

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Second Sunday after Pentecost
Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Sunday

June 3, 2018

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.

A compassionate community, intentionally inclusive, openly searching, joyfully serving in the way of Christ

Welcome to Worship!

We are grateful for your presence this morning. If you are new to Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, the following information may be helpful.

- We are an Open & Affirming congregation where all people are valued and accepted regardless of sexual identity or orientation.
- We are a Just Peace church that affirms that peace is possible in human history and prays ceaselessly that peace may prevail on Earth.
- We celebrate our Christian heritage and seek to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.

A Special Word to our Visitors

- Please fill out the fellowship pads the ushers will hand out at the beginning of the worship service. We would love to get to know you better and keep you up-to-date on all the programs, events and activities offered throughout the year.
- Families with infants and children are especially welcome to our worship service. Childcare is available during the worship service in the nursery. Please speak with an usher if you need assistance to find our nursery.
- Children's bulletins, activity bags (to be returned after worship) and toys are available in the Narthex. To find out more about our Sunday school program, you may talk to our Faith Formation Director Cindy Berkline or visit our website.
- Our worship service can be heard in the parlor, chapel and nursery.
- Our sanctuary is equipped with the Telecoil Loop System for the hard of hearing. For assistance on how to connect to the Telecoil, please speak to one of our ushers.
- Our building is fully accessible to all people. A small parking lot on the south side of the church is available only to persons with limited mobility or physical disability. The entrance to the parking lot is located immediately behind the Post Office, off Highland Street. An elevator connects all three levels.
- Join us for Coffee Hour in the fellowship hall downstairs immediately after the worship service.

Help us to protect the environment by dropping your bulletin in one of the recycling baskets at the two main entrances to the sanctuary. You may also download your bulletin from our website and follow the service on your own mobile device.

Large print bulletins are also available.

Transcripts of our Sunday Sermons and videos of the worship services are available on our website, www.uccplymouth.org.

Our worship service is live-streamed on our Facebook page every Sunday.

GATHERING

Prelude

Special Music

Anna Boyer

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

Welcome & Life of the Church

Centering Music

Slavonic Dance No. 1 by Dvorak

Natalie Boyer,

Rohan McGrauth and Elijah Pratt

*Call to Worship

**Indicates congregation standing*

One: This is a special moment! If you are glad to be here, clap your hands twice.

All: (hand-clapping)

One: God welcomes all people! If you feel welcome this morning, say out loud:
"it's good to be here!"

All: It's good to be here!

One: We are here to make a joyful noise! If you are ready to praise God, shout
out loud: "Praise the Lord!"

All: Praise the Lord.

*Hymn

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Blk#506

Prayer of the Day

One: It's time to pray. May each word we say together bring us closer to God's
holy Presence. Let's pray, saying:

**All: God of little children and energetic youth, inspire us to come
together as a faith community where no one is left out or
excluded. Because of Christ's super cool love, walls of age can be
brought down and inter-generational bridges are built. God, help
us to use our creative energy this morning to embrace the visions
of young people and to honor the wisdom of the older folk. In the
name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: This is what is rad about the Church! Here, there is a place for friends and
strangers, men and women, young and older.

All: Christ awakens our love for one another! Thanks be to God!

Prayer Response

"O God, You Are My God"

O God, you are my God, and I will ev-er praise
 you. O God, you are my God, and I will ev-er praise
 you. I will seek you in the morn - ing, and I will
 learn to walk in your ways. And step by step you'll lead
 me, and I will fol - low you all of my days.

Though this refrain from a longer song is not a paraphrase of any particular psalm, the language in the first six lines has definite scriptural overtones (such as Psalms 31:14, 5:3; Deuteronomy 26:17). The final two lines sound more spontaneous and lead to a confident conclusion.

TEXT and MUSIC: David Strasser (Beaker), 1991

Text and Music © 1991 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing/Kid Brothers of St. Frank Publishing

STEP BY STEP

Irregular

*Sign of Peace

One: Let's show the world that human beings can live as friends.

All: Let's do everything we can to be channels of peace in our families, in our schools, in our workplace, in our church and in the world.

One: Please stand and greet one another with the sign of peace.

HEARING THE WORD

Responsive Reading

Based on Psalm 100

- 1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 **Serve the Living God with joy.
Come before God with singing.**
- 3 Know that the Lord is God. God made us,
and we all belong to God.
We are God's people,
the community God loves.
- 4 **Come into God's gathering with songs of thanksgiving.
Come into God's Church with songs of praise.
Give thanks to God,
and praise God's holy name.**
- 5 The Living God is good. God's love never ends.
Make a joyful noise before God
and give thanks for God's kindness
with voice, hands, hearts, minds and spirit.

