

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Second Sunday of Easter  
Welcoming of New Members



April 16, 2023

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

A Song of Life

Lani Smith

## Welcome & Announcements

*Please, if you are new to our community and want to be more involved, leave your email address in the attendance pad or email us at [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org). We are delighted to get to know you! We have Sunday School between mid-September & mid-June. There are bags in the narthex which the kids may find to enjoy!*

*You may contact [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org) to get more information about programming for any age.*

*And today is new member Sunday as it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month;*

*please come forward during the 2<sup>nd</sup> hymn if you feel called to join our beloved faith community!*

## Introit

Blessed Are Those Who Have Not Seen and Yet Believe

Aaron David Miller

\*Those who are able may stand.

## \*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Bill Torrey

One: We come today with glad hearts and joyful souls.

**All: God celebrates the springtide within each of us.**

One: We come today with uncertainties and misgivings.

**All: God does not condemn us for doubting.**

One: We come today as a community of Easter People full of myriad dreams and fears, seeking light, love, and redemption.

**All: God reveals the path of life before us every day.**

## \*Hymn

This Joyful Eastertide



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and  
2 My be - ing shall re - joice se - cure with - in God's  
3 Death's wa - ters lost their chill when Je - sus crossed the



sad - ness! Our Lord, the cru - ci - fied, has  
keep - ing, un - til the trum - pet voice shall  
ri - ver. His love shall reach me still; his

*Refrain*

filled our hearts with glad - ness.  
 wake us from our sleep - ing. Had Christ, who once was  
 mer - cy is for - ev - er.

slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our faith would be in  
 vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a -

ris - en, but now Christ has a - ris - en.

### **\*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**

Giver of Life, we gather this morning holding a full spectrum of spring within us – drenching rain, singing birds, hardy bulbs, and even persistent snowbanks now hard as stone. May we feel your Spirit residing within every aspect of this season, especially the places where we fear we won't find you. Whether we continue to shout "Alleluias" for the entirety of Eastertide, or we remain in our own Lenten season of questions and contemplation, you are with us. For Jesus came to save, not to condemn, and it is in his name that we pray. Amen

*Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection*

## God's Promise of New Life

One: Oh Love, our doubts can feel like an endless pit. Once we are engulfed, how can we get ourselves out?

**All:** May we know that you are patiently beside us even as we sit with our deepest questions and uncertainties, and that through you they will lead to a faith even deeper. We seek your presence as we sing:

**Response**                                      Gathered Here                                      NCH (black) #742

**Gathered here, in the mystery of this hour, gathered here in one strong body; gathered here in the struggle and the power, Spirit draw near.**

## Message For All Ages

Jennifer Byam

*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

Psalm 16:1-3, 5-11

John 20:19-31

One: Creator God, we pray that the meditations of our hearts and minds will be acceptable to you, for you are our rock and redeemer. May your Spirit move between words and hearing.

**All: Amen**

### Message

Hoopla Amid Doubts

Rev. Holland

### \*Hymn

I'll Shout the Name of Christ Who Lives

NCH (black) #234

***Those who wish to join the life and ministry of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ as members may come forward during the final verse of hymn #234.***

***If you come forward, you may sit on the front pew until the hymn concludes. Please know that all questions you will be asked will include prompted answers and that by joining you do commit to 1-2 simple 'classes' with Pastor Holland.***

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Reception of New Members – see insert*

## 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.

## Mission Moment

The Ukraine Project

Steve Rand

## Offertory Anthem

Duo Concertant in G Major-IX, No. 5  
Peggy Martin and Ashley Rose, flute duet

Francois Devienne

*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: Generous God, bless the gifts that we bring this morning. The Earth's woes are so vast, her people so scattered and in pain, that it feels like we can never do enough. But you remind us that any offering can be**

multiplied when given with a genuine and generous heart, that material and monetary offerings are only part of what we have to give. You give us the strength to accompany our material gifts on this day with acts of compassion and justice throughout all our days. May these gifts be felt worldwide. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

## SENDING

**\*Hymn**            Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain            NCH (black) #230

**\*Choral Benediction**            Guide My Eyes to You            Aaron David Miller

**\*Pastoral Benediction**

**Postlude**                            Grand Choer                            Craig A. Penfield

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.

### Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers of joy for Marlin Collingwood who has spent many years in our community

Prayers and condolences for the family and friends of Eldwin (Ed) Wixson,  
who recently passed away

Prayers and condolences for the family and friends of former  
Holderness police officer, Barry Tanner

Prayers for Frances Carey, friend of Alice O'Connor

Prayers for Lynn Cote, friend of Alice O'Connor, who is recovering from cancer surgery

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 Polly Bartlett, who struggles with cancer

*If you have a prayer request, you would like Rev. Holland to include in Sunday Worship, please write on the yellow card in the pews and place it in the offering tray, or send an email to [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)*

### This Week and More at PCUCC

Sunday, April 16

Following Worship: Potluck & Ukraine Project Presentation

Sunday, April 16

5:00 pm Concert: The Music of John Rutter

Tuesday, April 18

7:00 pm AA Meeting

Wednesday, April 19

9:30 am Lectio Divina

Wednesday, April 19

11:30 am Staff Meeting

Sunday, April 23

5:30 pm Sunday Niters hosted by Fran & Tink Taylor

Monday, April 24	10:00 am Book Group
Monday, April 24	6:30 pm Home Energy Workshop at Starr King UU
Saturday, May 6	7:30 pm Concert: NH Gay Men's Chorus
Thursday, May 11	6:00 pm A Discussion on Climate Issues with Bill McKibben
Sunday, May 21	2:00 Merrimack Association Spring Meeting

### CHURCH LIFE

**Sunday Niters is back!** Please bring a dish to share and join us at the home of Fran & Tink Taylor in Holderness for an evening of food, fellowship, and songs of the 60's!

**Free Home Energy Workshop:** Grounded in the mission of Creation Justice, PCUCC is partnering with local organizations including Starr King UU and Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative to support NHsave's 1½ hour presentation about improving the energy efficiency of our homes. This is a great way to learn how to save money and save the environment.

**Capital Campaign Update:** The dedicatory plaques have been installed on the choir chairs in the sanctuary, parlor, and choir room. Thank you to all who contributed to this exciting initiative. We offer special thanks to Lisa Lovett and Bev Newton for their tireless leadership throughout the capital campaign.

**Book Group** will meet on April 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby VanPelt. If you have questions, contact Peggy Martin: [pmartin03223@yahoo.com](mailto:pmartin03223@yahoo.com)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays – New Members!** To live more fully into God's call to be inclusive, every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday will be New Member Sunday. Whether people join or not, we will be ready to welcome folks every month. As people join, we will ask them faith-related questions including confirmation of their willingness to attend a simple class. We hope these efforts are fruitful – all are welcome to follow the gospel call!

### FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

**Mission & Outreach Spotlights The Common Man Ukraine Project.** April's Mission Focus is on Ukraine. We have allocated from our discretionary funds \$750 to the Common Man Ukraine Project. Their website notes: "With your help, the nonprofit Common Man for Ukraine has raised and delivered more than \$2.6 million in relief from 3,000 different donors." You can check out all the good work this local Common Man Ukraine Project has done by visiting the website at [commonmanforukraine.org](http://commonmanforukraine.org).

**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, heating, electricity, and medications. To give to the HOPE Fund, 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.

### FROM FINANCE

**Stewardship Time:** It's Stewardship time, a time to reflect on all we've accomplished this past year, and a time to look at the financial support needed to keep the flexibility, creativity, and faithfulness alive and thriving. Our next fiscal year, 2023-24, will take \$180,000 in pledges to continue supporting the mission and ministry of our congregation. As you review the information that was mailed this past week, we hope you'll prayerfully ask God to help you discern your 2023-24 pledge. Please return your commitment by May 2nd to PCUCC Finance by US mail to PO Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264, email to [treasurer@uccplymouth.org](mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org) or place your pledge card in the collection plate. Because of YOU, our church changes lives.

**Service Fundraiser Update:** There are over 20 great services being offered. Amazing baked goods, house sitting, a pony ride, hand crafted items, and even a beginner rock climbing lesson just to mention a few. The full list will be posted in Fellowship Hall every Sunday and in a link in Constant Contact. Once you sign up for an item, you'll receive instructions on scheduling the service at your convenience. THANK you for participating. Please note that some of the items listed have already sold out and are no longer available. Hurry to choose the service you want to purchase before it's too late.

**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

**Pastor's Office Hours**

Monday – Wednesday 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM or by appointment.

Rev. Holland keeps sabbath on Friday.

Email: [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)

Work Cell: 336-485-5618

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<p>Guest Musicians: Peggy Martin and Ashley Rose</p> <p>Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ</p> <p>4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264</p> <p>(603) 536-2626 - <a href="mailto:office@uccplymouth.org">office@uccplymouth.org</a> - <a href="http://www.uccplymouth.org">www.uccplymouth.org</a></p>	

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in April in our Community

Wayne Martin	April 1	Sabrina Tedeschi	April 17
Sue Switaj	April 5	Michael Carrier	April 25

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

