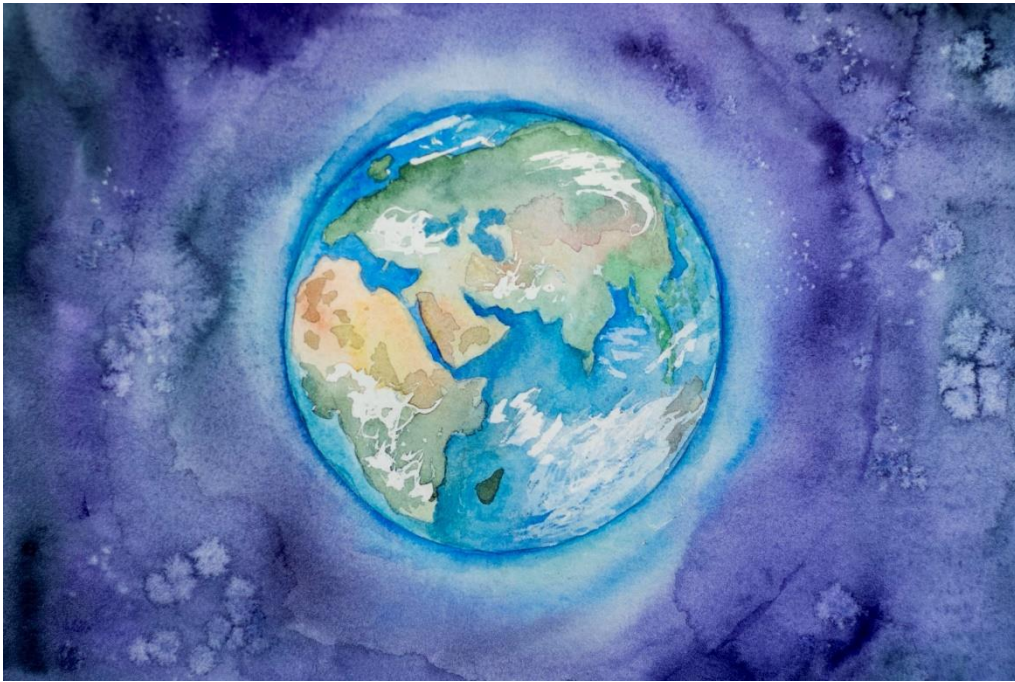


Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Fourth Sunday in Lent



March 10, 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.

GATHERING

Prelude

Deep River

Spiritual, arr. McDonald

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.

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

I Trust, O Christ, in You Alone

Mark Bender

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist – Bev Newton

One: The Spirit gathers us from east and west, from north and south.

All: We have wandered through shadowed valleys and sunless depths.

One: God's light of love shines faithfully, longing to reconcile us with creation.

All: We turn to easy answers, quick results, convenient scapegoats; and then wonder why we are left in the dark.

One: But we are here this morning. The Spirit's flame may flicker within our hearts, but God will never let it go out.

All: We call on the strength and wisdom of Jesus, who shows us a way toward creation-wide redemption.

***Hymn**

O God, How We Have Wandered

NCH(black) #202

***Passing of the Peace**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Unison Gathering Prayer

Loving God, we gather in the waning of winter, thirsting for the light and warmth of your coming son. Calm our hearts. Clear our eyes. Help us trust that even the rain, and ice, and mud have a purpose in your mysterious, restorative plan. For you are creating the world. And you call it good.

Amen.

Prayer of Reconciliation, with moments for personal confession

God's Promise of New Life

One: Trust in the Good News! Our gravest mistakes cannot wear out the love that God shines on this world.

All: Jesus shows us a way, reveals the truth, and is a divine prism, making infinite rainbows out of God's light.

Sung Response What Wondrous Love Is This NCH (black) #223

What wondrous love is this, O my soul! O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

**What wondrous love is this! That Christ should come in bliss
to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the heavy cross for my soul!**

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 Numbers 21:4-9 John 3:14-21 Romans 8:19-23

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

All: Amen

Message "Reconcile, Redeem, Restore" Alison Thatcher

***Hymn** As Moses Raised the Serpent Up NCH(black) #605

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory Awake, Good People French Carol arr. Marie Pooler

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**

God, we are in awe of your creation, and grateful to be a part of it. In offering these gifts, may we be agents of change, restoring the world in your image. By Jesus's example we pray. 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 (debts)

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** This Is My Father's World PH (red) #485

***Pastoral Benediction**

Choral Benediction God So Loved the World Mark Bender

Postlude Ride On, King Jesus Spiritual, arr. Shackley

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 boardgames!
This special coffee hour is organized by our Sunday School team.

