

**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ**  
**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 11, 2020**

**9:30 a.m.**



A Just Peace Church  
An Open and Affirming Congregation  
A God is Still Speaking Congregation

Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

# GATHERING

## Welcome

## Prelude

*The beginning of the prelude is an invitation to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.*

## Call to Worship

One: O Holy Creator, You have called all of us, even those of us who feel unprepared. Let us trust Your way.

**All: Those of us who have forgotten this call, let us listen deeply today.**

One: Giver of Joy, Jesus, Your path has offered us salvation. Let us trust Your way.

**All: Those of us who feel we are not invited or not honored: we are indeed held up by You, the Holy Creator.**

One: One who holds our pain, Your being reaches out for ours, let us trust Your way.

**All: Those of us who have been pushed to the side, those of us feeling forgotten, let us hear God's voice today, let us know we are beloved.**

## Hymn

"We Are Your People"

NCH (black) #309

Verse 1

**We are your people: Spirit of grace,  
you dare to make us Christ to our neighbors  
of every culture and place.**

Verse 3

**Rich in diversity, help us to live  
closer than neighbors, open to strangers,  
able to clash and forgive.**

## Gathering Prayer

One: Blessed are you, Power of Love. We give thanks for Your reign as Creator, as One who offers peace. As justice, truth, life and wholeness spring forth in the midst of struggle, let us remember this reign of Yours. Let us understand there is more than we see. Saints who have come before have

shown us we too may join in a playful and deep chorus of faith which will buoy us through all of our days.

**All: Blessed are You, Giver of joy. You have surrounded us even when we are unaware. We pray that we may sense the guard of You, our Divine Shepherd once again. In the valleys we seek a way forward: let us lean on wisdom and be moved to faith. In this hour, give us sincerity in our words, thoughts, singing, prayers, readings, and silence. Let us know that we are enough. Let us hope, and move, and work for Love's sake. Amen.**

## **Silence for Personal Reflection**

### **God's Promise of New Life**

One: All week we may have forgotten the deep and inclusive invitation of God, of Jesus. The fear of our days makes it hard to see and understand. Today, we revisit God's invitation and consider our belovedness. Once again, we seek restorative Love.

**All: 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**

"Spirit of Love"

NCH (black) #58

Verse 2

**Though we have frayed the fabric of your making,  
tearing away from all that you intend,  
Yet, to be whole, humanity is aching –  
come, work with us, and weave us into one.**

## **Children's Message**

# **HEARING THE WORD**

**Scripture Readings**    Psalm 23                  Matthew 22:1-14

One: Here end the readings from our tradition. May God grant us strength and courage to live our faith with the fiery passion of Pentecost.

**All: Amen.**

### **Message**

"Part of a Sacred Family"

Rev. Sara M. Holland

## Hymn

"God Is My Shepherd"

NCH (black) #479

Verse 1

**God is my shepherd, I'll not want,  
I feed in pastures green.  
God grants me rest and bids me drink  
from waters calm and clean.  
Through daily tasks, I'm blessed and led  
by one I have not seen.**

Verse 2

**Restored to life each morning new,  
I rise up from the dust  
to follow God whose presence gives  
me confidence and trust.  
I praise the name of God today;  
in God I put my trust.**

Verse 3

**When I must pass through shadowed vale,  
where loss and death await,  
I will not fear for God is there,  
my shepherd strong and great,  
whose rod and staff will comfort me  
and all my fears abate.**

Verse 4

**No enemy can overcome,  
no power on earth defeat  
the ones anointed by God's grace  
and fed with manna sweet.  
My cup is filled and overflows  
as I my Savior greet.**

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## Prayers of the People

You will be invited to offer your personal prayers from the silence of your heart.

## **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.**

## **Offertory**

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

## **Offertory Prayer**

**All: We give You thanks, gracious God, Morning Star. We have found hope as good things seem to have blessed us. We have hearts and minds to see Your miracles. We are pointed to praiseworthy living even when walking in the valley. Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless these gifts. We pray these gifts reach the farthest corners of Your earth. Let these offerings bring respite to those who feel forgotten, those who are hurting, those who need support. We pray that the hungry be fed and that the weak are made strong. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

# **SENDING**

## **Hymn**

"Let Justice Flow Like Streams"

NCH (black) #588

Verse 1

**Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water pure,  
Enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant cleansing, sure.**

Verse 3

**So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure true,  
And justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.**

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**

## **Keeping in Prayer**

Dick Brace      Patti Dyszinsky      Annie Rice  
Pat Andrews      Eileen Greenwood      Frank Bartko  
Prayers for Our Nation and for the World!

