

# **Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ**

## *Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

**July 19, 2020**

**9:30 a.m.**



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

Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

# GATHERING

## Welcome

### Prelude

"O Waly, Waly"

Hal H. Hopson

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

### Call to Worship

One: From the moment we open our eyes each morning, until we close them at night, God is with us.

**All: There is no one like you, our God!**

One: In times when we are surrounded with struggles, in all the surprising places we find hope, Jesus is with us.

**All: There is no one like you, our Brother!**

One: When we feel orphaned by the world, when we are welcomed into faith's family, the Holy Spirit is with us.

**All: There is no one like you, Witnessing Spirit!**

### Hymn

"When Morning Guilds the Skies"

Blk#86

Verse 1

When morning gilds the skies,  
My heart awaking cries:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike at work and prayer  
One purpose I declare:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Verse 2

Discordant human kind,  
In this your concord find,  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let all the earth around  
Ring joyous with the sound:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

### Gathering Prayer

One: Jesus, the teller of parables, continues to challenge us in moments of doubt, as well as in our times of great faith. In the midst of worries and fears God whispers hope to us. Let us join our voices in prayer to the One who keeps coming to us in our dreams and our longing, saying:

**All: Gracious God, in the fields of our lives, we strive to be fruitful, but we fall short. We get so comfortable that we sleep when we need to be vigilant about the injustices around us. We are so casual about wrongdoing that it creeps into our lives and threatens to overwhelm the good we do. We do not pay attention to the unjust systems which shape our lives, that we must work to transform so that your Beloved Community may come to be. By your grace, strengthen and empower us for this work we undertake in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **Silence for Personal Reflection**

### **God's Promise of New Life**

One: By God's grace, our chaotic choices become creative grace for others; our foolishness can be transformed by God's goodness; our lives can become new by the Spirit of our God.

**All: The good news is as true now as it was on creation's first morning: God is the Breath of life for all people. Thanks be to God for making us new creations in Christ. Amen.**

### **Response**

"Holy Spirit, Truth Divine"

Blk#63

Verse 3

Holy Spirit, power divine,  
fill and nerve this will of mine.  
Boldly may I always live,  
bravely serve, and gladly give.

## **Children's Message**

# **HEARING THE WORD**

**Scripture Readings**      Genesis 28:10-19a      Matthew 13:24-30

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

**All: Amen.**

### **Message**

"Surprise! It's Me!"

## Hymn

"Nearer, My God, to You"

Blk#606

Verse 2

Nearer, my God, to you, nearer to you.  
I'll bear the cross as Christ calls me to do  
and pray each day anew:  
Nearer my God, to you, nearer my God, to you,  
nearer to you.

Verse 4

Then, waking from the night to morning air  
by Bethel's stone, I'll know you hear my prayer,  
and how my yearning grew:  
Nearer my God, to you, nearer my God, to you,  
nearer to you.

## 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

"Be Thou With Me"

Stlözel arr. Lawrence Rosen

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

### Offertory Prayer

**All: Holy One, even when the world feels chaotic and the future  
uncertain, we trust in your power to save, your promise to be a  
light unto our path. We pray that the gifts we give in faith and  
thanksgiving will be used to encourage those lagging in hope and  
provide for those overwhelmed with worry. Help us always to sow  
seeds of goodness. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

# SENDING

## Hymn

"We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"

Blk#500

Verse 1

We are climbing Jacob's ladder,  
we are climbing Jacob's ladder,  
we are climbing Jacob's ladder,  
bearers of the cross.

Verse 2

Every round goes higher, higher,  
every round goes higher, higher,  
every round goes higher, higher,  
bearers of the cross.

Verse 3

Every round goes higher, higher,  
every round goes higher, higher,  
every round goes higher, higher,  
bearers of the cross.

## Benediction

## Postlude

"Simple Gifts"

arr. Lawrence Rosen

### Keeping in Prayer

Dick Brace

John Smathers

Patti Dyszinsky

Annie Rice

Our prayers and sympathy to the family of Joe Oustucky  
Prayers for Our Nation and for the World!

Bob Feeny as he prepares for his ordination

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](mailto:pastor@uccplymouth.org).*

### **This Week and More at PCUCC**

Today - Worship, Facebook Live 9:30 AM

Monday - Search Committee 7:00 PM

Tuesday - Staff Meeting 8:30 AM

Virtual Chamber Concert 7:00 PM

Wednesday - Midweek Devotional, Facebook Live 12:00 PM

Wednesday, July 22nd, Zoom Church Council Meeting 6:00 PM

Sunday, July 26th - Commissioning Service for Church Leaders

Tuesday, July 28th - Virtual Chamber Concert 7:00 PM

## **Announcements**

**Commissioning Service for Church Leaders** - On Sunday, **July 26th**, we will hold a Commissioning Service for new and continuing leaders in our church via Zoom at 10:30 AM following the regular Worship Service on Facebook Live. The congregation will receive an email invitation to be a part of this service which will include the Zoom link and an Order of Worship. Links will also be provided in the church newsletter.

**Stewardship Team** - Our 2020-21 pledge goal is \$200,000. As of this week, we have received 55 pledges totaling \$175,259. Thank you to all who have pledged in the support of the church missions and ministries. If you haven't pledged and are able to do so, please prayerfully consider sending your pledge by emailing a note to the Treasurer at [treasurer@uccplymouth.org](mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org) or mailing your pledge card to the church office, Attention Treasurer. Please be sure to note in the check memo line if you want pledges received in July to be credited towards the 2019-20 fiscal year. If there is no notation, money received will be applied to the current 2020-21 fiscal year. Thank you, PCUCC Finance Stewardship Team

**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.

**Office Hours** - The church office will be open on Wednesdays and Fridays between 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM: However, the church doors will continue to be locked. If you need to contact Debbie and/or would like to meet, please call the office at 536-2626. For the safety of everyone, a mask will need to be worn and will be provided. Please no drop-ins. Thank you.

**A Message from Robbin Adams** - We are looking for another person to be the tenth recipient of the NHSS array electricity. Also, we will be needing another ten people as of January, because people are only in for two years. Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks, Robbin

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](mailto: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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Bill Heron, Liturgist

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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 remaining Tuesdays on July 21st & 28th, 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](http://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](http://nhmf.org)

Brahms  
Bernstein  
Schumann  
Kreisler  
Strauss

**Nicholas Pappone**  
*violin*

**Candace Chien**  
*piano*

**Laura Belanger**  
*organ*

**TUESDAY,  
July 7**

7PM @ [nhmf.org](http://nhmf.org)

Schumann

**Sasha Callahan**  
*violin*

**Christopher Nunn**  
*viola*

**Leo Eguchi**  
*cello*

**Leslie Amper**  
*Piano*

**Kristjon Imperio**  
*organ*

**TUESDAY,  
July 14**

7PM @ [nhmf.org](http://nhmf.org)

Doppler  
Still  
Ewazen

**Valerie Watts**  
*flute*

**Molly Norcross**  
*horn*

**Leslie Amper**  
*piano*

**Kyle Bertulli**  
*organ*

**TUESDAY,  
July 21**

7PM @ [nhmf.org](http://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](http://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](http://nhmf.org) and clicking on the link on our homepage.