

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost:
Rally Sunday – Growing in God’s Love



September 11, 2022

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 become a racial justice church
Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

We request that you are respectful when making decisions about masking. Please inquire to people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.

Son of man, whose birth in - car - nate Hal - lows all our hu - man race,
 Free - ly have thy gifts been grant - ed, Free - ly may thy serv - ants give.
 Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease;
 Linked in bonds of com - mon serv - ice For the com - mon Lord of all.

Thou, our head, who, throned in glo - ry, For thine own dost ev - er plead,
 Thine the gold and thine the sil - ver, Thine the wealth of land and sea,
 By thy pa - tient years of toil - ing, By thy si - lent hours of pain,
 Thou who pray - edst, thou who will - est That thy peo - ple should be one,

Fill us with thy love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
 We but stew - ards of thy boun - ty, Held in sol - emn trust for thee.
 Quench our fe - vered thirst of pleas - ure, Shame our sel - fish greed of gain.
 Grant, O grant our hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth thy will be done. A - men.

***Passing of the Peace**

We invite you to text or email someone a note of peace today. A hand-written note will work too!

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

adapted from Neil Douglas-Klotz

Spirit of hope, grant what we need each day in bread and insight; subsistence for the call of growing life. Let the measure of our need be earthiness: give all things simple, verdant, passionate. Help us fulfill what lies within the circle of our lives: each day we ask no more, no less. Make yourself known to us through our humble worship, God. Grant us the comfort and challenge that we need to walk in your ways. We pray all this for Love's sake and in Jesus' name. Amen.

Moments for Confession including silence for personal reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Ancient of Days, we often become jealous and sometimes we do not even realize we feel this way. We also often search in ways that do not align with your path. We long to be centered around your love.

All: May we have the courage to hope in the face of despair. Let us remember that there is nothing – nothing here, nothing anywhere else that will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. May this truth give us hope as we sing:

Response

Let Justice Flow like Streams

NCH (black) #588

**So may God's plumbline, straight, define our measure true,
And justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life
through.**

Message for All Ages

Children and youth are welcome to come forward during the message for all ages if they like. The message for all ages will truly be intergenerational this morning so if children want to stay in the pews that is okay too!

NCH (black) #528:

You are the seed that will grow a new sprout,

You're the star that will shine through the day.

You are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a beacon to glow in the night.

Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all:

Messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

Luke 15:1-10

One: Wonderful Counselor, we pray that the meditations of our hearts and minds be acceptable to you, for you are our rock and redeemer. Move in the space between words and hearing that we may find your happiness and joy this very day.

All: Amen

Message

“Right Here”

Rev. Sara M. Holland

*Hymn

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

NCH (black) #1

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
 All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
 your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
 in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

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

Response: Hear your people at prayer.

You will also be invited to offer your personal prayers from the silence of your heart.

Pastoral Prayer

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.

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

Offertory

God is the Lord of All
G.F. Handel (1685-1759) arr. Hal Hopson

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.

*Offertory Prayer

All: Creator God, accept what we bring to you this day and let us have a clearer sense of all we have been given – the simple joys of life, the mysteries of harmony and the great opportunity to bring love to all the world. We pray that you will multiple these humble gifts as well as our efforts to carry your gospel to all the world. Let no stone of scripture go unturned – let us seek out the ways to reveal your love this day and throughout our lives so that justice, mercy and compassion will prevail. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

NCH (black) #282

Refrain

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will

pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing

Last time, end

in my heart I will pray. 1 Up - on the moun - tain my God
2 Oh, Jor - dan riv - er, chil - ly and

spoke, out of God's mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a -
cold, it chills the bod - y, not the soul. There's on - ly

to Refrain

round me; looked so fine; I asked my God if all were mine.
one train on this track; it runs to heav - en, then right back.