Prayers for Sam Lovett as he continues  
as the Bridge Interim at Meredith UCC until November 1<sup>st</sup>.

*If you have a prayer request you'd like Pastor Sara to include in Sunday Worship,  
please email her at [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org).*

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

Today – 9:30 AM Worship Service on Facebook Live  
10:45 AM Zoom Coffee Hour to welcome Pastor Sara  
7:30 PM Zoom Celebration & Fellowship for National  
Coming Out Day

Tuesday – 9:15 AM Zoom Staff Meeting

Wednesday – 12:00 PM Facebook Live Devotion & Prayer

Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> - NH Conference Annual Meeting, Virtually  
9:00 AM Fall Church Clean-Up Morning

## **Announcements**

**Rev. Sara M. Holland - Today**, we welcome Rev. Sara M. Holland on her first Sunday in the pulpit as our settled pastor and teacher. There will be a Zoom Coffee Hour following the service at 10:45 AM to welcome Sara and her wife Libby. The link can be found on Constant Contact.

**Faith Formation – Today**, there is no Virtual Sunday School.

**Fall Church Clean-Up Morning** - You are invited to come to the church on Saturday morning, **October 17<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 AM to help get the outside of the church ready for winter. The Buildings and Grounds Committee has identified some projects including brush cutting, window and sill cleaning and general outside clean up. They invite individuals and families to come on down to help make our church more attractive and safe. A pickup truck or two would be great! Of course, mask-wearing and safe distancing protocols are in place.

**Neighbors in Need (NIN)** is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. Part of the offering will also go to communities to help with the Covid-19 pandemic.

There is still time to give to NIN. If you are writing a check please make it out to PCUCC and mark NIN offering in the memo line. Mail it to Plymouth Congregational Church, P.O. Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264 or drop off at the church office.

**NH Food Bank** is having a Food Pantry give away in Plymouth on Thursday, **October 29<sup>th</sup>**, between 1:00 - 3:00 PM. They need volunteers to help direct traffic and load boxes of food into cars. If you want to help, please contact Ashley at the NH Food Bank at 669-9725. She will keep in contact with you about the location and when to be there. Thanks, Susan Wei

**Finance Committee** - CHOOSE OUR CHURCH as your favorite charity on AMAZON SMILE and support our ministries and mission. Yes, HANNAFORD prepaid grocery cards are available during this "stay-at-home" time of practicing safe distancing. Denominations of \$100, \$250 and \$500 are available. Finance safe distancing. Denominations of \$100, \$250 and \$500 are available. Finance orders cards regularly. Please let Linda or Larry know via phone or email what you would like to purchase.

We'll let you know when to mail your check to the church. If you shop at HANNAFORD for your essentials, please purchase a prepaid card. The church receives 5% of each card purchased. Thank you for your continued support!

**HOPE Fund** - The need for assistance through our HOPE Fund will increase as families at risk 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. Send to Plymouth Congregational UCC, P.O. Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264.

**Book Group** - Here is our intended order of Book Group readings so that you can purchase or otherwise obtain them in advance:

October: *Clementine: The Story of Mrs. Winston Churchill* by Sonia Purnell

November: *The Signature of All Things* by Elizabeth Gilbert

December: *My Own Words* by Ruth B. Ginsberg

January: *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate

February: *The Yellow House: A Memoir* by Sarah M. Broom

Our October zoom dates will be Wednesday, **October 14<sup>th</sup>** and Monday, **October 26<sup>th</sup>**. Cheers, Peggy

Our church is closed to all events until further announcement.  
The Worship Services will be live streamed on our Facebook page.  
Please check for Constant Contact and the Facebook page  
for information about upcoming Worship Services.

### **Pastor's Office Hours**

During this time of "physical distancing" and working remotely,  
Pastor Sara will be at the church for office hours Monday 10:00-3:00,  
Tuesday 9:00-3:00, Wednesday 9:00-3:00 and some Thursdays 9:00-11:00  
though all church doors are locked. Small meetings may be possible in person with  
masks. Please feel free to contact her by email at [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)  
or on her cell phone at 336-485-5618 to set up a meeting.

The Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor  
Deborah Healey, Office Administrator  
David Williams, Director of Music  
Ashley Paine, Organist/Pianist  
Gale Adams, Co-Director of Faith Formation  
Julie Kelsey, Co-Director of Faith Formation  
Larry Spencer, Treasurer  
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling

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