Sunday, June 14th, at 10:30 am** following the morning Worship Service on Facebook live) Once again, an email will come to you from the Church Office inviting you to this **Zoom** meeting.

Practice Zoom Gatherings - If you are unfamiliar with Zoom and would like to have a practice run prior to these planned meetings, please email the Church Office at office@uccplymouth.org or Pastor Mike at pastor@uccplymouth.org so that you can be included in one of these practice opportunities.

Additionally, please feel free to contact Pastor Mike at 603-960-0196 or our Director of Music, David Williams 603-960-2578 if you would like help in any way.

Below are helpful links that can introduce you to Zoom:

How do I download Zoom to my computer or other device?

- <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697>
- <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206175806>

How do I connect to a Zoom meeting?

- https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206175806#h_bd83fa44-e32f-47b6-8fd6-0e2d1eb6077b

Save the Date

May 26th - Annual Reports Due
June 7th - Zoom Coffee 10:30 AM
June 14th - Zoom Annual Meeting 10:30 AM

Announcement

Annual Reports - Please submit your Annual Reports by **Tuesday, May 26th**, to the Church Office at office@uccplymouth.org.

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 as soon as possible. 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, Fran Taylor, 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.

Susan & Phil Wei Thank You - The congregation's prayers have been answered and against all odds Elaine Boniface has recovered from Covid19 and is now working on recovering her strength. Thank you from both of us.

Pledges and Contributions

During this time when we are unable to gather for worship, we ask that you mail in your pledges and contributions to the church office so that we can continue to fund our current mission and ministry here at PCUCC. Thank you.

Book Group - The next fiction book of our list is Boston Girl by Anita Diamont. This book will be discussed on **May 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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