

# **Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ**

## **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 13, 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

"Over the Rainbow"

Harold Arlen

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

### Call to Worship

One: Held in Your Love, we come in different languages, different times and different ways - Your Church joins this day.

**All: We have a sense that we are called as we look to wisdom of past and present.**

One: Held in Your Love, we gather as we have heard of miracles. Let us listen with our hearts, let us hear Your call through melodies, through scripture, through silence.

**All: We have a faith that stands alongside some doubt – cast our eyes and minds on Your truth in this hour.**

One: Held in Your Love, in unity, not uniformity, we humbly turn to Jesus' Way, once again.

**All: We have a hope that challenge and comfort will find us as they are needed. We come humbly, for Love's sake.**

### Hymn

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

Blk#388

Verse 2

**Teach us, O Lord, 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.**

Verse 4

**Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance, for justice, and for bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;  
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!**

### Gathering Prayer

One: Creator God, in the course of our busy lives we sometimes make space to pause. In this hour, Your path of sacred and divine freedom beckons we come and listen. We pray our minds understand anew,

our ears hear something fresh and our spirits feel their connection to Your very Spirit, to the Spirit of Jesus.

**All: This day has brought a new hope and word, O Holy God. In the midst of turmoil, You have offered points of grace alongside these sacred accounts of miracle. Let us hold these together in this hour. In our singing, let our hope, Your hope, be heard. In our thinking, let us understand how we might make a path as 21st century Christians. Take us, God of hope, to the place of the Red Sea, let us know our connection with our ancestors in the faith. We pray all this for Love's sake. Amen.**

## **Silence for Personal Reflection**

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

One: All week we have encountered God's love, sometimes seeing clearly and sometimes with fogged vision. Today we look to and name this Love. In this Love, Christ's love, we find New Life.

**All: There is nothing, nothing here, nothing anywhere else that will separate us from the Love of God in Jesus. It is for this promise and Spirit that we sing!**

### **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.**

## **Children's Message**

# **HEARING THE WORD**

### **Scripture Readings**

Exodus 14: 19-31

Matthew 18: 21b–35 (gospel adaption from Robert Benson's prayer book–*Venite*)

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**

"On the Road to Freedom"

Rev. Sara M. Holland

## Hymn

"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"

Blk#19

Verse 1

**Guide me, O my great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but you are mighty;  
hold me with your powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,  
bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more.**

Verse 2

**Open now the crystal fountain,  
where the healing waters flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, ever be my strength and shield,  
strong deliverer, ever be my strength and shield.**

Verse 3

**When I reach the River Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on heaven's side.  
Songs of praises I will ever sing to you,  
songs of praises I will ever sing 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

"Thou Art Worthy"

Pauline Michael Mills

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

## Offertory Prayer

**All: Come Holy Spirit, come: let these gifts bless this community, this town, and this world. We pray that these gifts reach the farthest corners of Your earth. Let these offerings bring respite to those who feel forgotten, those who are hurting, those who need support. We pray that the hungry be fed and that the weak are made strong. We pray for abundance in a world that seems only to have scarcity. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

# SENDING

## Hymn

"Blessed Be the Tie That Binds"

Blk#393

Verse 1

**Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds  
is like to that above.**

Verse 2

**Before our Father's throne  
we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
our comforts and our cares.**

## Benediction

## Postlude

"Love's Philosophy"

Roger Quilter

### Keeping in Prayer

Dick Brace      Patti Dyszinsky      Annie Rice      Pat Andrews  
Our prayers and sympathy to the family of Connie Steiner and Toni Maviki  
on the passing of Connie's father, Elliston  
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 with Rev. Sara M. Holland, Facebook Live 9:30 AM

Monday - Search Committee 7:00 PM

Wednesday - Staff Meeting 9:15 AM

Midweek Devotional, Facebook Live 12:00 PM

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

Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> - NH Conference Annual Meeting, Virtually

### **Announcements**

**Rev. Sara M. Holland will preach**, virtually, from our sanctuary today, **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. Please have your vote in by Friday, **September 18<sup>th</sup>**. The votes will be counted on Saturday, **September 19<sup>th</sup>**, by 2 members of the Search Team witnessed by two members of Council. The results of the vote will be made on Sunday, **September 20<sup>th</sup>**, during Worship.

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 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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Rev. Sara M. Holland, Guest Pastor  
Wayne Martin and Eileen Torrey, Liturgists  
Emily Trubey, Vocalist

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