

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Laity Sunday

October 18, 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: Blessed is the One who names us beloved, just as we are.

All: Let us feel the Holy Spirit surround us this hour.

One: Blessed is God the Creator, the Father, the Mother of us all.

All: Let us feel God's presence throughout this day, rain or shine. We come as we are, let us become living messages of Your Love.

One: Blessed is this time for divine connection: let this hour propel us with hope and strength.

All: Let us feel sanctified each day this week, let us be carried with Wings of Peace. We are living messages and let us live as such.

Hymn

God is Here! As We Your People Meet

NCH #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 lifelong 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.

Verse 4

Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
In an age of change and doubt,
Keep us faithful to the Gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
All we have to give, receive;
We, who cannot live without you,
We adore you! We believe!

Gathering Prayer

One: God You have raised us once again, by the breath of our being. We return thanks this day for the opportunity to be in community: to sing, to listen, to pray, and to consider sacred texts as one unified people. During this hour, let us be reminded that Your Holy Spirit may show in our every move. May our hearts be warmed with a deep sense of Divine belonging, for we may be Your living messages.

All: O eternal wisdom, You watched over the shaping of our souls. We've made assertions as the Pharisees once did; in this hour we pray for humility. Let us be reminded of the call You have offered us, let us understand our belonging and feel it deeply. In this time, let us find comfort if we need it and let us be challenged if we are positioned for challenge. Open our hearts God and set us free in Your grace. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: All week we may have found ourselves thinking we were the ones who were right; maybe we didn't even realize that some part of us questioned God's path. Perhaps we have put the Divine to the test.

All: There is nothing: no doubt, no question that will keep God from loving us fully. We are liberated by the Love of God in Jesus. It is for this promise and Spirit that we sing!

Response

"Spirit of Love"

NCH (black) #58

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.

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Offertory Prayer

**All: We give You thanks, gracious God, for the gift of compassion
which empowers us to be the church of Christ. Holy One we
are grateful that we belong with each other and to You. We
pray that our gifts reflect of our gratitude and resonate
throughout the world. Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless these
gifts. We pray these offerings reach the farthest corners of
Your earth. Let these gifts 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. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

SENDING

Hymn

God, We Thank You For Our People

NCH #376

Verse 1

**Creator, we thank you for all you have made:
For trees by the sidewalk that give us cool shade,
For grass-covered ball fields, for flowers downtown,
For wide autumn leaves that turn crispy and brown.**

Verse 4

**O God, we give thanks for the places we go,
For cool mountain lakes and for trails in the snow,
For each city park and for each county fair,
For gifts of creation we see everywhere.**

Benediction

Postlude

Keeping in Prayer

Dick Brace Patti Dyszinsky Annie Rice
Pat Andrews Eileen Greenwood Frank Bartko
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 Sara to include in Sunday Worship,
please email her at plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org.*

This Week and More at PCUCC

Today – 9:30 AM Worship Service on Facebook Live
10:00 AM Virtual Sunday School
Tuesday – 9:15 AM Zoom Staff Meeting
Wednesday – 12:00 PM Facebook Live Devotion & Prayer

Announcements

Building and Grounds – The PCUCC Fall Clean-Up Day has been postponed to Saturday, October 24th.

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. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. 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.

There is still time to give to NIN. 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.

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 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 last October Zoom date will be 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 Sara will be at the church for office hours Monday 10:00-3:00,
Tuesday 9:00-3:00, Wednesday 9:00-3:00 and some Thursdays 9:00-11:00
though all church doors are locked. Small meetings may be possible in person
with masks. Please feel free to contact her by email at
plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org or on her cell phone at 336-485-5618
to set up a meeting.

The Rev. Sara M. Holland, 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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Donna Castor and Wayne Martin, Liturgist

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