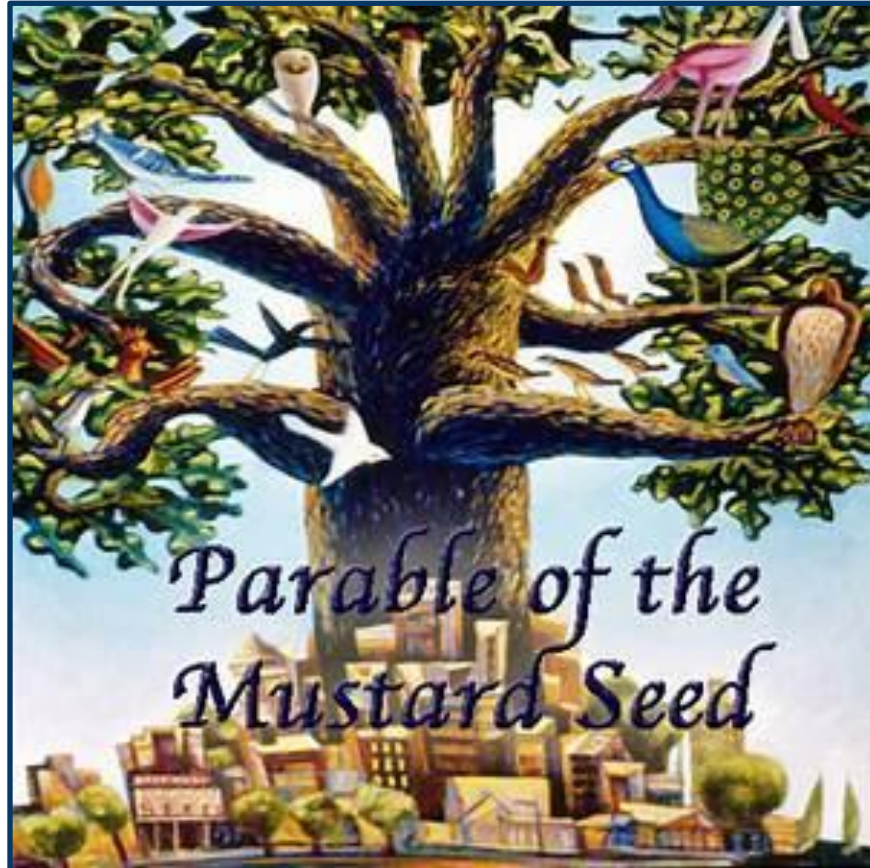


Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 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

"We Gather Together"

Robert Dinda

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

Call to Worship

One: The kingdom of heaven is like:

All: A tiny mustard seed that carries the life of a tree.

One: The kingdom of heaven is like:

All: A tiny portion of yeast that makes bread rise.

One: The kingdom of heaven is like:

All: A tiny pearl of great price that we would give all our "stuff" to have.

One: The kingdom of heaven is like:

**All: A fishing boat filled with catch—good and bad together—
with fisherfolk wise to recognize the good.**

Hymn

"God Reigns o'er All the Earth"

Blk#21

Verse 1

God reigns o'er all the earth!
Green hills and valleys low,
The farms and towns in golds and browns
God's grace and beauty show.
God reign's o'er all the earth!
Stone banks and spreading plains,
In rainbow hues – reds, yellows, blues –
Of streams and country lanes.

Verse 2

God reigns o'er human life!
Through youth and aging years,
In death, in birth, in grief, in mirth,
In all our hopes and fears.
God reigns o'er human life!
Our inspiration still.
Through all our schemes, in all our dreams,
We see God's reigning will.

Gathering Prayer

One: Happy are those who fear the Lord, who walk in God's ways. We come to this time of prayer, seeking to walk in God's ways, aware that we often take other paths that do not lead to abundant life. We trust God's mercy and promise to heal our brokenness and set us once again on the path to life as we pray together, saying:

All: Holy One, you call us to find your kingdom already hidden in our world—in tiny, transforming possibilities; in beauty that calls us to surrender all; in complicated choices that call for wisdom. You cast out your net of grace so that all might be gathered into your kingdom. Reveal yourself during these moments of worship and heighten our senses that we may find you and join you in building this kingdom of love, and hope, and peace. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other.

All: This is the love which binds us to God forever. There is nothing in this world, or beyond, which will keep us from being God's children. Thanks be to God. 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.

The Reception of a New Member

Minister: Let us, the members of PCUCC, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

All: We welcome you with joy to the common life of this congregation. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of this family of faith.

By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings Proverbs 15:1-7 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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 "A String of Parables...Priceless!"

Hymn "Jesus Shall Reign" Blk#300

Verse 1

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
God's realm shall stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

Verse 4

Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
The prisoners leap to lose their chains;
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blessed.

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

"Andante"

Friedrich Burgmüller

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

Offertory Prayer

All: God of seeds and yeast, hidden treasure and fishing nets, we offer you our gifts as a sign of our commitment to you and your ways in this world. Give us confident faith that believes you are at work right now bringing forth growth in and around us, growth that will in turn bring forth new life. Bless our offerings that they may be the leaven that creates the bread of life and the treasure that enables others to know of your love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

Hymn

"Blessed Be the Tie That Binds"

Blk#393

Verse 1

Blessed be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the sharing of a common life
is like to that above.

Verse 3

We share each other's woes,
Each other's burdens bear.
And often for each other flows
a sympathizing tear.

Verse 4

When we are called to part
it gives us inward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

Benediction

Postlude

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Conrad Kocher
arr. Karl Roland Larson

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.*

This Week and More at PCUCC

Today - Worship, Facebook Live 9:30 AM

Zoom Commissioning Service for Church Leaders
10.30 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

Sunday, August 2nd - Grace Templeton, Facebook Live, piano 3:00 PM

Sunday, August 16th - Ordination of Robert Feeny 3:00 PM

Announcements

Today we joyfully receive The Rev. Rebecca Larson into membership by Letter of Transfer from the First Congregational Church, Littleton, New Hampshire. Welcome, Rebecca!

Commissioning Service for Church Leaders - Today, 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.

Stewardship Team - Our 2020-21 pledge goal is \$200,000. As of this week, we have received 58 pledges totaling \$181,950. 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 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 is 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.

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
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treasurer@uccplymouth.org
clwlcsw@gmail.com

Rebecca Larson, Liturgist

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

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 on our final Tuesday, July 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.**

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

Viktorija 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.