

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Seventh Sunday of Easter



12 May 2024

9:30 am

We Practice Just Peace: doing justice, seeking peace  
We are Open and Affirming: welcoming LGBTQ+ people

☞ We Listen for the Still Speaking God

We are striving to be an Anti-Racism church

Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

*Please inquire with people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.*



**Unison Prayer of Confession** *followed by a moment for personal confession.*

**Gracious God, you long for us to listen to your word and do your will, but too often we think we know better. You offer us gifts that would help our lives flourish, but we remain addicted to ways that hurt ourselves, our neighbors, and our Earth. We come to you now with contrite hearts and pray that you will reignite them with your abundant love.**

### **Words of Assurance**

One: Hear the Good News! Jesus came to reveal the hollowness of our false idols, to liberate us from sin, to break the chains that we have constructed around ourselves.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Sung Response** Spirit of the Living God NCH(black) #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.**

### **Word for All Ages**

**Sung Response** Go, My Children, with My Blessing NCH (black) #82

**Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone; Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own; In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever, Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.**

## **HEARING THE WORD**

**Scripture Readings** Psalm 1 from Psalms for Praying by Nan C. Merrill  
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

One: May God bless to our understanding these words of Holy Scripture.

**All: Amen**

**Message** "Strange New Ways" Alison Thatcher

**\*Hymn** I Look to You in Every Need NCH(black) #463

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**Offertory**                      Rejoice in the Lord Always                      Christopher Wiggins

*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:  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Unison Offertory Prayer**

**O God, you have given us so much. While we are grateful, we know that our sincere but imperfect efforts alone cannot create the perfect peace that we strive to realize. Take these gifts and multiply them in your mysterious way that they may make your kin-dom come here on Earth. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

**Pastor: O God, in your grace and mercy . . .**

**Response: Hear your people at prayer.**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Prayer of Our Savior**

**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.

\*\*We believe that God is revealed in persons of all genders and sorts; we also honor tradition.

## SENDING

**\*Hymn**                      O How Glorious, Full of Wonder                      NCH(black) #558

**\*Pastoral Benediction**

**Choral Benediction**                      The Lord Is My Hope                      Aaron David Miller

## Postlude

America the Beautiful (Materna)

Calvin Hampton

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

Feel free to let the music lead you out, or stay to listen, however the Spirit moves you.

Please join us downstairs after worship for coffee, food, and fellowship.

### **Keeping in Prayer:**

Prayers for the people of Portage, MI who suffer loss of homes and businesses when two tornados swept through the town

Prayers Linda and Jim LaPrad following the death of Jim's sister

Prayers for Dale Mosher whose mother passed away

Prayers for Campbell and Eileen Lovett's friend Nancy, following the sudden death of her husband Joe

Prayers for Georgene Fabian who is recovering at Genesis Rehab Center. She would appreciate visits and cards sent to 175 Blueberry Ln, Laconia, NH 03246

Prayers for Ken Morris, very good friend of Butch & Donna Castor, who has metastatic cancer

Prayers for the Rev. Judy Downing, friend of Eileen Torrey, who is critically ill with an aortic aneurysm

Prayers for Ruth Mosher as she undergoes outpatient dialysis.

Prayers for Rebecca Herr, as she undergoes chemotherapy

Prayers for Eleanor Spencer's brother, Ron Ury

Prayers for Kristin, friend of Alice O'Connor, who has recently been diagnosed with cancer

Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family, granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie

Prayers for the people of Palestine and Israel

Prayers for the people of Ukraine

Prayers for our partner church in Zimbabwe, Masvingo UCCZ

*If you have a prayer request, please write on the yellow card in the pews and place it in the offering tray, or send an email to [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)*

### **This Week and More at PCUCC**

Monday, May 13	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Tuesday, May 14	7:00 pm Concert: Claire McCahan
Tuesday, May 14	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, May 15	11:00 am Lectio Divina
Thursday, May 16	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, May 17	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Sunday, May 19	Following Worship: Board Game Coffee Hour!
Monday, May 20	10:00 am Book Group
Saturday, June 1	Plant Sale
Sunday, June 16	Following Worship: Annual Meeting

## CHURCH LIFE

### Preaching Schedule:

May 19: Rev. Campbell Lovett  
May 26: Rev. Ruth Martz  
June 2: Rev. Rebecca Larson  
June 9: Rev. Ruth Martz

June 16: Rev. Ruth Martz  
June 23: Rev. Sam Lovett  
June 30: Rev. Campbell Lovett

**Concert: Claire McCahan, May 14:** An evening of art song with Claire McCahan and Allan DiBiase. Tuesday May 14, 2024 at 7:00 pm sponsored by the Joan Campbell Lovett music fund. Also featuring Molly McCahan. Free, donations taken at the door.

**Board Game Coffee Hour, May 19:** Faith Formation is hosting a coffee hour and board game event during coffee hour on Sunday May 19. During the next few weeks, please sign up to bring a board game for May 19th. We hope this will be a fun-filled intergenerational event. Please join us!

**Spring Plant Sale June 1:** Calling all green thumbs! We're looking for donations of a variety of indoor and outdoor plants AND veggies plus pots to use for the sale. **Please drop off plants on the afternoon of May 31.** Contact Jenny Thibeault at thibeaultjennyr@gmail.com or 603-254-7824 if you have any questions.

