

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Ordinary Time
World Wide Communion Sunday



October 1, 2023

9:30 am

We Practice Just Peace: doing justice, seeking peace
We are Open and Affirming: welcoming LGBTQ+ people
We are an Anti-Racism Church

🎵 We Listen for the Still Speaking God

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

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

GATHERING

Prelude

Summer Evening

J.E. Skornicki

Welcome & Announcements

Please sign the red friendship pad as it is passed to you and return it to the center aisle noting your neighbor in the pew. You may leave your email if you would like to receive our weekly newsletter.

If you want to know more, email the office at office@uccplymouth.org.

On Communion Sunday the children begin downstairs in Sunday School and come up for Communion.

Sunday School for all ages begins after the Message for All Ages on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays.

Children are welcome to fill a bag with books and toys, which are in the narthex, to use during worship.

Introit

My Sheep Hear My Voice and Follow Me

Carl F. Schalk

*Those who are able may stand.

*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Steve Majeski

One: To you, O God, we lift up our hearts; in you we trust.

ALL: Make us to know your ways; teach us your paths.

One: Lead us in your truth, for you bring us healing and wholeness.

ALL: Through your Spirit, we seek to spread hope, faith, and love.

One: We gather together to praise your goodness;
you teach us humility and what is right.

ALL: We hear your call to steadfast love and faithfulness.

Thanks be to you, O God!

*Hymn

God Is Here! As We Your People Meet

NCH (black) #70

Passing of the Peace

If you are at home, we invite you to send someone a note of peace today.

One: God be with you

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Unison Gathering Prayer

Gracious God, we are delighted to gather together to pray, sing, proclaim, and commune with Christians both near and far. On this World Wide Communion Sunday, we pray for “a world where everyone respects each other’s ways, where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise; where goods are shared and misery relieved, truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved. Amen.

Moments for Confession and Silence for Personal Reflection

God’s Promise of New Life

One: Gracious God, through your forgiving love, we are given a new start whenever we turn to you.

ALL: Guide us to be honest with ourselves and with one another.

One: Help us to discern how to live each day
with the same mind and the same love revealed in Jesus Christ.

**ALL: May we always seek to speak with sincerity and act with humility.
Thanks be to you, O God. Amen.**

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.

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings Psalm 25:1-9 (*Echo Scripture reading*)
Philippians 2:1-13

One: The Word of God for the people of God. May we feel the stirring of the Spirit within us and between us.

ALL: Amen.

Message “The Blessing Cup: Of the Same Love” Rev. Ruth Martz

*Hymn Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether NCH (black) #337

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer and Words of Institution

Sharing Communion (by Intinction)

The Usher/s will guide participants forward, pew by pew, to share in Communion. Each person will be offered a piece of bread to dip in the cup as the officiant & assistant say words of blessing, such as: "The bread of life and the cup of blessing." After you partake in the Communion meal, you are invited to return to your seat.*

****This morning, you are invited to choose either the gluten/nut free bread or one of the multi-cultural breads (not gluten/nut free). The grape juice is non-alcoholic.***

Communion Music

*Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

**God, you are indescribably generous—all good things come from you!
Thank you for the communion you offer us at this table;
May we pass it on through our daily words and actions.
We are bread when we give of ourselves; one loaf, shared.
Teach us your ways, so that we too may take, bless, break, and share.
Amen.**

Offertory Anthem Let the People Praise Thee, O God Healey Willan

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.**

****Let the people say: Thanks be to you, O God! Amen.***

Prayers of the People

You are invited to offer your personal prayers from the silence of your heart.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer *(debts/debtors)*

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** Sent Forth by God's Blessing NCH (black) #76

***Pastoral Benediction**

***Choral Benediction** Open Our Eyes and Ears John Helgen

Postlude Eventide: Serenade J.S. Cox

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 refreshments and fellowship!
Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by the Mission & Social Outreach Committee.

