

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Last Sunday in Lent: Palm Sunday
Communion Sunday



April 2, 2023

9:30 am, 5:30 pm

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

Ride On, King Jesus

Spiritual

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@ucplymouth.org. We are delighted to get to know you! We have Sunday School between mid-September & mid-June; children may find adult leaders on the first floor. There are cute bags in the narthex which the kids may find to enjoy if they decide to stay in the service, which is also okay!

You may contact office@ucplymouth.org to get more information about programming for any age.

Introit

Christ Humbled Himself

Aaron David Miller

*Those who are able may stand.

*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Carol Stewart

One: We are yearning for the moments when we feel your love enveloping us fully.
Sometimes we miss the feeling and your Spirit.

All: **Hosanna! Hosanna! The day of God's hope may be made real in our lives.**

One: You enter Jerusalem for the days when nobody is hungry, a day when nobody is thirsty.

All: **Hosanna! Hosanna! The day of God's hope may be made real in our lives.**

One: You are shade from sun and shelter from the wind; you are the Compassionate
One – you bring us back to your table of peace and love.

All: **Hosanna! Hosanna! The day of God's hope may be made real in our lives.**

*Hymn

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty

NCH (black) #215

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

Source of Love, we come to you from east and west seeking truth and your sacred path. Settle us, body and soul, in the land of hope which your prophets proclaimed. We read and hear – blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Free our hearts and minds to hear anew your call to compassion, the challenge of community, and the needs of our neighbors. Call us in this hour that we may be changed by your Spirit and truth. Settling in this hour, we uplift the name of Jesus, the one who came for Love's sake. Amen.

Moments for Confession and Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: God of grace, transform our hearts so that our actions follow your sacred way. Open our minds and hands to heal your people and land. As we cry hosanna, let us be reminded of our call to show your promise to all.

All: By God's grace we are granted new life; the Compassionate One beckons we come, let us cry hosanna as one people! Believe this good news: there is nothing – nothing here, nothing anywhere else that will separate us from the love of God in Jesus. It is for this promise and Spirit that we sing.

Response Savior, When in Tears and Dust NCH (black) #185

**Savior, when in tears and dust, low we bow to you in trust,
when repentant, to the skies scarce we lift our weeping eyes,
Mindful how you suffered pain that God's love in us might reign – Help us
claim what we would be, hear our solemn litany.**

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings

Psalm 31: 9 – 16

Matthew 21: 1-11

One: Here ends the readings from our tradition. May Holy Spirit join us as our souls move towards Christ's Love. Let us find wisdom for today in these ancient words. O Holy Spirit, we pray You move between words and hearing.

All: Amen

Message “A Donkey & Colt?? God’s Breadth” Rev. Holland

***Hymn** O Christ, the Great Foundation NCH (black) #387

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing Communion

The Usher/ s will guide twelve participants at a time to the front to share Communion. Each person will be given a simple bread and juice cup as the officiant offers simple words of blessing: “This is the bread of heaven and the cup of the new covenant.”

After each participant receives the elements, the group of 12 will take and eat. You will then be invited to return to your seats and the next group of twelve will take your place.

****The bread is gluten & nut free and the juice is non-alcoholic.****

Communion Music

Prayer of Thanks in Unison

Gracious and loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ and nourished us at Your table with holy food and drink. Now send us forth to be Your people in the world and to proclaim peace and hope in your word. Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil, and to proclaim in all we say and do your Good News in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Offertory Anthem Antiphonal Hosanna G. Alan Smith

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 Giver of all good gifts, bless now this offering that hours of labor have made possible. Bless us so we might become mighty rivers of grace and transformation. Bless the vision of a world transformed. Let your shining love flow through us to your waiting world. Let our cries of hosanna carry us this week in our encounters with all your children. We pray all this, for Love's sake. Amen.

Prayers of the People

You are 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** All Glory, Laud, and Honor NCH (black) #216

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

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude Festive Postlude Louri Grichetchkine

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 and condolences for the family and friends of former
Holderness police officer, Barry Tanner
Prayers for Carl Smither, friend of Alice O'Connor, as he recovers from cancer surgery
Prayers for Frances Carey, friend of Alice O'Connor
Prayers for Lynn Cote, friend of Alice O'Connor, who is recovering from cancer surgery
Continued prayers for Jaime Armstrong, niece of Marlin Collingwood,
who has made it through surgery and will soon undergo radiation
Prayers for Ruth Martz as she continues to recover
Prayers for Bill Broadrick and his spouse, Jane
Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family, granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie
Continued prayers for Eileen Torrey
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

This Week and More at PCUCC

Sunday, April 2	During Coffee Hour: Lenten Anti-Racism Discussion
Tuesday, April 4	7:00 pm Lenten Anti-Racism Discussion via Zoom
Tuesday, April 4	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, April 5	9:30 am Lectio Divina
Wednesday, April 5	11:30 am Staff Meeting
Thursday, April 6	5:00 pm Meals for Many
Thursday, April 6	7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service
Friday, April 7	12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Sanctuary open for contemplative prayer
Friday, April 7	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, April 12	6:15 pm Coffee House: Haley Myers & Angel Ekstrom
Sunday, April 16	5:00 pm Concert: John Rutter's Requiem

CHURCH LIFE

Coffee House: Haley Myers serves with the Central NH Medical Reserve Corps and Community Emergency Response Team (MRC/CERT). Angel Ekstrom is the direct of the Medical Reserve Corps. They will be telling us about the role of the MRC/CERT in our community and how people can join in their work. Join us on April 12th at 6:15 pm with a snack to share or just yourself!

Last Week of Lenten Anti-Racism Study: This Lent we been fasting from convenience and complacency and feasting on uncomfortable truths and difficult conversations. There will be one more opportunity to join the conversation: today during coffee hour or Tuesday at 7 pm via Zoom. We hope to see you there! For information contact Alison Thatcher: Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com.

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 10th and 24th to discuss Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby VanPelt. If you have questions, contact Peggy Martin: pmartin03223@yahoo.com

3rd Sundays – New Members! To live more fully into God’s call to be inclusive, every 3rd 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!

Sunday Evening Services: We have launched a Sunday evening service. This service takes place on the lower level at 5:30 pm each week until Easter. It is casual and uses some components of the Sunday morning service but has a different setting and atmosphere and will include a substantial snack/light meal. Come one and all – let’s worship together! We have been advertising this heavily at PSU and so far, we have had little interest from students; we will go back to the drawing board after Easter if we do not see any young adult turnout by that time.

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, heating, electricity, and medications. Right now, with rising fuel, electricity, and rent prices, the need is greater than ever. To give to the HOPE Fund, 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 Rev. Holland. 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. Our Little Food Pantry serves many people in need in our community.

FROM FINANCE

Stewardship Time: Because of YOU, our church changes lives. Stewardship is the 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 this next fiscal year. You should be receiving our annual pledge request around the middle of April. As you review this information, 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 at PO Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264, or by email to treasurer@uccplymouth.org.

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. What you’d like to see isn’t on the list, you say? No problem. Just let one of us know and we’ll look for a volunteer to provide that service. Please contact Linda LaPrad, Kathy Henning, Peggy Martin, or Eleanor Spencer and let them know what service you are interested in. 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 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

Work Cell: 336-485-5618

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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

