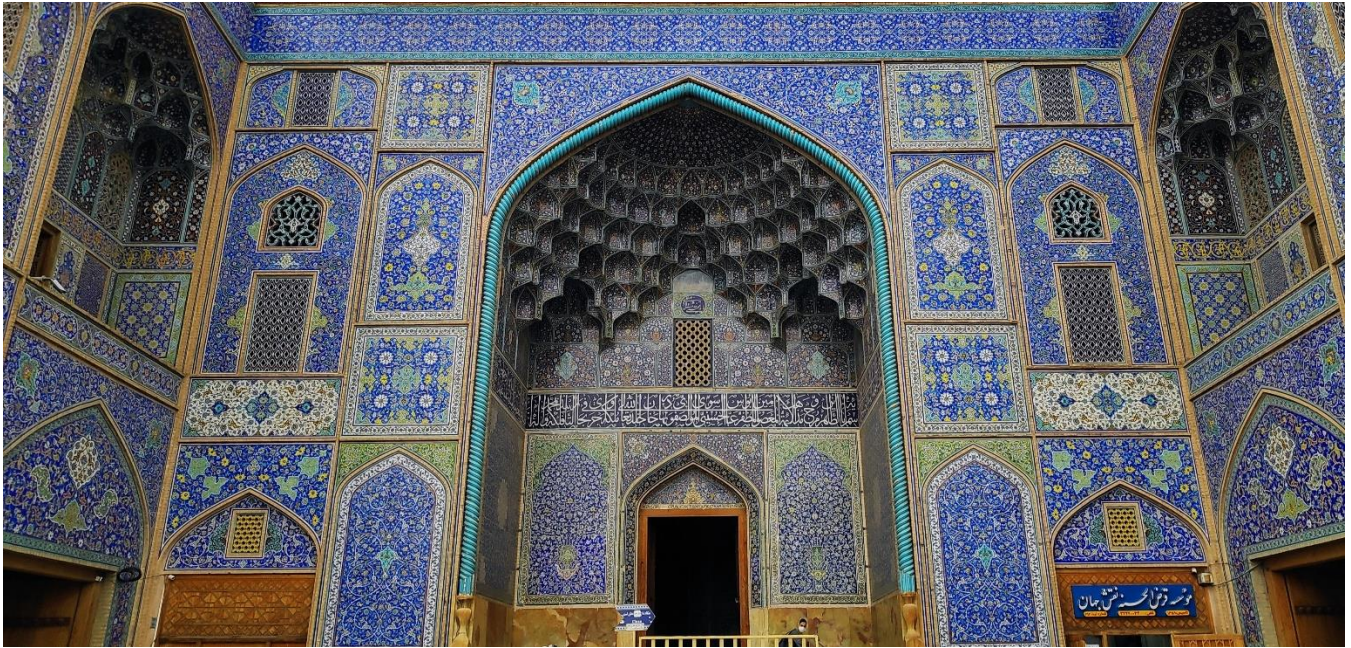


Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Ordinary Time:
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost



Shah Mosque in Isfahan, Iran

October 15, 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

Adagio

Kalliwoda

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

Let Us Be Glad and Rejoice

Carl. F. Schalk

*Those who are able may stand.

*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Kathy Henning

One: Divine Mystery, here are your people, minds full of questions.

All: We have been lost in the wilderness. We come desperately seeking answers.

One: Loving Protector, here are your people, hearts heavy with sadness.

All: We have been lost in the wilderness. We come longing for your embrace.

One: Wondrous Creator, here are your people, souls overflowing with joy.

All: We have been lost in the wilderness. May we find our home in you at last.

*Hymn

Whatever Name We Call You

NCH (black) #560

Unison Gathering Prayer

Holy Spirit, may we feel your presence within us and around us this morning, even if we can't see you, even if we feel abandoned. The world's burdens are heavy but here we find relief. Fears plague our hearts, but here we find your word of hope. We ask that you bless our gathering, that you fill our cups. Quiet our minds so that there is space for your reassuring presence. Amen.

Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: God's forgiveness is more perennial and persistent than the grass. God's grace is more reviving and refreshing than a stream of cool, clear water. We cannot know the depth and breadth of God's love, but we know that we may depend on it forever.

All: Thanks be to God who saves us again and again, and inspires us to share this good news through actions and song:

Response God Speak to Me, That I May Speak NCH (black) #531
**God, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek your erring children lost and lone.**

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 Philippians 4:1-9 Exodus 32:1-14

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

All: Amen.

Message "Filling the Void" Alison Thatcher

***Hymn** O for a Closer Bond with God NCH (black) #450

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory Blessed Are the Undefined 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.

***Offertory Prayer**

Loving Creator, we dedicate this offering to your generous, merciful Spirit. Whether our gift be large or small, money or service, we give with joy. We pray that this offering brings your Love to our neighbors, understanding you call us to love all your children as our very own neighbors. Bless our gifts, that they may be a blessing to others. Amen.

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 (*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**

Praise to the Living God

NCH (black) #8

***Pastoral Benediction**

*Choral Benediction

Guide My Eyes to You

Aaron David Miller

Postlude

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 Faith Formation and Sunday School.

Keeping in Prayer:

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

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 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

Today, October 15	5:00 pm Sunday Niters
Tuesday, October 17	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, October 18	11:00 am Lectio Divina
Thursday, October 19	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, October 20	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Sunday, October 22	Ukama Sunday
Monday, October 23	10:00 am Book Group
Thursday, October 26	1:00 pm Knitting group
Sunday, October 29	Remembrance Sunday

CHURCH LIFE

Sunday Niters will take place today, October 15, at the home of Georgene Fabian at 412 Rte 3 in Holderness. Bring a dish to share and join us for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship!

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.

Remembrance Sunday Coffee Hour: On Sunday, October 29th, we invite everyone to a Coffee Hour that celebrates our memories. Many of us have a favorite dish that has been passed down and is often made when the family gets together. Grandma made this at Christmas! Or Grandpa always fixed this on St. Pat's Day! Maybe it was an aunt, a family friend, or a famous person -- like a First Lady. Bring a food/dish and we will label it with the name of the dish and the person who you remember.

Book Group will meet on Monday, October 23 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@ucplymouth.org.

FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

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 Speaker: Alison Thatcher Guest Musicians: Jan Bass & Peggy Martin 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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office@uccplymouth.org