*Hymn

"We Are the Church"

Refrain sung by children, youth and congregation

"I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All God's children, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!"

The church is not a building,
the church is not a steeple,
the church is not a resting place,
the church is a people.

Refrain

We're many kinds of people,
with many kinds of faces,
all colors and all ages, too,
from all times and places.

Refrain

Sometimes the church is marching,
sometimes it's bravely burning,
sometimes it's riding, sometimes
hiding, always it's learning.

Refrain

And when the people gather, there's
singing and there's praying, there's
laughing and there's crying
sometimes, all of it saying:

Refrain

Reflections

"Through a Child's Eyes"

Acknowledgement of Accomplishment

Rohan McGrauth

Sharing of Gratitude and Thanks for Adult Volunteers

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory

Gift of Music

***Doxology** Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

All: Thank you, God, for giving us enough that we can share with others. Bless these gifts and offerings we bring before you. We pray that these simple gifts may help us to share hope and faith with children and young adults in our town. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

One: Come, let us gather around the welcoming table.

All: This is not the table of the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ. This is Christ's table! All people are welcome to enjoy the gifts of bread and cup.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The God that welcomes little children and young adults be with you.

All: The Spirit of the Living God is among us.

One: Children of God, lift up your hearts.

All: We open our hearts to God and one another.

One: Let us give thanks to God, our hope and refuge.

All: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Children: Why do we give thanks and praise at this table?

All: We give thanks for God's beautiful creation and praise God for God's love for all people.

One: God, every day is a gift from you. We are so grateful for green leaves on the trees and birds making their nests in tree branches. We love to watch fluffy clouds in the sky and kids playing by the lake. We are blessed because we have moms who hold us when we are scared and dads who throw us high into the air and never fail to catch us. You created a beautiful world, God. But we have not been very good at keeping the world beautiful. Sometimes, people hurt each other. Sometimes, we get mad and forget how much fun it is to use our energy to make life more beautiful. That's why you sent Jesus, isn't it, God? You sent Jesus to show us how to be better friends, kinder people, and braver human beings. So today, we gather around the table to remember Jesus, God's Child, our Friend, our Brother, and our Savior. God, hear our joyful voices as we sing together:

Sanctus

"You Are Holy"

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has two staves, and the second system also has two staves. The lyrics are written below the staves. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are in English and Spanish. The English lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! My heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly, Lord! Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res, Se - ñor!" The Spanish lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! My heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly, Lord! Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res, Se - ñor!"

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you!
San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra!

My heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly, Lord!
Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res, Se - ñor!

One: Loving God, we thank you for sending Jesus Christ to save us from everything we do to hurt, wound, and destroy. Jesus suffered on the cross to show us a new way to live. Trusting in Christ's love for us, we bring to you our individual prayers:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(You are invited to say your prayer aloud or in the silence of your heart)

One: Today we remember that Christ is with us and that the Risen Lord will never abandon those who call upon his name. Together, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Children: Why do we eat the bread on this table?

All: On the night before Jesus died, Jesus sat at the table with his friends. Then Jesus took the bread and after giving thanks, he broke it. He gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This bread is like my own body that is broken for you. Eat this bread to remember me."

Children: Why do we drink from the cup on this table?

All: On the same night, Jesus took the cup and said, "This cup is the cup of the new covenant sealed in my blood, which is shed to remind all my friends of my love and faith. Drink from it all of you; Do this to remember me."

Children: What do we remember at this table?

All: When we eat the bread, we remember that Christ shared his life and faith with all people and we too will share our life and faith with one another. When we drink the sweet juice in the cup, we remember Jesus' sweet love for us and we promise to tell others about how much God loves them too.

Children: Thank you, Jesus, for loving us so much; thank you, Holy Spirit, for bringing us together; thank you, God, for always being with us. Amen!

Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Cup

Sharing of the Bread & the Cup

Prayer of Gratitude after Communion

All: God, we join our voices to the multitude of languages that today give thanks for this meal of hope and friendship. Keep our faith alive so we may take the joy of this sacred moment to everyone we meet. Amen.

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.**

SENDING

*Hymn

"We Are One in the Spirit"



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our

love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

TEXT and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes, 1966

Text and Music © 1966 F.E.L. Publications, assigned 1991 to The Lorenz Corp.

