

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Nineth Sunday after Pentecost

August 2, 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

"O Stor Gud"

arr. Margaret Goldston

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

Call to Worship

One: All who are thirsty, come!

All: God is the fountain for our lives.

One: All who are hungry, come!

All: Jesus feeds us with goodness and grace.

One: Rich and poor, young and old, neighbor and guest, come!

All: The Spirit of Love gathers everyone around the Table.

Hymn

"O Mighty God, When I Survey in Wonder"

Blk#35

Verse 1

**O mighty God, when I survey in wonder
The world that formed when once the word you said,
The strands of life all woven close together,
The whole creation at your table fed,**

REFRAIN

**My soul cries out in songs of praise to you,
O mighty God! O mighty God!
My soul cries out in songs of praise to you,
O mighty God! O mighty God!**

Verse 2

**When your voice speaks in rolls of thunder pealing,
Your lightning power bursts in bright surprise;
When cooling rain, your gentle love revealing,
Reflects your promise, arching through the skies,**

REFRAIN

**Then we will sing your praise forevermore,
O mighty God! O mighty God!
Then we will sing your praise forevermore,
O mighty God! O mighty God!**

Gathering Prayer

One: As we gather this morning, all of us in our separate places, may the Spirit of life and love create among us a circle of love, ever expanding, ever growing. Let us seek wisdom, connection and hope as we pray together, saying:

All: Lord of abundance and compassion, when we see the overwhelming needs of your beloved world, we want to turn away, seek our own security and retreat from the chaos all around us. Yet you call us to provide for the crowds. You instill within us a vision for what can happen when we open our hands and hearts, so that what we bring might be blessed, multiplied and used to sustain everyone. We know that you are present in seemingly desolate places, meeting us in our doubts, using even our failings and mistakes for your purposes. In your abounding, steadfast love, grant us mercy and make of us a merciful, gracious and faithful people. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: The God who gives, gives all. The God who loves, loves all. The God who forgives, forgives all.

All: This is the Good News for all. 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.**

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings Genesis 32:22-31 Matthew 14:13-21

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

“In a Desolate Place”

Hymn

“As We Gather at Your Table”

Blk#332

Verse 1

**As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love’s victory known.**

Verse 2

**Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory

“How Can I Keep From Singing?”

Robert Lowry

arr. Michael Burkhardt

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

Offertory Prayer

All: God of increase and bounty, Source of all good things, we offer our gifts, praying that they may be as loaves and fishes for those who find themselves in poverty or hunger. May all our acts of giving bring about change: change in our lives, change in the lives we touch, change in the systems that harm. We ask these things through him who gave so much to bring life to all. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

One: God is the great provider. From earth's bounty we receive this bread, worked by human hands, and brought to us to be offered as our spiritual food, and this cup, made from fruit by human labor to be brought to this Table as our spiritual drink.

All: All of this is God's doing, and not just for us, but for all the world. Christ himself invites us to receive with thanksgiving the blessings of God's hand. Let us come around the Table he has spread with joy and gratitude.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Breaking of Bread and Pouring of the Cup

Sharing of the Bread & the Cup

Closing Prayer

All: Our gracious and ever-loving God, once again we have been refreshed at your Table and now rest in the knowledge of the deep and abiding love you have for us and for all people. Search our hearts. Whisper to our souls that all will be well if we but trust in you. Shine your light before us, that we may see clearly the path we are to walk as ambassadors of your kingdom of love and justice. This we pray through Christ our Lord who taught us to pray,

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

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

Blk#388

Verse 1

**Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.**

Verse 2

**Teach us, O God, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.**

Benediction

Postlude

“O God Our Help, In Ages Past”

William Croft
arr. by Marilyn Ham

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

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.

Keeping in Prayer

Dick Brace John Smathers Patti Dyszinsky
Annie Rice

Our prayers and sympathy to the family of Joe Oustecky
In loving memory and sympathy to the family of Archie Messenger
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 Coffee Hour 10:30 AM
CANCELED – Grace Templeton 3:00 PM
Monday - Search Committee 7:00 PM
Tuesday - Staff Meeting 9:30 AM
Wednesday - Midweek Devotional, Facebook Live 12:00 PM
Sunday, August 16th - Ordination of Robert Feeny 3:00 PM

Announcements

Rev. Mike is inviting you to a ZOOM Coffee Hour

Today at 10:30 AM

Please click the following link to join Zoom Coffee Hour

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88515865079>

If you prefer to join the meeting via telephone,
the following information is needed:

Meeting ID: 885 1586 5079

Telephone: 1-929-205-6099

Bob Feeny Ordination – Bob Feeny's Ordination is scheduled for **Sunday, August 16th** at 3:00 PM. For those who would like to send a card or letter, Bob's address is 5 Laurel Road, Weston, MA 02493. Additional information will be forthcoming.

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 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 - PCUCC's Hope Fund has generously received two donations in the memory of Jean Kempton and Archie Messenger.

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.

Regular Office Hours - Beginning this week, the church office will be open for regular hours - Tuesday thru Friday 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

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Carol Stewart, Liturgist and Music

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