

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost:  
Just Peace Sunday – Prayerful Living**



**September 18, 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.*

# GATHERING

Prelude

Deerhurst" O'er the Lea

arr. by Robert F. Swift

## 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! Children will be invited down to Sunday School following the Message For All Ages. Feel free to gather toys, books, and children's bulletins, which can be found in the narthex, for your children to enjoy during their time in worship.*

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

Introit

Lift your voice in praise

\*Those who are able may stand.

**\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist – Wayne Martin

One: God, we come before you; let our worship be humble and bold.

**All: We have stumbled away from our faith walk, may we find the comfort of your call.**

One: Gracious One, your voice provides peace which compels us to move for the justice we read about in your gospel:

**All: We know we are sometimes prone to selfish ways, and so we seek God's grace.**

One: In joy or pain, the rich depth of the gospel is promised to us, God's children.

**All: Let our prayers be heard by the angels, saints, and by our Savior!**

**\*Hymn**

I Need You Every Hour

NCH (black) #517

1 I need you ev - ery hour, O God of grace;  
2 I need you ev - ery hour, in faith or fear;  
3 I need you ev - ery hour, in joy or pain;  
4 I need you ev - ery hour; teach me your will,

the peace your voice af - fords, I now em - brace.  
 temp - ta - tions lose their power when you are near.  
 come quick - ly and a - bide or life is vain.  
 and your rich prom - is - es in me ful - fill.

*Refrain*

I need you, how I need you! \* Ev - ery hour I need you;

O bless me now, my Sav - ior, I come to you.

### **\*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**

Loving Creator, in simple handshakes and greetings we find a deep sense of your hope and peace. Let us be assured of the Holy Spirit this hour. Let our voices find strength as they are raised to you in unity. We pray that your scripture will fill us with a call too deep to ignore. Let us re-center around the passion of the gospel so that we might move like a strong breeze from a valley and mighty wave from an ocean. Let our worship of you be authentic and humble; 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: Savior who has come to be with us, as we turn our selfishness over to you, let us find freedom in your grace. Let us find ourselves on your path of righteousness.

**All: Let us find ourselves as the ones who are of peace, of prayer and of great faith; you have come for us in our time of need. Let us feel your presence 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**

Amos 8:4-7

Luke 16:1-13

One: Great Redeemer, may your glory reign in our reflections. We pray that the meditations of our hearts and minds be acceptable to you, for you are our rock. Move in the space between words and hearing that we will move with peace, prayer, and faith.

**All: Amen**

**\*Hymn**

There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

PH (red) #102

*Lizzie S. Townjée, 1858-1913*

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;  
 2 There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heaven;  
 3 For the love of God is broad-er Than the meas-ure of man's mind;  
 4 If our love were but more sim-ple, We should take him at his word;

There's a kind-ness in his jus-tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.  
 There is no place where earth's fail-ings Have such kind - ly judg-ment given.  
 And the heart of the E - ter - nal Is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
 And our lives would be all sun-shine In the sweet-ness of our Lord. A-men.

# 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

Oh, Come, Let Us Sing!

William M. Schoenfeld

*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.