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers and condolences for the family and friends of Jeff Foster, cousin of Diane Arsenault,
who recently passed away

Prayers and condolences for the family and friends of William Broadrick,
who recently passed away

Prayers for those affected by the devastating floods in Libya

Prayers for all those affected by the earthquake in Morocco

Prayers and condolences for the friends and family of Judy Detzel, who recently passed away
 Prayers for Alice Carey, friend of Alice O'Connor, who is undergoing chemotherapy and for
 Alice Carey's mother who has Covid
 Prayers for Paulette Brace's son, Shawn Cassington, for ongoing medical issues
 Prayers for Claire Campbell, daughter of Diane Arsenault & Peter Pirnie,
 as she makes her way through the tumult of divorce
 Prayers for Marissa and Seth, family members of Diane Arsenault & Peter Pirnie,
 who have been chosen to adopt a baby
 Prayers for Paul Santonelli
 Prayers for Tony Amodeo, friend of the LaPrads, who is undergoing cancer treatments
 Prayers for the family of Timothy Ward and for Timothy's spirit
 Prayers for Sherry Weymouth Morison, who is recuperating from cancer surgery
 Prayers of comfort and strength for Ruth & Dale Mosher
 Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family, granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie
 Prayers for Ellen who struggles with cancer, family member of Ruth & Dale Mosher
 Prayers of healing for Sue Switaj
 Prayers for Alice Avery
 Prayers for our partner church in Zimbabwe, Mosvingo 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.*

This Week and More at PCUCC

Tuesday, October 3	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, October 4	11:00 am Lectio Divina
Thursday, October 5	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, October 6	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Monday, October 9	10:00 am Book Group
Thursday, October 13	1:00 pm Knitting group

CHURCH LIFE

Remembrance Sunday: On October 29 we will be holding vigil and praying for our friends and family members who have passed since last October. If you have a loved one that you would like to honor, please email the church office by October 24.

Book Group will meet on Monday, October 9 to discuss Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult. Contact Peggy Martin for more information: pmartin03223@yahoo.com.

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. We'll begin with the Gospel of Mark, the first gospel written, and read through it listening for God's Still Speaking voice. Please join us. Rebecca Larson will lead us.

Sunday School focuses on Bible lessons, outreach projects, and family activities. The children will learn how to use the gifts God gave them to positively impact their community. Volunteers are always welcome! Please contact Jennifer for more details at faithformation@uccplymouth.org.

FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

VEGETABLES TO SHARE! The Mission and Outreach Committee invites you to bring any garden vegetables that you would like to share with people within and beyond our church. Please put the veggies in the crate on the front steps of the church. The produce will remain outside The Little Food Pantry until Monday morning, when anything left will be taken to a local senior center. Thank you!

Our HOPE Fund and Little Food Pantry are always in need of your support!

The HOPE Fund supports families at risk who need assistance paying for rent, electricity, and medications. Send your check to PCUCC and write HOPE Fund in the memo.

Our Little Food Pantry in front of the church is always in great need of being filled. You can put items right in the pantry or bring them to the church office.

FROM FINANCE

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.

We will offer the option of meeting digitally indefinitely. You may also catch our services (one week delayed) on Sunday nights on PBTv at 7:00 pm. (Local channel 1302.) Please check Constant Contact and the Facebook page for ongoing updates.

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
Ashley Rose, Organist, Pianist	organist@uccplymouth.org
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Guest Preacher: Rev. Ruth Martz

Guest Musicians: Peggy Martin and Ashley Rose

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264

(603) 536-2626 - office@uccplymouth.org - www.uccplymouth.org

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in October in our Community

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

Paulette Brace	October 2	Larry Spencer	October 15
Sarah Simpson	October 3	Donna Castor	October 17
Bob Curry	October 8	Steve Rand	October 17
Susan Wei	October 8	Dawn Shimberg	October 17
Dawn Marie Jackson	October 14	Alice O'Connor	October 20
John Fallon	October 15	Carol Stewart	October 28

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