

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

World Communion Sunday

October 4, 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: As we gather this morning, we remember our sisters and brothers around the world:

All: From above and below the equator, from every time zone around the globe, Christ invites us all to join this Holy Feast.

One: As today's sunlight inches across land and sea, Christians gather to celebrate their place in God's family.

All: All are invited and all are welcome. Come, for the meal is ready!

Hymn

"Praise with Joy the World's Creator"

Blk273

Verse 1

**Praise with joy the worlds' Creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
Source and end of human knowledge,
grace bestowing without cease.**

Celebrate the Maker's glory, power to rescue and release.

Verse 2

**Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,
Frees the captive, finds the lost,
Heals the sick, upsets religion, fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.**

Gathering Prayer

One: "Wisdom is not just special knowledge about something. Wisdom is a way of being, a way of inhabiting the world. The beauty of wisdom is harmony, belonging and illumination of thought, action, heart and mind." - *John O'Donohue*

May Holy Wisdom call us into the mystery of God's covenanting love as we pray together, saying:

All: God of the universe, you call us to act in ways that enhance life for our communities, our world, our environment. Help us to never forget to honor the sacredness and grandeur of your creation. When our fears and selfishness prevent us from seeing others as your children, restore our sight by your grace. Let your Spirit sweep over us as on that first day of creation, calling forth life from the void. On this day of worldwide celebration, birth in us a spirit of love, compassion, and courage, that your reign might be on earth as in heaven. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Persistently, patiently, lovingly, God pours out grace and joy into our lives, healing our brokenness, forgiving our sin.

All: Loved, we are sent to love; forgiven, we are freed to forgive; graced, we can offer our gifts to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response

"Spirit of Love"

Blk#58

**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 Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Luke 10:25-28

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

"One Table...One World"

Hymn

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

Blk#347

Verse 1

**Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy.
Bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

Refrain

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

Verse 2

**Christ is able to make us one.
At his table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. (Refrain)**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory

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

Offertory Prayer

**All: May the simple gifts of loving care we offer each and every day
become fountains of blessing for others, bringing them hope,
healing, joy, and peace. Amen.**

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

One: As we are gathered remotely in many places, at many tables, and are sharing bread and cup in a virtual communion, may we remember that this sacred meal Jesus eagerly desired to eat with his followers is the ultimate symbol of unity.

All: Our tables are set and all of God's children are welcome. Our tables are open and all of God's children receive grace, love, and hope. This welcome, this bounty, this experience of Christ's saving love are celebrated here at this table and all around the world.

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: Spirit of the Living God, you have filled us with your life, embraced us with your love, and fed us with your grace. Now send us out into your beloved world to share your life, your love, your grace with all. 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

"O for a World"

Blk#575

**O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.**

**We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.**

Benediction

Postlude

*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 Patti Dyszinsky Annie Rice
Pat Andrews Eileen Greenwood
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 – Rev. Mike Carrier's last Sunday as our Bridge Pastor
World-Wide Communion Sunday
Virtual Sunday School, 10:00 AM
Wednesday, October 7th – Rev. Sara Holland begins her ministry with us.
Sunday Worship, October 11th – Rev. Sara Holland's first sermon with us
as our settled pastor and teacher
Zoom Coffee Hour at 10:45 AM to welcome
Rev. Sara Holland
Saturday, October 17th - NH Conference Annual Meeting, Virtually
Fall Church Clean-Up Morning at 9:00 AM

Announcements

Our intrepid Bridge Pastor, Michael Carrier, will be leaving us after our service today, **October 4th**, and there will be no Zoom coffee hour today. He has anchored us in so many ways, and it would be appropriate for all of us to send cards, notes of appreciation or however you want to thank him for all he has done. *Remember, that he is still a member of this church and will be with us in our Virtual Congregation, so this is not a good-bye.*

Thank You, Search Committee! With Pastor Sara arriving this week, we need to offer a big “Thank You” to our Search Committee for all their diligent work over this past year. Megan, Julie, Alison, Eileen and Wayne, the committee’s Chair, racked up the hours reviewing Profiles, interviewing on Zoom, and meeting in a safe, socially distanced way with a few candidates in order to bring the Rev. Sara Holland to us. We are so grateful to you, and to your families, for all you have done for PCUCC!

Rev. Sara M. Holland - Next Sunday, we welcome Rev. Sara M. Holland on her first Sunday in the pulpit as our settled pastor and teacher. There will be a Zoom Coffee Hour following the service at 10:45 a.m. to welcome Sara and her spouse Libby. Watch for the link in next week’s bulletin and newsletter.

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. Part of the offering will also go to communities to help with the Covid -19 pandemic.

As part of their World Communion Sunday observance, we are receiving the NIN offering today. If you are writing a check please make it out to PCUCC and mark NIN offering in the memo line. Mail it to Plymouth Congregational Church, P.O. Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264 or drop off at the church office.

Fall Church Clean-Up Morning - You are invited to come to the church on Saturday morning, **October 17th** at 9:00 AM to help get the outside of the church ready for winter. The Buildings and Grounds Committee has identified some projects including brush cutting, window and sill cleaning and general outside clean up. They invite individuals and families to come on down to help make our church more attractive and safe. A pickup truck or two would be great! Of course, mask-wearing and safe distancing protocols are in place.

NH Food Bank is having a Food Pantry give away in Plymouth on Thursday, **October 29th**, between 1:00 - 3:00 PM. They need volunteers to help direct traffic and load boxes of food into cars. If you want to help, please contact Ashley at the NH Food Bank at 669-9725. She will keep in contact with you about the location and when to be there. Thanks, Susan Wei

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 - Here is our intended order of Book Group readings so that you can purchase or otherwise obtain them in advance:

October: *Clementine: The Story of Mrs. Winston Churchill* by Sonia Purnell

November: *The Signature of All Things* by Elizabeth Gilbert

December: *My Own Words* by Ruth B. Ginsberg

January: *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate

February: *The Yellow House: A Memoir* by Sarah M. Broom

Our October zoom dates will be Wednesday, **October 14th** and Monday, **October 26th**. 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 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
Zi Liang, Accompanist

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