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for Ruth Mosher as she undergoes dialysis at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon. Ruth would appreciate visits and phone calls! She is in room #243 and can be reached by phone at 603-315-3368.

Prayers for Bill Heron as he recovers from illness

Prayers for Rebecca Herr, as she undergoes chemotherapy

Prayers for Edie Doherty

Prayers for Georgene Fabian as she recovers from a fall

Prayers for the people of Ukraine

Prayers for Eleanor Spencer's brother, Ron Ury

Prayers for Alice Carey, friend of Alice O'Connor, who will be undergoing radiation therapy

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

Prayers for Paulette Brace's son, Shawn Cassington, for ongoing medical issues

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 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

This Week and More at PCUCC

Today, March 10	Coffee Hour Board Games! Following worship
Monday, March 11	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Tuesday, March 12	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, March 13	11:00 am Lectio Divina (Lenten Book Study)
Thursday, March 14	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, March 15	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Monday, March 18	10:00 am Book Group
Thursday, March 28	7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service
Sunday, April 7	Speaker: Rev. Gordon Rankin, following worship
Sunday, April 14	4:00 pm Concert: Baker Valley Band

CHURCH LIFE

Preaching Schedule:

March 10	Alison Thatcher	March 28 (Maundy Thursday)	Rev. Ruth Martz
March 17	Rev. Ruth Martz	March 31 (Easter)	Rev. Ruth Martz
March 24	Rev. Rebecca Larson	April 7	Rev. Gordon Rankin (NHCUCC Minister)

Coffee Hour and Board Games, Today! Faith Formation is hosting a coffee hour and board game event during coffee hour on Sunday March 10th. During the next few weeks, please sign up to bring a board game for March 10th. We hope this will be a fun-filled intergenerational event. Please join us!

Lenten Book Study Wednesdays at 11am: The Wednesday Morning Bible study group will be reading “The Last Week: What the gospels Really Teach About Jesus’s Final Days in Jerusalem” by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. We’ll read a chapter a week during Lent beginning Feb. 14th. All are welcome to join in, or you might consider reading this book as your own Lenten devotional.

Book Group is reading The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel by Kati Marton. Join the discussion on March 18 at 10am in the parlor. Contact Kathy Henning for more information: henkat52@gmail.com.

Join us on April 7th when the Rev. Gordon Rankin, our NH Conference Minister, will be with us to lead the service and facilitate a congregational discussion about its role in selecting an interim pastor to move us forward to finding a settled pastor.

Get your solar eclipse glasses: The total solar eclipse will be visible from NH on Monday, April 8. See Sally Jensen to get a pair of solar eclipse glasses.

Spring Plant Sale Upcoming in May: 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. More information coming soon! Please reach out to Jenny Thibeault at ThibeaultJennyR@gmail.com or 603-254-7824 if you have any questions.

UCC New Hampshire Women! Please save the date of Sat. April 20, when our church will serve as host for the NHCUCC Women’s Fellowship Spring Meeting. Ruth Martz will lead Opening Worship, Becky Field will be the morning speaker about NH Immigrants, our Kitchen Team will generously provide abundant food (breakfast/lunch)—and the afternoon program is still in the works. Stay tuned for more details and registration. If anyone is willing to serve as greeter at 9:30 a.m., read Scripture and/or help with Communion, please contact Ruth.

FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

Habitat Lunch Update: PLEASE SIGN UP on the sheet in Fellowship Hall to bring a hot lunch to the 6-10 workers at the Habitat for Humanity House at 61 Pleasant St. in Plymouth. These workers, along with Dale Mosher, REALLY appreciate the home-made food! Warmest thanks to the church members who have brought lunches. Suggestions: pasta, chili, chicken pot pie, stews, soups. Additions such as bread/fruit/ dessert are optional. Some paper goods and plastic ware are on site; please check in with Ruth for details: ruthm.joy@gmail.com or 603-630-7936.

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.

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David A. Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org
<p>Guest Preacher: Alison Thatcher Guest Accompanist: Margot W. Swift</p> <p>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</p>	

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in March in our Community

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

Jean Swindell	March 8	Julie Kelsey	March 30
Caleb Sweedler	March 26	Megan Magrauth	March 30