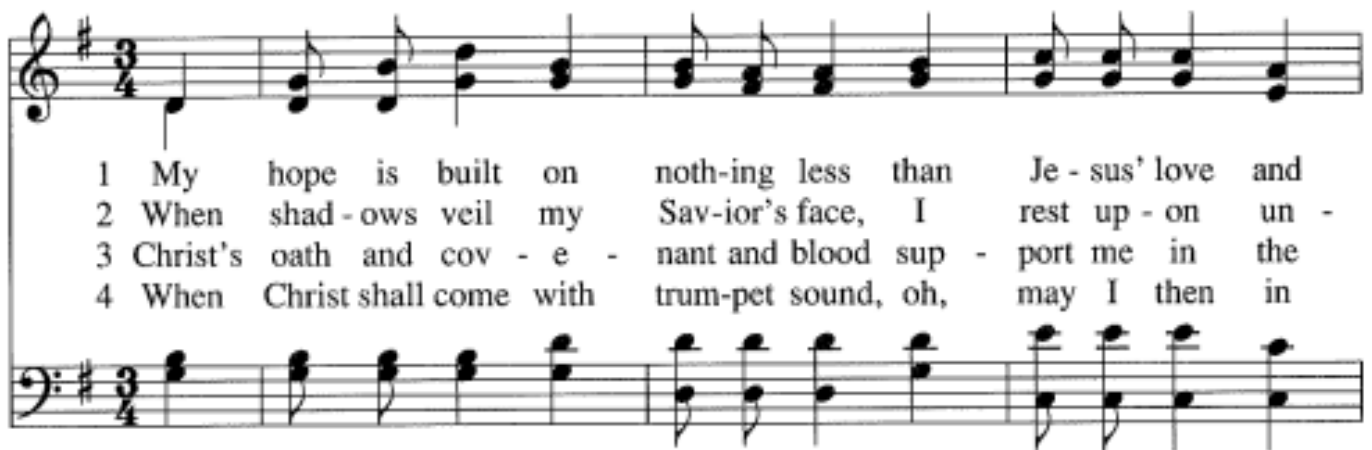
## \*Offertory Prayer

All: Holy One, graciously accept our gifts, that love will flow abundantly. Beyond our church building let our step, our words, and our hearts bring your peace to all in need. Let us remember that even with the mistakes of our lives, we are called to work to repair the world. Let us know that we are not called to perfection, but we are called to move towards the perfection of God's grace. Multiply our gifts, we pray – let these humble offerings reach those most in need: those who live outside, those seeking food, and those who are lonely. We pray all this for Love's sake. Amen.

# SENDING

## \*Hymn

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less NCH (black) #403



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' love and  
2 When shad - ows veil my Sav - ior's face, I rest up - on un -  
3 Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me in the  
4 When Christ shall come with trum - pet sound, oh, may I then in

righ-teous-ness; I dare not trust this earth-ly frame, but  
 chang-ing grace; In ev-ery high and storm-y gale, my  
 ris-ing flood; When all a-round my soul gives way, Christ  
 Love be found, Dressed in God's righ-teous-ness a-lone, fault-

*Refrain*

whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.  
 an-chor holds with-in the veil. On Christ, the sol-id Rock, I stand;  
 then is all my hope and stay.  
 less to stand be-fore the throne.

all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand, all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

**\*Pastoral Benediction**

**Choral Benediction**                      Go in Peace

**Postlude**                      Komm, Heiliger Geist, Herre Gott                      Georg Philip Telemann

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

## **Keeping in Prayer:**

Condolences and prayers for the family of Brian Hanson,  
who recently passed away  
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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)



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

Sept 21	9:30 Lectio Divina
Sept 21	11:30 Staff Meeting
Sept 22	5:00 Meals for Many
Sept 22	7:00 Choir Rehearsal
Sept 25	Mental Health Sunday
Sept 26	10:00 Book Group
Oct 2	Neighbors in Need Offering
Oct 2	1:30 Merrimack Association Annual Meeting
Oct 2	4:30 Blessing of the Animals
Oct 5	6:15 Coffee House
Oct 9	Guest Preacher: Rev. Richard Slater
Oct 15	NH Conference UCC Annual Meeting
Oct 23	Ukama Sunday
Nov 6	New Member Sunday

\*There are local families in need of affordable housing. **If you know of anyone who is renting out a home or apartment that is larger than a 1 bedroom with a modest price, please contact Pastor Sara.** If you are unable to connect our staff to local housing opportunities, another way to support families in such crises is to donate to our Hope Fund.\*

**Coffee House:** Our Coffee House series is back! Join us at 6:15 PM in the fellowship hall on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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 meet on September 26<sup>th</sup> and will continue to meet every second and fourth Monday at 10:00am. The group is currently reading [The One-In-A Million Boy](#) by Monica Wood. Any questions please contact Peggy Martin at [pmartin03223@yahoo.com](mailto:pmartin03223@yahoo.com) or Kathy Henning at [henkat52@gmail.com](mailto:henkat52@gmail.com).

**Racial Justice Exploration:** We will be reading Caste by Isabel Wilkerson in October along with the Book Group. Alison Thatcher will lead an evening Zoom book discussion for those who can't attend the regular Book Group meeting time. 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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)  
or on her work cell phone number at 336-485-5618 to set up a meeting.

Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor	<a href="mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org">plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org</a>
Alison Thatcher, Office Administrator	<a href="mailto:office@uccplymouth.org">office@uccplymouth.org</a>
David A. Williams, Director of Music	<a href="mailto:musicdirector@uccplymouth.org">musicdirector@uccplymouth.org</a>
Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist	<a href="mailto:organist@uccplymouth.org">organist@uccplymouth.org</a>
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	<a href="mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org">faithformation@uccplymouth.org</a>
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org">treasurer@uccplymouth.org</a>

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ  
4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264  
(603) 536-2626 - [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org) - [www.uccplymouth.org](http://www.uccplymouth.org)

Celebrating Birthdays in September in our Community

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

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

