

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Ordinary Time:  
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost



**November 19, 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

Voluntary

Gordon Young

## 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](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org).*

*Sunday School for all ages begins after the Message for All Ages on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. Children are welcome to fill a bag with books and toys, which are in the narthex, to use during worship.*

Introit

Blessed Is the One

Carl F. Schalk

\*Those who are able may stand.

### \*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Steve Majeski

One: O give thanks to God for all the goodness we are shown! God's steadfast love endures forever!

**Many: We come from Plymouth and Holderness, Campton and Ashland, and places in every direction, to give God thanks and praise!**

One: We have been a wandering and wondering people, hungry and thirsty in a desert land.

**Many: We cried to God to deliver us, and we were led to a new land rich in promise and harvest.**

**All: We give thanks for God's steadfast love! God quenches the thirsty, fills the hungry, and leads us from the desert land to a harvest home.**

### \*Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

NCH (black) #28

### \*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

God of the harvest, from seed and sun you have blessed us with a harvest to help feed the world. For this we give you our highest thanks. You also offer us seed and sun for the times of famine in our lives. In the times we know the famine of silence and grief, cause us to remember you as the God of harvest. For with you, the faith we offer serves a seed for the harvest of your life-giving food. In Christ's name. Amen

## Moment of Confession including Silence for Personal Reflection

### God's Promise of New Life

One: Dear God, it is hard for us to thank you with a head full of worries and a heart full of troubles.

**Many: Some of our days have been filled with heartache. Sometime, God, you have seemed far off.**

One: We know that this hurt has stretched and deepened us. And we know that you suffer alongside and with us.

**Many: Help us to know the secret of the resurrection; show us how to move with our suffering to new life.**

**Many: Go with us now. Go with us as we move. Dear God, go with us. Amen.**

### 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

Psalm 123

Matthew 25:14-30

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

**All: Amen.**

## Message

“The Parable of the Talents”

Rev. Sam Lovett

## \*Hymn

Take My Gifts

NCH (black) #562

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## Offertory

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

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

*Himmlische Harpffe Davids, Nürnberg, 1581*

Sing to the Lord of harvest, Sing songs of love and praise;  
With joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise!  
By him the rolling season In fruitful order move;  
Sing to the Lord of harvest A song of happy love.

By him the clouds drop fatness, The deserts bloom and spring,  
The hills leap up in gladness, The valleys laugh and sing.  
He filleth with his fullness All things with large increase;  
He crowns the year with goodness, With plenty and with peace.

Heap on his sacred altar The gifts his goodness gave,  
The golden sheaves of harvest, The souls he died to save.  
Your hearts lay down before him When at his feet ye fall,  
And with your lives adore him Who gave his life for all.

## \*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**

Thank you, God, for the opportunity  
to share in your creative and restorative work.  
Because you have blessed us,  
we have gifts to give. These offerings  
express our gratitude and our aspiration  
to be more fully your own.  
In your holy name. 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**      God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens      NCH (black) #556

## **\*Pastoral Benediction**

**Choral Benediction**      The Lord Is My Hope      Aaron David Miller

**Postlude**      Voluntary on "Ein feste Burg"      Gordon Young

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 Faith Formation.

**Keeping in Prayer:**

Prayers and condolences for the friends and family of Alice Avery, who recently passed away  
Prayers for the Deaf Community of Maine,  
which lost four members in the Lewiston shooting  
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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org).*

**This Week and More at PCUCC**

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
Tuesday, November 21	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Thursday, November 23	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, November 24	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Sunday, November 26	Intergenerational Sanctuary Decorating after Worship
Monday, November 27	4:30 pm Music Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 30	1:00 pm Knitting group
Wednesday, November 13	7:00 pm Council Meeting
Sunday, December 10	Advent Workshop after Worship

**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 19.

**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.

**Help us decorate for Christmas!** Please join us after worship on Sunday, November 26 to decorate the sanctuary balcony and windows and put our Christmas tree up in the narthex!

**Advent Workshop:** Join us for some Advent fellowship and crafts for all ages after worship on Sunday, December 10! There will be cookie-decorating and many crafts available.

**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.

**\*NO Lectio Divina on November 22\*** 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@uccplymouth.org](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.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. Sam Lovett

Guest Choral Director: Harmony Markey

Guest Organist/Pianist: Dan Perkins

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ  
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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 Magrauth	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		

Hanna and Peter Starck's wedding anniversary – November 13

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

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