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit arr. by Pamela M. Robinson

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

Keeping in Prayer:

Condolences and prayers for PSU students, faculty, and staff
Bob Feeny as he transitions his ministry to Spokane, WA
Condolences and prayers for Al Mather whose daughter-in-law,
wife of his son Jeff, recently passed away
Prayers for Jaime Armstrong, niece of Marlin Collingwood,
who will be undergoing surgery for breast cancer
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 Sage Pirnie and her family,
granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie
Prayers for Polly Bartlett, who struggles with cancer
Prayers for healing for Andrew Munroe
Prayers for Mae Larson, Rebecca Larson's mother-in-law
Prayers for an end to gun violence, in the spirit of Isaiah 2:4
Prayers for communities affected by war and for all immigrants
Prayers for the Masvingo UCCZ, our partner church in Zimbabwe

If you have a prayer request, you would like Rev. Sara to include in Sunday Worship, please
email her at plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org

This Week and More at PCUCC

Sept 12	10:00 Book Group
Sept 14	9:30 Lectio Divina
Sept 14	11:30 Staff Meeting
Sept 14	6:15 Vigil at the Traffic Circle, Corner of Bridget & Main
Sept 15	5:00 Meals for Many
Sept 15	7:00 Choir Rehearsal
Sept 25	Mental Health Sunday
Sept 26	10:00 Book Group
Oct 2	Merrimack Association Annual Meeting
Oct 5	Coffee House
Oct 9	Guest Preacher: Rev. Richard Slater, Associate Conference Minister
Oct 15	NH Conference UCC Annual Meeting
Nov 6	New Member Sunday

Coffee House: Our Coffee House series is back! Join us at 6:15 PM in the fellowship hall on October 5th, and every following first Wednesday of the month, to enjoy a guest speaker and some live music. Please bring a hearty snack to share.

Narcan Available: If you or someone you know is in need of Narcan, please contact Rev. Sara or our church office.

Vegetables and Fruit Harvest Sharing and Caring: Do you have an abundance of vegetables and/or fruit in your garden that you would like to share with your church friends? Please bring your extra veggies and fruit to church on Sundays and place on the shelves in the Fellowship Hall. Members and friends will be encouraged to pick them up and then leave a money donation in the jar to help stock our food pantries for our Plymouth area neighbors in need. This will run through August and September until the harvest is over for this year. Many thanks!!!

Welcome to church families! Activity bags are hanging in the Narthex and toys are made available, please ask an usher if you cannot find them. If your child needs more space during worship, please feel free to use the parlor on the sanctuary level or downstairs in our nursery and fellowship area. Sunday School will resume today! Please contact Jennifer Byam or Julie Kelsey for more information at faithformation@uccplymouth.org.

AmazonSMILE - By choosing our church as your favorite charity, Amazon will make a donation to the charity you designate at no cost to you. Please let Ann Thurston, Linda LaPrad or the office know if you need help setting PCUCC up as your favorite charity on AmazonSMILE.

PREPAID HANNAFORD CARDS - For every card purchased from the Finance Committee, the church receives 5% without any additional cost to you. Denominations of \$100, \$250 and \$500 are available by contacting Ann Thurston or Linda LaPrad after services on Sunday, by phone or email. Thank you for your continued support!

HOPE Fund: The HOPE Fund supports families at risk who 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. If you know of someone who is in need, please put them in touch with the church office or Pastor Sara. *The Hope Fund of our church continues to touch the lives of people in the Lakes Region. We have recently supported a number of people who were in need of housing support or assistance with utility bills. We are grateful to those who have generously contributed in the past two weeks.*

Book Group: The book group will resume on September 12th and will continue to meet every second and fourth Monday at 10:00am. The group will begin by reading The One-In-A-Million Boy by Monica Wood. Any questions please contact Peggy Martin at pmartin03223@yahoo.com or Kathy Henning at henkat52@gmail.com.

Racial Justice Exploration: We welcome new attendees, and we pray you'll reach out to Alison Thatcher at Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com or Pastor Sara if you are considering ways to get involved in these important efforts.

Please continue to be aware of COVID-related concerns when on site. We want to encourage all community members (who are able) to get a COVID-19 vaccine and boosters. We hope that this will ensure the health and well-being of our most vulnerable community members.

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 - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Wednesday - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Thursday - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Friday - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Pastor's Office Hours

Pastor Sara is generally at the church for office hours
Monday – Wednesday 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM; please reach out to make an appointment.

She keeps sabbath on Friday.

Please feel free to contact her by email at plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org
or on her work cell phone number at 336-485-5618 to set up a meeting.

Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor	plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org
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
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Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
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Celebrating Birthdays in September in our Community

Judy Floyd	September 8 th
Diane Arsenault	September 12 th
Philip Wei	September 16 th
Molly McCahan	September 20 th
Cameron Woodsum	September 20 th
Caeleigh Stevens	September 24 th
Anna Switaj	September 25 th
Andrew Hedberg	September 27 th
Madelyn Kelsey	September 29 th

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

