

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 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

"Sonate III in A Major: Andante"
*The beginning of the prelude is an invitation to silent,
personal preparation for the worship of God.*

W.A. Mozart

Call to Worship

One: Come to our God, all who hunger for life:

All: for it is God who nourishes us at the Table of Grace.

One: Come to our God, all who are worn out by life:

All: for it is God who provides the rest we need.

One: Come to our God, all who are weighed down:

All: for it is our God who carries our burdens with us.

Hymn

"God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command"

Blk#592

Verse 1

**God of the ages, who with sure command
Brought forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
Our grateful songs before your throne arise.**

Verse 2

**Your purpose, just, envisions mortals free;
God, set our path toward human liberty.
Still be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay
Your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.**

Gathering Prayer

One: So often the chaos of the world encircles and frightens us. We worry about tomorrow, even though God tells us not to be anxious. In these moments of worship, may God's Spirit quiet our distractions and draw us closer together as we unite our hearts praying:

All: In a world shaped by conflict, where we seem to be slipping back into tribal divisions, you call us, O God, to welcome those with whom we have absolutely nothing in common. In a culture full of inequalities which only seem to be widening, you call us to treat each person as our sister and brother. In a

time of intensifying injustices which are found in every community, if not in every neighborhood, you call us to yoke ourselves to your radical hope. Let this hope transform us into ambassadors of your justice, goodness, and grace. For we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Jesus acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where we want to serve God with all our heart and mind.

All: Jesus calls us: Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy burdened. I will share your yoke and make it light; I will lead you in the Way to life in all its fullness.

Response

"Creator Spirit, Come, We Pray"

Blk#268

Verse 3

**Enkindle us, set us aglow, pour out your love till hearts o'er flow;
To be made whole we sorely long; O heal us, Spirit ever strong.**

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings Genesis 24:34-40 Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

One: Here end the readings from our tradition. May God grant us wisdom and courage to live our faith with the fiery passion of Pentecost.

Message

"There Is a Lot at Stake"

Hymn

"I Come with Joy"

Blk#349

Verse 1

**I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
The life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.**

Verse 3

**As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory

"Allegro"

Francois Devienne

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

Offertory Prayer

All: Lord, as the wildflowers bloom on the side of the highway and the birds sing in the summer dawn, we rejoice in the beauty of creation that surrounds us no matter the upheaval around and within us. Take our offerings, given in faith, bless and use them to reveal your glory, your beauty, your goodness, and your grace to those in deepest need, no matter what that need may be. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

One: When Jesus sat at table with tax collectors and sinners, he proclaimed God's care knows no bounds. We proclaim again the comfort and challenge of that witness: All of you are invited now to share God's table and be nourished by the Bread of Life.

All: Everyone is welcome to be here. In this way, we lift up a world of inclusion, where all people live with respect and dignity.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You will be invited to offer your silent prayers for others.

Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Cup

Sharing of the Bread & the Cup

Closing Prayer

All: Once again, Holy One, you have met us at your Table of Grace and filled our hearts and lives with your abundant goodness. Send us forth in the Spirit of Jesus as we dedicate our freedom to your service, praying that all creation may be brought into the glorious liberty of the children of God. Bind us together as we pray, saying:

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.

SENDING

Hymn

"This Is My Song"

Blk#591

Verse 1

**This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

Verse 2

**My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
But other lands have sunlight, too, and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.**

Benediction

Postlude

"Voluntary on America"

Robert Lind

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

Keeping in Prayer

Dick Brace Mary June Thomas
John Smathers Patti Dyszinsky Annie Rice
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.*

PREPARE COMMUNION BEFORE WORSHIP

Today's worship service will include the celebration of the Lord's Supper. We encourage you to participate in the sacrament and to prepare bread and cup before the service begins. Here is a suggested preparation.

Before the time of the service, you will want to prepare some bread, a slice or a small loaf of any kind of bread. In some parts of the world tortilla, rice cake or cassava are used as this element which is defined not as a wheat product, but as the most common food of the people. Let it be something you alone or you with others in your house may break and share. Prepare a cup or cups of juice — perhaps grape or cranberry — or wine, with or without alcohol.

Set these elements in the living room or kitchen where you experience worship electronically with our faith community. Perhaps you want to put them on a lovely cloth or fabric that reminds you of a special time or a person deeply connected with you in the communion of saints. Perhaps you will light a candle, place a flower/plant or the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup. Thank you for your preparation.