**Annual Meeting, June 16:** The Annual Meeting of our congregation will be on June 16th right after church in the sanctuary. **All committee chairs need to send their annual report via email to the church office by Friday, May 24th** giving Alison time to produce the Annual Report a few weeks before the meeting. Thank you!

**Attention church members and friends.** Nominating Committee is looking for interested individuals to join our church committee teams. If you have a passion and willingness to share your time and talents to contribute to the life of our church, please consider joining one of the wonderful groups of dedicated committee members. Please reach out to Megan Magrauth after church or by emailing [meganmagrauth@gmail.com](mailto:meganmagrauth@gmail.com).

**Learn More About Music Committee:** The music committee helps plan and host special music events throughout the year and encourages members and friends to join the choir. We oversee and recommend the music budget for the year. If you are interested in serving on the Music Committee, please see Jan Bass or Lisa Lovett.

**Interested in becoming a member of PCUCC?** We will be receiving new members soon. If you would like to become a member of PCUCC or know of someone who would like to become a member, please contact Ruth Martz or Eileen Torrey.

**Lectio Divina:** All are invited to gather Wednesday mornings from 11 a.m. to noon for a Bible study modeled on Lectio Divina, the sacred reading of scripture. Please join us. Rebecca Larson will lead us.

**Book Group** is reading [Becoming Kin: An Indigenous Call to Unforgetting the Past and Reimagining Our Future](#) by Patty Krawec. Join the discussion on May 6 and 20 at 10am in the parlor. Contact Kathy Henning for more information: [henkat52@gmail.com](mailto:henkat52@gmail.com).

**Knitting Group** meets every second and fourth Monday of the month at 1:00 pm. Join us with your fiber art of choice, trouble-shooting questions, or just for fellowship!

**Smores Time! Sign up for an UCC Outdoor Ministries Camp!** Kids & Adults are Welcome! Horton Center is currently accepting registrations for sessions this summer. Come enjoy a transformative week on top of Pine Mountain celebrating the beauty of God's natural wonders and be a part of this incredibly supportive and positive community. Catalogs are available and can also be found online at [www.hortoncenter.org](http://www.hortoncenter.org). Conference scholarships are available. Counselors are also needed- enjoy great food and fun and a week of camp for free! Contact Tivvi Pare at [tpare@nhcucc.org](mailto:tpare@nhcucc.org) or Megan Magrauth at [meganmagrauth@gmail.com](mailto:meganmagrauth@gmail.com) with any questions. Hope to see you on the mountain this summer!

### FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

**Soft Plastics Collection April and May:** All soft plastic MUST be cleaned of food, dried, and stick-on labels cut out. Soft plastics include items such as: plastic bags, frozen food bags, plastic wrappings, bubble wrap, mulch/dirt bags, plastic nut bags, etc. Please place items in the large box in the Narthex and the bag in Fellowship Hall, where there are also samples. All soft plastic will be brought to the UU Church in Laconia, where it is trucked to Maine and repurposed into composite Trex decks and furniture. Thank you! Please pick up excellent resources for limiting your use of PLASTIC: "Real Faith in a Synthetic World: Plastic Jesus."

### FROM FINANCE

#### **2024-25 Stewardship Campaign Imagine Together**

Our current fiscal year is coming to a close. This is when we look back at all we've accomplished and a time to imagine what we can do together to keep the flexibility, creativity, and faithfulness alive and thriving. The budget, of course, is the biggest driver that determines our mission and ministry focus for 2024-25, and it is our annual pledges that makes it possible to turn what we imagine into reality. Although the church has several sources of income, pledges are the most important factor in influencing the mission and ministry focus. Unfortunately, many members have moved or passed away over the past several years resulting in an overall reduction in pledge income. Council and Finance are working together to minimize the impact of the upcoming shortfall/negative balance in next year's budget, and it is our hope that you will prayerfully consider increasing your pledge. You will shortly receive the stewardship package that was mailed this past week, and Stewardship Sunday is May 19<sup>th</sup>. Please return your pledge card by May 17<sup>th</sup> to PCUCC Finance by US mail to PO Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264, email to [treasurer@uccplymouth.org](mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org) or place your pledge card in the collection plate.

**Support PCUCC with no cost to you!** Purchase a **Hannaford Gift Card** in the amount of \$100, \$250, or \$500 by contacting Linda LaPrad or Ann Thurston. For every card purchased from the Finance Committee, the church receives 5% with no additional cost to you.

### Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday 9:00-2:00

If you have a family emergency and want to talk with a pastor, please call Rev. Ruth Martz at 603-630-7936 or you may call Eileen Torrey at 603-252-7513.

Alison Thatcher, Office Administrator	office@uccplymouth.org
David A. Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Preaching: Alison Thatcher  
Accompanist: Margot W. Swift

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### Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in May in our Community

If you have a birthday or anniversary this month or next, please email to: office@uccplymouth.org

Jim Preston	May 2	Robbin Adams	May 20
Alison Thatcher	May 8	Tessa Nicole Kelsey	May 22
Troy Tedeschi	May 9	Jenny Thibeault	May 23
Eric Kelsey	May 12	Kathy Henning	May 24

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Scan to give to the Strengthen the Church Special Offering

