

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

## *Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

September 6, 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

“Lento Religioso”

Frederic Chopin

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

### Call to Worship

One: Jesus says, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

**All: Christ is here.**

One: Calling us to be a welcoming community, beckoning us to the feast,

**All: Christ is here.**

One: Speaking to our souls, listening to our prayers,

**All: Christ is here.**

One: Binding us as one body, sending us out in service,

**All: Christ is here.**

One: Jesus says, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

**All: Christ is here. Let us worship God with one heart and voice.**

### Hymn

“God Is Here! As We Your People Meet”

Blk#70

Verse 1

**God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,  
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts  
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.**

Verse 2

**Here are symbols to remind us of our life-long need of grace;  
Here are table, font, and pulpit, here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.**

### Gathering Prayer

One: As the apostle Paul reminds us, love is what fulfills the law. As we gather to worship God, we do so seeking to love God with our whole heart and

to love our neighbors as ourselves. God loves us faithfully. With the confidence of beloved children, let us pray together, saying:

**All: God of steadfast love, you teach us to seek reconciliation with those who have wronged us, for, above all else, we are to love one another. But there are times when we let resentments smolder until anger flares, destroying any chance of peace. We love the blame game which builds no bridges to understanding. Wrap our wounded hearts in your mercy and grace so that we might turn toward others in love, as you keep turning toward us. Amen.**

## **Silence for Personal Reflection**

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

One: 2, 3, 30, 100 - every time we gather as God's people: broken, we are made whole; alone, we are welcomed into a family; blessed, we are sent to serve.

**All: Nourished, empowered, restored, loved. This Table is our constant reminder of God's presence in our lives, of God's grace which makes us new in every moment. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### **Response**

"Spirit of Love"

Blk#58

Verse 2

**Though we have frayed the fabric of your making,  
tearing away from all that you intend,  
Yet, to be whole, humanity is aching –  
come, work with us, and weave us into one.**

# **HEARING THE WORD**

**Scripture Readings**     Matthew 18:15-20     Romans 13:8-10

**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**

"Love Listens"

**Hymn**

"Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face"

Blk#336

Verse 1

**Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;  
here would I touch and handle things unseen;  
Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,  
And all my weariness upon you lean.**

Verse 3

**This is the hour of banquet and of song;  
this is the heavenly table spread anew;  
Here let me feast, and, feasting, still prolong  
the brief, bright hour together here with you.**

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**Offertory**

"Ave Maris"

Edvard Grieg

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

**Offertory Prayer**

**All: May all our giving go forth into our world, so that where people hunger, they may be fed; where there is war, peace might be welcomed; where families are broken, they may be made whole. Then others will be as blessed as we have by your love, grace, and compassion. In Jesus' name, we offer our gifts and this prayer of gratitude. Amen.**

## **CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Invitation to the Table**

One: Out of the gracious love of God, a feast has been prepared. Bread is offered – fruit of the earth, and shaped by human labor into what will be for us our spiritual food; and the cup is poured – fruit of the earth, shaped by human labor to be for us our spiritual drink. God is the provider, and Christ himself has made the invitation.

**All: May all of us rest from our labors, hear the voice of God, and come with joy and gratitude to the Table Christ has prepared.**

## **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: 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**

**"In Christ There Is No East or West"**

Blk#395

Verse 1

**In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;  
But one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.**

Verse 2

**In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;  
God's service is the golden chord close-binding humankind.**

### **Benediction**

### **Postlude**

**"I Sing The Mighty Power of God"**

Isaac Watts

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

## **Keeping in Prayer**

Dick Brace            Patti Dyszinsky            Annie Rice  
Prayers for Our Nation and for the World!

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

Today – ZOOM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM

Monday - Search Committee 7:00 PM

Tuesday - Staff Meeting 9:15 AM

Wednesday - Midweek Devotional, Facebook Live 12:00 PM

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**

### **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.

## **A Message from the Search Committee**

Dear PCUCC Members,

The search committee is very excited to request your support towards choosing a new settled pastor for PCUCC. We have been working on creative ways to introduce, hold meet & greets and conduct a pastoral vote during a pandemic. We hope you will take the time to sign up online for a zoom meeting to get to know our proposed pastoral candidate **Rev. Sara Holland**.

### **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.

Please contact Julie at [juliedkelsey@gmail.com](mailto:juliedkelsey@gmail.com) or Debbie at [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org) or 603-536-2626 to request the Zoom session date you would like to participate in. Also, if you would like to sign-up directly, there is a link to the Zoom sessions document in Constant Contact. To ensure time for discussion, please email any questions for Sara ahead of time to your requested zoom host by Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, at noon.

**Mark your calendar: Rev. Sara M. Holland will preach**, virtually, from our sanctuary on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 this voting information.

Many thanks from the Search Committee,

Julie Kelsey, Megan Magrauth, Wayne Martin, Alison Thatcher, Eileen Torrey

**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

[pastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:pastor@uccplymouth.org)  
[office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org)  
[musicdirector@uccplymouth.org](mailto:musicdirector@uccplymouth.org)  
[organist@uccplymouth.org](mailto:organist@uccplymouth.org)  
[windygla2@yahoo.com](mailto:windygla2@yahoo.com)  
[faithformation@uccplymouth.org](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org)  
[treasurer@uccplymouth.org](mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org)  
[clwlcsw@gmail.com](mailto:clwlcsw@gmail.com)

Carol Stewart, Liturgist & Vocalist

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ  
4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264  
(603) 536-2626 ~ [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org) ~ [www.uccplymouth.org](http://www.uccplymouth.org)