

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Ordinary Time:  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



September 17, 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.*



## Unison Gathering Prayer

Holy God, we gather this day to give thanks for your steadfast love and to experience afresh your desire to gather all people into communities of safety, justice, and peace. With Christ as our guide, we seek to grow into “a new self” in your image: generous, compassionate, and welcoming. Baptized into Christ, we seek to love all our sisters and brothers with Christ’s inclusive love that sees beyond difference and extends the hand of peace to strangers. Send your Spirit among us to inspire our imaginations and wills to do those things that will help us care for the least and most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters. Forgive us when we think only of ourselves and renew us in the Spirit of Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection*

## God’s Promise of New Life

One: The First Letter of Peter calls us to have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. “Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing.”

All: **God’s mercy and grace continually transform our lives to make us a blessing to others. Thanks be to God for this Good News! Amen.**

**Response**            To You, O God, All Creatures Sing            NCH (black) #17

Now we who are of tender heart, forgiving others, take our part.

Sing your praises, alleluia!

To you we lift our pain and care, receive the burdens that we bear,

Singing praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## Message For All Ages

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

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

**Message** “Jude: To Have a Discerning Heart and Mind” Rev. Mike Carrier  
*(We will be looking at selected verses from Jude)*

**\*Hymn** Be Now My Vision NCH (black) #451

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**Offertory** Abide With Us, Our Savior Melchior Vulpius (1560-16-15)  
*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: O God, we are grateful that you come to us when we need you most. In gratitude, we now offer ourselves in moments when you need us most: to lend a hand, support a good cause, rescue a struggling life, and reach out to a soul in trouble. Strengthen us for the trials and tempests, the challenges and blessings that come our way. 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**

**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**                      Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer                      NCH (black)#18

### **\*Responsive Benediction**

One: Go now to the people who are overwhelmed by despair.

**All: We will take the hope which has been given to us and share it with all.**

One: Go now to those who are at odds with neighbors.

**All: We will offer the peace and reconciliation that God has poured into our lives.**

One: Go now to those who are the most vulnerable in our world.

**All: We will bring the healing, the grace, the love of our God.**

(Thom M. Shuman)

**\*Choral Benediction**                      God of Love, Hear our Prayer                      John Helgen

**Postlude**                                      Scherzo                                      Franz Schubert

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!

### **Keeping in Prayer:**

Prayers and condolences for the family and friends of William Broadrick,  
who recently passed away

Prayers for those affected by the devastating floods in Libya

Prayers for all those affected by the earthquake in Morocco

Prayers and condolences for the friends and family of Judy Detzel, who recently passed away

Prayers for the family and friends of Al Mather who recently passed away

Prayers for Jeff Foster, cousin of Diane Arsenault, who is in hospice  
 Prayers for Alice Carey, friend of Alice O'Connor, who is undergoing chemotherapy and for  
     Alice Carey's mother who has Covid  
 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 Matt, family member of Ruth Martz & Steve Majeski  
 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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org).*

### **This Week and More at PCUCC**

Today, September 17	5:00 pm Sunday Neters
Tuesday, September 19	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, September 20	11:00 am Lectio Divina
Friday, September 22	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Sunday, September 24	"Let's Talk!" following Worship
Monday, September 25	10:00 am Book Group
Thursday, September 28	1:00 pm Knitting group

### **CHURCH LIFE**

**Sunday Neters** will be hosted by Peggy and Wayne Martin at their home at 2196 US Rte 3 in Campton. Please bring a dish to share and join us for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship!

**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.

**“Let’s Talk!”:** On Sunday, September 24, following Worship/Coffee Hour, you are all invited to gather for conversation during this time of pastoral transition in our congregation. We are experiencing a variety of emotions: sadness, worry, hope, and a deep faith to share together. Let us talk with one another in a spirit of respect, compassion, and hope. Rebecca Larson and Ruth Martz will be our facilitators; depending on the number of people, we will meet in the Chapel. This may be the first such gatherings to be held in the coming months. Please join us!

**Book Group** will meet on Monday, September 25 to discuss The Forest Lover by Susan Vreeland. Contact Peggy Martin for more information: pmartin03223@yahoo.com.

**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@uccplymouth.org

### FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

**VEGETABLES TO SHARE!** The Mission and Outreach Committee invites you to bring any garden vegetables that you would like to share with people within and beyond our church. Please put the veggies in the crate on the front steps of the church. The produce will remain outside The Little Food Pantry until Monday morning, when anything left will be taken to a local senior center. **Thank you!**

**RIP MEDICAL DEBT**—The UCC NHC Merrimack Association is inviting churches to support the UCC National Fundraiser that will help relieve people in debt throughout the United States. **In the month of September** (2023), there will be two collection boxes for your donations, one in the narthex and the other in Fellowship Hall. RIP Medical Debt flyers will be available with more information (also online: ripmedicaldebt.org).

**Each \$1 that you donate relieves \$100 of medical debt! The Mission and Outreach Committee will match all donations, with a cap of \$250.** At the Merrimack Association Fall meeting this October, the total sum raised by our Association churches will be announced. Checks may be made out to our church, with RIP Medical Debt in the info line. **Thanks in advance for your contribution!**

**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 Preacher: Rev. Michael Carrier	
Guest Choral Director: Harmony Markey	
Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ	
4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264	
(603) 536-2626 - office@uccplymouth.org - <a href="http://www.uccplymouth.org">www.uccplymouth.org</a>	

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in September in our Community

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

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

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

