

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 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

Give Thanks

Don Moen

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

Call to Worship

One: Come to worship, people of God, with praises on your lips.

**All: Even when we are feeling isolated and fearful, we can glorify
the One who holds our hands in our loneliness.**

One: Come into the presence of the One who makes holy every place, every
space, holy and sacred.

**All: Even where we continue to stay safe in our homes, the doors
of grace are flung wide open for us.**

One: Come and hear the stories of the One who loves you.

**All: In living rooms, on laptops and devices, we will sing our songs
and tell those tales of the peace and of the hope which are
ours.**

Hymn

"You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim

Blk#305

Verse 1

**You servants of God, your Sovereign proclaim,
and publish abroad that wonderful name;
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol,
who, sovereign and glorious now rules over all.**

Verse 4

**Then let us adore and render God's right,
all glory and power, all wisdom and might;
all honor and blessing with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing and infinite love.**

Gathering Prayer

One: What is our hope? Simply put, it is that God has not abandoned us.
With such good news, we can dare to bring our prayers to the One
who will not cast aside our words or our hearts. Let us pray:

All: We must tell you, God who knows us better than we think, how easy it is to put our trust in those who offer easy fixes, quick solutions, cures and tests and false hope in these days. It is easier to believe the glib words of politicians, the conspiracies of all the theorists, rather than those who are rational and share with us the truth of what we are facing. All too easily, we can buy into the notion that the economy is more important than safety, that jobs matter more than the lives of the most vulnerable, that our so-called rights trump the need to be a community of compassion and grace. Forgive us, God of mercy. You are not found in political rhetoric, but in the child who holds our hand. You are not a simple tweet, but the Word that can transform our very lives. You are not a disembodied, constantly recalculating voice, but the One who calls us to life by following Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Despite everything we do, God loves us. This grace is why we can dare to hope.

All: We will witness to this hope in every word we speak to every person we meet. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

Response

"I Greet You, Sure Redeemer"

Blk#251

**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 Acts 17:16-34

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

"Areopagus 2.0"

Hymn

"I Love to Tell the Story"

Blk#522

Verse 1

**I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
Of Jesus' radiant glory,
of Jesus' endless love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else can do.**

Refrain:

**I love to tell the story;
and when I am in glory
I'll tell the old, old story
of Jesus' endless love.**

Verse 4

**I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when I sing in glory,
I know the new, new song
will be the old, old story
that I have loved so long. [Refrain]**

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: By your goodness, O God, we have received all things, and all that we have and all that we are we offer up to you. May our gifts, tokens of our gratitude, be made complete in our commitment to living transformed lives of service and love. Amen.

SENDING

Hymn

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

Blk#495

Verse 1

**Called as partners in Christ's service
Called to ministries of grace
We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace
May we learn the art of sharing
Side by side and friend with friend
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfil God's chosen end**

Verse 3

**Thus new patterns for Christ's mission
In a small or global sense
Help us bear each other's burdens
Breaking down each wall or fence
Words of comfort words of vision
Words of challenge said with care
Bring new power and strength for action
Make us colleagues free and fair**

Benediction

Postlude

Yes God is Real

Marilyn Ham

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
	Elaine Boniface	

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

This Week and More at PCUCC

Today - Worship, Facebook Live 9:30 AM

Monday - Staff Meeting 3:00 PM

Tuesday - Confirmation 3:00 PM

Tuesday - Search Committee 7:00 PM

Wednesday - Midweek Devotional, Facebook Live 12:00 PM

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. Thank you, PCUCC Finance Stewardship Team

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.

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 (P.O. Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03266) so that we can continue to fund our current mission and ministry here at PCUCC. Thank you.

Book Group - Following are upcoming dates that we will be meeting: Monday, May 18th will discuss *The Boston Girl*. Mondays, June 1st and 15th we will discuss *The Girl with 7 Names*. It is a North Korean Defector's story by Hyeonseo Lee. This will be the final book of our season. Cheers, Peggy Martin

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

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

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