

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 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: In the prayers and the praise, in the words and the wonder:

All: we are given enough joy to live each day.

One: In the justice for the oppressed, in the unexpected generosity for the lost:

All: we are given enough compassion to use in service each day.

One: In the promises made to all, in the mercy offered to each:

All: we are given enough grace to share each day.

Hymn

"All Beautiful the March of Days"

Blk#434

Verse 1

**All beautiful the march of days, as seasons come and go:
the hand that shaped the rose has formed the crystal of the snow,
Has sent the silver frost of heaven, the flowing waters sealed,
And laid a silent loveliness on hill and wood and field.**

Verse 3

**O You from whose unfathomed law the year in beauty flows,
yourself the splendid vision seen in crystal and in rose,
The passing days with grace declare, and passing nights proclaim,
In everchanging words of light, the wonder of your name.**

Gathering Prayer

One: In the midst of days that seem to run together, our ability to discern God's voice and ways through all the world's noise grows difficult. Recognizing that God is still speaking and revealing a pathway through this wilderness time, we confidently join our hearts and voices in prayer, saying:

All: God of transition and change, throughout all history you have led your people on challenging journeys. You have called your people to discomfoting tasks. You have asked your people to

always keep our hearts and minds open to your Spirit and to keep asking questions. Inspire our thinking and deepen our understanding that we may be ready to follow you into the challenges of this time. These things we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: This is the good news: there is no ranking in God's kingdom. God graces everyone with the same gifts: mercy, restoration, new life.

All: God keeps loving us, renewing us, and shaping us into a compassionate, just community of faith. 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 Jonah 3:11-4:10 Matthew 20:1-16

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

"The More the Merrier!"

Hymn

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Blk#23

Verse 1

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There's no place where earthly sorrows**

**are more felt than in God's heaven;
there's no place where earthly failings
have such kindly judgement given.**

Verse 2

**For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word;
and our lives would show thanksgiving for the goodness of our God.**

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: With hope in our hearts, we offer our gifts to you, O God,
trusting that you will use them in the work of your kingdom
which welcomes all, loves all, needs all, and serves all. Amen.**

SENDING

Hymn

"In the Midst of New Dimensions"

Blk#391

Verse 1

**In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways.
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?**

Refrain

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever,
now and ever, now and ever more.**

Verse 4

**We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.** (Refrain)

Benediction

Postlude

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 1st.

*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 – Rally Sunday, Facebook Live 9:30 AM

Virtual Sunday School, 10:00 AM

Monday - Search Committee 7:00 PM

Tuesday – Staff Meeting 9:15 AM

Wednesday - Midweek Devotional, Facebook Live 12:00 PM

Saturday, October 17th - NH Conference Annual Meeting, Virtually

Announcements

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.

PACC - Plymouth Area Community Closet (PACC) is looking for furniture and household donations (no clothing) to benefit the Food Bank, Meals for Many and Financial Assistance. These items must be in good condition for re-sale. They can be dropped off at Boomerang, 5 Main Street, Plymouth (across from Rite Aid), Tuesday - Sunday. For more information you can call Boomerang at 536-6000.

Book Group - We have one Zoom meetings on our first book of the new season on Monday, **September 28th** at 10:00 AM. The book is "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson. Hope to see you! Cheers, Peggy

<p>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.</p>

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	pastor@uccplymouth.org
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