This Week and More at PCUCC

Today - Worship, Facebook Live 9:30 AM

Zoom Coffee Hour 10:30 AM following Worship

Tuesday - Staff Meeting 8:30 AM

Search Committee 10:00 AM

Virtual Chamber Concert 7:00 PM

Wednesday - Midweek Devotional, Facebook Live 12:00 PM

Sunday, July 5th - Zoom Coffee Hour 10:30 AM following our Worship Service

Tuesdays, July 14th/21st/28th - Virtual Chamber Concert 7:00 PM

Announcements

Zoom Coffee Hour

Pastor Mike is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting on **Sunday, July 5th, at 10:30 AM** following Worship Service.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88518238736>

Meeting ID: 885 1823 8736

Dial by Your Location 929-205-6099

Flowers for Worship - We need donations of flowers for Sunday Worship that would also be used on the altar on Tuesdays during the virtual concerts in July. Dates that we need flowers are July 12th & 26th and August 9th, 16th & 23rd. Please contact Eileen Torrey at eileen@weisshouse.net if you can provide flowers from your garden or purchase for one of these dates. Many thanks!

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!

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.

Email Scam Alert - Several congregational members and staff have received emails stating they are from Rev. Mike Carrier. The email requests money to purchase gift cards and/or is asking people to be discreet regarding "Mike" contacting them.

Please be aware that this is an email scam which is using Rev. Mike's identity. Rev. Mike's PCUCC email address is pastor@uccplymouth.org. This is the address he uses for church business.

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
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Carol Stewart, Liturgist
Peggy Martin, Musician

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Dear Friends,

As you may have heard, last fall I began a series of discussions with the New Hampshire Music Festival to offer our church for their Tuesday evening chamber music concerts. What has come out of those discussions is an amazing, mutually supportive partnership between NHMF and PCUCC. Unfortunately, the pandemic that has caused all of us to rethink how we navigate through our daily lives has caused the 2020 Festival to be canceled – but not completely.

Beginning at 7pm and continuing through the four Tuesdays in July (7, 14, 21 & 28), we will be live-streaming the chamber concerts from our sanctuary. The ensembles will be *very* small, and we will ensure that all distancing and sanitizing measures are in place. A professional company will be filming and live-streaming these concerts to ensure the highest level of production quality. Sadly, we cannot have you in the space with us, but we certainly look forward to being with you in your home and sharing this wonderful music with you. **To access the link to each concert and the concert program, go to the NHMF website: www.NHMF.org.**

When we were planning last fall, I suggested that each recital begin with a 30 minute organ prelude concert to show off the incredible instrument we have. NHMF jumped at that idea, and we will continue that plan in these live-streamed concerts. Our organists are Laura Belanger, Kristjon Imperio, Kyle Bertulli, Bruce Adami and Brian Jones. Each has chosen a thrilling program, and I know our magnificent Austin organ will truly shine.

There are many more exciting things to come from this partnership, and I can't begin to thank Lucinda Williams, Executive Director of NHMF, enough for this opportunity and for her friendship. It has been a great joy to work with her, and I look forward to many years spent building on this partnership, so stay tuned and we will share those plans in the coming months.

All best wishes,
David Williams, Music Director
Plymouth Congregational UCC

New Hampshire Music Festival + Plymouth Congregational Church present **From The Heart**, Virtual Chamber Concerts



**TUESDAY,
June 30**

7PM @ nhmf.org

Brahms
Bernstein
Schumann
Kreisler
Strauss

Nicholas Pappone
violin

Candace Chien
piano

Laura Belanger
organ

**TUESDAY,
July 7**

7PM @ nhmf.org

Schumann

Sasha Callahan
violin

Christopher Nunn
viola

Leo Eguchi
cello

Leslie Amper
Piano

Kristjon Imperio
organ

**TUESDAY,
July 14**

7PM @ nhmf.org

Doppler

Still

Ewazen

Valerie Watts
flute

Molly Norcross
horn

Leslie Amper
piano

Kyle Bertulli
organ

**TUESDAY,
July 21**

7PM @ nhmf.org

Jacob, Aguila
+ Saint-Saëns

Mary Kay Robinson
flute

Shawn Welk
oboe

**Elizandro
Garcia-Montoya**
clarinet

Geroge Lopez
piano

Bruce Adami
organ

**TUESDAY,
July 28**

7PM @ nhmf.org

Leclair, Glière
+ Colgrass

Viktoria Tchertchian
Lidija Peno-Kelly
violin

Christopher Nunn
viola

Richard Kelly
roto-toms

Bruce Adami
piano

Brian Jones
organ

We are proud to have been recognized with a Readers Choice Silver Award and thank you for your votes and support.

Please stay safe and well. Enjoy these virtual concerts by visiting nhmf.org and clicking on the link on our homepage.