

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Ordinary Time:
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost



November 12, 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 Deep River Spiritual, trans. Bernard Wagness

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 Keep Awake and Be Ready Carl F. Schalk

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship** Liturgist – Donna Castor

One: Eternal God, you are the power that created the universe,

**Many: the energy that fires everything,
the strength that sustains our world.**

One: Eternal Parent, you are the love that encircles us,

**Many: the grace that enables us,
the truth that enlightens us.**

One: Eternal Savior, you are the glory of the cross of Christ,

**Many: the hope of the resurrection,
the life of the Holy Spirit.**

All: God of love, power, and glory, we praise you!

***Hymn** Awake, Awake to Love and Work NCH (black) #89

***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

We praise and thank you, O God,
for you are without beginning and without end.
Through Christ, you created the whole world;
through Christ, you preserve it.
You made the day for the works of light
and the night for the refreshment of our minds and bodies.
Keep us now in Christ; grant us a peaceful day of worship,
works free from sin; and bring us at last to eternal life.
Through Christ and in the Holy Spirit,
we offer you all glory, honor, and worship, now and forever. Amen.

Moment of Confession including Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: It is not to earn God's grace that we act justly;
**Many: it is because God's great mercy shown in the self-giving of Jesus
Christ frees us to be grateful.**
One: Filled with radiant gratitude, it becomes impossible for us knowingly to
cause God pain.
**Many: The experience of forgiveness makes our heart more like God's
and more loving toward others.**
All: Thanks be to God!

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.**

Message For All Ages

Children and youth are welcome to come forward during the message for all ages if they like.

NCH (black) #325

**Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.**

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture

Amos 5:18-24

Matthew 25:1-13

One: Dear God, bless our reading of your word. May it give us comfort, strength, and guidance.

All: Amen.

Message

“Ready and Wise”

Rev. Lynn Morrison

*Hymn

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

NCH (black) #369

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory

We invite you to remember your support for the ministry of PCUCC.

Lord God, We Worship Thee

Ahasuerus Fritsch, based on harm. by J.S Bach

Lord God, we worship Thee! In loud and happy chorus,
We praise Thy love and pow'r, Whose goodness reigneth o'er us;
To heav'n our song shall soar, Forever shall it be
Resounding o'er and o'er; Lord God, we worship Thee!

Lord God, we worship Thee! We pray Thee, who hast blessed us,
That we may live in peace, And none henceforth molest us;
O crown us with Thy love And heed our cry to Thee;
O Father, grant our prayer; Lord God, we worship Thee!

*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.**

*Prayer of Dedication

**Creator God, we offer you these gifts with
eyes open to human need,
ears tuned to every cry of despair,**

hearts sympathetic to the plight of others,
feet ready to go out of the way to help,
and hands ready to reach out and share.
Increase our ability to give even ourselves to your will. Amen.

Prayers of the People

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

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

Response: Hear your people at prayer.

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** Creator God, Creating Still NCH (black) #278

***Pastoral Benediction**

Choral Benediction Guide My Eyes to You Aaron David Miller

Postlude Blessed Assurance Phoebe Palmer Knapp, arr. Jeff Bennett

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!
Coffee Hour today is sponsored by the Choir.

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers and condolences for the friends and family of Alice Avery, who recently passed away

Prayers of healing for Beverly McClain, longtime friend of Eleanor Spencer

Prayers of healing for Bob Dion, friend of Alice O'Connor

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

Prayers for Claire Pirnie, daughter of Diane Arsenault and Peter Pirnie and her son Micah as she continues through the process of divorce

Prayers for Paul Santonelli

Prayers for Tony Amodeo, friend of the LaPrads, who is undergoing cancer treatments

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 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

Tuesday, November 14	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Tuesday, November 14	7:00 pm IRSG presentation, via Zoom
Wednesday, November 15	11:00 am Lectio Divina
Thursday, November 16	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, November 17	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Sunday, November 19	4:00 pm Concert: NH Master Chorale
Monday, November 20	10:00 am Book Group, in person
Monday, November 20	7:00 pm Book Group, via Zoom
Thursday, November 30	1:00 pm Knitting group

CHURCH LIFE

Sanctuary Artwork: We are looking for artwork with a winter and/or faith theme from our community. If you have a piece that you would like to go up in the sanctuary for the late fall and winter months, please bring it to church by Sunday, November 17.

Book Group and Antiracism Taskforce is reading How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi in November. Everyone is welcome to read the book and join the discussion either in person at 10 am or via zoom at 7 pm. Our second discussion will be held on Monday, Nov. 20. Contact Alison Thatcher for more information: Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com.

Please contribute to our November Food Drive to replenish our indoor and outdoor Food Pantries. Please place non-perishable food—cans/packaged items-- in the baskets by the altar. Let us share resources with great thanksgiving to God for the blessings in our lives! Warmest thanks from the M & O Committee.

The Immigrant & Refugee Support Group (IRSG) invites you to a 75-minute Zoom presentation – *Dignity and Freedom for Asylum Seekers in an Inhumane Immigration System: The Role of the NH Conference UCC* – on Tuesday, November 14: 7-8:15 p.m. There is a role, large or small, for everyone! Register at nhcucc.info/event.

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@ucplymouth.org.

FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

Our HOPE Fund is very much depleted and needs your help!

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. Lynn Morrison

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Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in November in our Community

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

Ivan Bass	November 1	Marian Sawicki	November 28
Leif Magrath	November 2	Ruth Martz	November 29
Michael Conklin	November 11	Ann Thurston	November 29
Georgene Fabian	November 18	Jane Merrithew	November 30
Cameron Brand	November 21		

Margot W. and Robert Swift's wedding anniversary – November 24

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