

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

## *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**August 30, 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

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

### Call to Worship

One: Some of your people gather in sanctuaries while others create sacred spaces in their living rooms or back yards.

**All: Yet all join to worship you, God who is with the scattered and gathered.**

One: Some of your followers are going out to serve and work, while others stay at home, helping children and grandchildren learn virtually.

**All: Yet all seek to follow your example, Jesus who calls the scattered and gathered.**

One: Some care for others by shopping for them, while others plant seeds of peace and hope.

**All: Yet whether gathered or scattered, all seek to live out your gifts, Spirit of us all.**

### Hymn

"God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"

Blk#556

Verse 1

**God, who stretched the spangled heavens,  
infinite in time and place,  
flung the suns in burning radiance  
through the silent fields of space,  
we, your children, in your likeness,  
share inventive powers with you.  
Great Creator, still creating,  
show us what we yet may do.**

Verse 3

**As each far horizon beckons,  
May it challenge us anew:  
Children of creative purpose,  
Serving others, hon'ring you.  
May our dreams prove rich with promise;  
Each endeavor well begun;  
Great Creator, give us guidance  
Till our goals and yours are one.**

## Gathering Prayer

One: We have followed many paths in life, and the one called Hope leads to this time of worship together. Let us open our hearts this day to the Spirit's power to bring comfort, faith and strength where it is needed as we pray together:

**All: Surprising God, you have an uncomfortable habit of showing up where we least expect you: in a burning bush, in the face of an enemy, in a livestock feed trough, on a rough wooden cross. Open up our lives with your radical love. Help us fully embrace your surprises, even as we revel in the joy of being fully embraced by your all-encompassing grace and mercy. Guide our steps and pick us up when we falter. Dust us off and place us on the pathways of loving service. These things we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## Silence for Personal Reflection

### God's Promise of New Life

One: In our love for others, we discover God's love for us. In our forgiving of others, we learn once more how deeply God forgives and calls us to new life. Friends, this is the good news offered to us!

**All: We are God's children, called to be different, called to act differently, called to live as new people. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### Response

"Spirit of the Living God"

Blk#283

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me:**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

## Children's Message

# HEARING THE WORD

**Scripture Readings** Exodus 3:1-15 Romans 12:9-18

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

"Watch Out for Burning Bushes!"

**Hymn**

**"Your Ways Are Not Our Own"**

**Blk#170**

Verse 1

**Your ways are not your own, O gracious God most high,  
Yet we would follow in your paths and on your love rely.**

Verse 4

**How shall we show your love, your pardon to believe?  
You bid us share as we are blessed and give us as we receive.**

## **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: Lord of all mercy and compassion, bless our gifts offered for  
ministries of hope through our church and into our community,  
nation and world. May they bring comfort to those in need, justice  
to those who are oppressed, and good news to those who hunger  
for hope. We pray through Jesus Christ, the one who shows us the  
pathways that lead to abundant life for all. Amen.**

# SENDING

Hymn

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

Blk#543

Verse 1

**Where cross the crowded ways of life,  
where sound the cries of clan and race,  
Above the noise of selfish strife,  
O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.**

Verse 6

**Till all shall learn compassion's might,  
And follow where your feet have trod,  
Till glorious from your realm of light  
Shall come the city of our God.**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

## **Keeping in Prayer**

Dick Brace

Patti Dyszinsky

Annie Rice

Winnie Oustecky

Our prayers and sympathy to the family of Charles Durgin

Our prayers and sympathy to the family of Val Raymond

Prayers for Our Nation and for the World!

Congratulations and Prayers for Rev. Bob Feeny

as he continues his ministry now as ordained pastor.

Prayers for Sam Lovett as he continues

as the Bridge Interim at Meredith UCC until November 1<sup>st</sup>.

*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 9:15 AM

Wednesday - Midweek Devotional, Facebook Live 12:00 PM

Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – ZOOM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM

Wednesday-Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> - Zoom Sessions to meet

Rev. Sara M. Holland, candidate for PCUCC pastor and teacher

Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> – Candidate, Rev. Sara M. Holland,  
will preach virtually

Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> – Rally Sunday

### **Announcements**

It is our joy to continue to present information about our candidate, Rev. Sara M. Holland, to be chosen as our new settled pastor and teacher. By now you should have received a letter from us introducing Sara to you and a letter and flyer from Sara. The flyer is pictured in this Constant Contact. The letters are also in Constant Contact.

Seven Zoom Sessions will be made available by the Search Committee for you to get acquainted with Sara beginning September ninth. You will have your choice as to which one you would like to attend virtually. Next week you will receive more information, via Constant Contact, on how to sign up for these sessions.

### **Zoom Sessions:**

Wednesday, September 9 at 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 9 at 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, September 10 at 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 10 at 8:00 p.m.

Friday, September 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Friday, September 11 at 1:00 p.m.

**Candidate for PCUCC Pastor and teacher, Rev. Sara M. Holland will preach**, virtually, from our sanctuary on **Sunday, September 13th**, which you will be able to access via Facebook. Immediately, following the service you will have an opportunity to vote either on-line or paper ballot. More information will be coming your way on Constant Contact next week, so please keep a lookout for the Zoom sign up and voting information. Those that we know are without computers will receive this information in the mail.

**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** - 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.

**Book Group** - We will have two zoom meetings on our first book of the new season on Mondays, **September 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 AM. The book is "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson. On September 14<sup>th</sup>, we will decide the sequence of books and if they will be discussed once or twice. Hope to see you in three weeks. Cheers, Peggy

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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