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

7.6.7.6.8.6 with refrain

*Benediction

Postlude

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

Keeping in Prayer

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Jack & Vicky Meyers | Eilene Greenwood | The Jaeubowski Family | Lynn Anderson |
| Nancy Pirnie | Ginny Arsenault | Pat Andrews | Bethany Penny Colgan-Davis |
| Sara Willingham | Ana Cristina Franca | Kyle Greenwood | Matthew Sanchez |
| | Christine Waite | Family of Eric Chapman | |

Bob Feeny & Sam Lovett, members-in-discernment in the Merrimack Association

If you have any prayer requests, please fill out a prayer card located in the pew rack and drop it in the offering plate.

Save these dates

June 10 – Music Sunday at 9:30 AM

June 27 – Council Meeting at 7:00 PM

Announcements

Sunday Niters – Bob and Carole Curry are hosting at 234 Carter Mt. Rd. (off Old Bristol Rd, New Hampton). "Stone Steps & Stories." Do you have a special stone you picked up somewhere? Bring it to share its story.

Clean-up Day is June 9th between 9:00 AM to whenever. Every pair of hands and just one hour will help. Please share in this annual event. If you would like to help at a different time, please call Carole at 744-9798 or 686-6071.

Hospitality - Be sure to come downstairs to Coffee Hour with other Church members and friends following the service. You will find good conversation and an assortment of hot or cold drinks and tasty snacks. There are opportunities for folks to share in bringing snacks or helping in the Kitchen with preparations and clean up. You can sign up in advance by filling out a dated tag on the Will U Tree poster, or simply show up with a platter of cookies, veggies/dip or crackers/cheese. To help in the Kitchen, please sign up on the calendar by the Will U Tree poster for Sundays in June and selected Sundays in July. Please help us if you can. Thanks to everyone.

A Note from our Choral Scholar Micah Delventhal Saffian:

"Dear Paulo,

I am writing to thank you for granting me the Choral Scholar scholarship. I have not been with the Plymouth Congregational Church very long, but I feel that I have found a home here. I look forward to the sermons on Sundays and seeing everyone who has come to be a second family to me. Choir has been an extension of that. I love to sing and this group has made being part of the church so easy. You have a very welcoming church.

Thank you again for awarding me this scholarship, it will go towards helping me to become a teacher in the future,

Sincerely,

Micah"

Horton Center New Things Camp - *July 15-21, 2018, for Campers Entering Grades 4-6*

Trying something new can be fun, especially if it happens in a safe and caring environment. Overnight camp can be a new thing for you, and so can all of the many activities at Horton Center: rock climbing, caving, arts, nature study, and sleeping out under the stars! Come join Deans Rev. Rob Grabill and LeeAnne Steenhoek and try something new!

The Reverend Paulo G. França, Minister
Deborah Healey, Church Office Administrator
Cindy Bjerklie, Director of Faith Formation
David Williams, Interim Director of Music
Ashley Paine, Interim Accompanist
Larry Spencer, Church Treasurer
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling

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PCUCC Youth and Children, liturgists

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THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION AT PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (UCC)

"Do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19c (NRSV)

The United Church of Christ (UCC) recognizes two sacraments, which we believe were instituted by Jesus Christ: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Almost all other Christian traditions also celebrate these two sacraments.

The Lord's Supper, also known as "The Eucharist," "Last Supper," and "Holy Communion" is a sign of God's love and grace manifested in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In eating the bread and drinking from the cup, Christians are united with the Living Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. The sacrament of Holy Communion is a reminder of what Jesus did in the past, a symbol of our present relationship with him and a promise of what he will do in the future. And so, during the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving we often proclaim the mystery of our faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

During his earthly ministry, Christ shared meals with his followers and sat at dinner tables of sinners and outcasts to show the world the reality of God's unconditional love. On the night before he was crucified, Jesus broke bread and shared the cup with his disciples. He spoke of these elements as his body and blood given for humanity. Just as humans need food and drink for nurture and sustenance, the Holy Meal that Christians share at Communion is spiritual nourishment for those who believe. Those who partake of the bread and the fruit of the vine are renewed and empowered to be the Body of Christ in today's world.

Holy Communion is more than just a memorial celebration. We believe that the elements maintain their substance during communion, but we affirm that the Living Christ is present with us in the breaking of bread and sharing of the cup. In the act of receiving communion, we are united with the Living Christ and with one another.

The invitation to the Table is not just for members of this church; all people of faith, including children, are welcome to participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion. It does not matter if you have much faith or if your trust in God is wavering; if you are a strong believer or if you have doubts, you are welcome to experience God's grace, love and extravagant welcome at the Table.

At Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC), we celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. The elements are either served in the traditional manner with the congregation seated or offered by intinction. When intinction is used, you are invited to come forward, take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup and immediately partake of the elements. Please, use the center aisle to come to the Communion Table and return to your seats by way of the side aisles.

May the peace and grace of Christ be with you.