

**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ**

**24th Sunday after Pentecost**

**November 15, 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 & Announcements

### Prelude

"The Sacrifice of Love"

arr. Marilyn Ham

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

### Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 90

One: God, You have been our dwelling-place in all generations.

**All: Let us listen for Your voice in this hour!**

One: God, before the mountains were brought forth, you had formed the earth and the world.

**All: Let us pray for hope and strength in this hour, let us know You hear us.**

One: God, a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past.

**All: Let us sing out to Your holy name and know that all of our pain and joy is being held by You, the Almighty.**

### Hymn

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

NCH (black) 448

Verse 1

**Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.**

**Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

Verse 2

**Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.**

**Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.**

Verse 3

**Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.**

**Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.**

Verse 4

**Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.**

**Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's community.**

## Gathering Prayer

One: Our great Refuge, let us come to you fully in this hour. Today we will consider the ways we might be community, the ways we may unify. We have, too many times, harmed one another. We pray that we find a way forward as one human family. During this hour, Holy God, let us remember the ways we may build each other up, as blocks a child puts together carefully and quietly. Let us know that we can empower one another and that, in doing so, we may glorify Your holy name.

**All: Ever present Peace, meet in us in this hour. We are bound by Your Spirit, let us remember and honor this truth. Let us hold today's scripture not just in our thoughts but deep in our hearts. Let us be visionaries as the children who build and laugh; let us come to You humbly. Grant us the strength to know that we can be great unifying forces in the world. God, as we have rested in Your presence, we are awake seeking You. Let our love grow deep in this hour. Amen.**

## Silence for Personal Reflection

### God's Promise of New Life

One: It is easy to put others down and to cast judgement. We have let ourselves become divided in many ways and we have work to do. Today, we remember that we may, indeed, be beside all people on earth; we remember that unity grants us great salvation.

**All: God, some part of us is aware of the way we can empower our neighbors. You made it clear that You may be revealed in each person. 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 123 1st Thess. 5:1-11

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**

"Awake or Asleep"

Rev. Sara M. Holland

**Hymn**

Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

NCH (black) 537

Verse 1

**Christian, rise and act your creed;  
let your prayer be in your deed;  
Seek the right, perform the true,  
raise your work and life anew.**

Verse 2

**Hearts around you sink with care,  
you can help their load to bear;  
You can bring inspiring light,  
strengthen them to do the right.**

Verse 3

**Offer others hope and joy,  
and God's worship your employ;  
Giving thanks in humble zeal,  
learning all God's will to feel.**

Verse 4

**Come then, law divine, and reign;  
faith that doubt assails in vain,  
Perfect love bereft of fear,  
born in heaven and radiant here.**

# 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**

"In the Garden"

C. Austin Miles

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:  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## **Offertory Prayer**

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Receive these gifts we offer before  
You. Let all be turned to Your purposes. God we pray that  
with these gifts we recall that we may also give of our energy  
and of our time. Let us exist with servants' hearts, as we are  
called. Holy One we pray these offerings reach the farthest  
corners of Your earth – those who feel alone, hungry, those  
who are in pain. We pray all this, for Love's sake. Amen.**

# SENDING

## Hymn

Come, holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

NCH (black) 281

Verse 1

**Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,  
with all your quickening powers;  
Kindle a flame of sacred love  
in these cold hearts of ours.**

Verse 2

**In vain we tune our formal songs,  
in vain we strive to rise;  
Hosannas languish on our tongues,  
and our devotion dies.**

Verse 3

**Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,  
with all your quickening powers;  
Come, shed on us the Savior's love,  
that it may kindle ours.**

## Benediction

## Postlude

"Rondo: Allegretto"

J.L. Dussek

### Keeping in Prayer

Dick Brace

Patti Dyszinsky

Annie Rice

Prayers for Our Nation and for the World

Prayers for Sam Lovett as he comes before the Ecclesiastical Council today!

*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).*

*Please keep in mind that sometimes email systems will autocorrect Rev. Sara's email address  
so please double check that the email address is as listed here.  
If you have not heard back from her about an important matter,  
please contact Debbie at 603-536-2626 or [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org).*

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

Today – 9:30 AM Worship Service on Facebook Live

10:00 AM Virtual Sunday School CANCELED

2:00 PM Sam Lovett's Ecclesiastical Council via Zoom

Tuesday, 9:15 AM & Wednesday, 11:30 AM - Zoom Staff Meetings

Wednesday - 12:30 PM Lunchtime Prayers and Devotional via Facebook Live

Friday - 6:00 PM Trans(gender) Day of Remembrance

Vigil held from sanctuary & streamed live to Facebook. More information below.

Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 PM Interfaith and Ecumenical

Thanksgiving Service via Facebook Live

Wednesdays, December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM and December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM –

Advent Evening Services via Facebook Live

### **Announcements**

**Faith Formation** – Virtual Sunday School has been canceled this week! Instead we will be meeting at 1:00 PM for a short local hike. Please contact Julie Kelsey if you would like to join at [faithformation@uccplymouth.org](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org).

**Sam Lovett's Ecclesiastical Council** - Please join us on Sunday, **November 15th**, at 2:00 PM via Zoom! Following is the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84521472867> . The Meeting ID is 845 2147 2867 and the Passcode is 167124.

**Building Use Update** - Our Church Council has been diligent in putting together a building use policy which can be found on our church website and will be posted throughout our building. At least through Christmas, we will only have small meetings on site (no more than 5 people with the exception of 7 for Sunday morning Worship) and no more than 12 people total in the church building. We encourage people to meet online when possible. Please review the policy when you have a moment.

**Finance Committee** - CHOOSE OUR CHURCH as your favorite charity on AMAZON SMILE and support our ministries and mission. We can be found by entering Plymouth Congregational Church or Plymouth\* under Faith and Spiritual list only.

Once on AmazonSmile click on "Accounts and Lists" under your name, scroll down to "AmazonSmile Charity Lists" select "Faith and Spiritual" then either type Plymouth Congregational Church or Ply\* to find all listings starting with Ply then select our church.

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 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.

We want to thank the congregation for the outpouring of generosity for the Hope Fund during this time of need; this will be critically important throughout the winter months.

**Transgender Day of Remembrance** – "Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated all the transgender people lost to violence since Rita Hester's death, and began an important tradition that has become the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance." (information from [glaad.org/tdor](http://glaad.org/tdor)). This service will be simple and contemplative. We will read names of those lost to violent acts against trans people. We hope that you consider taking time to hold vigil yourself in some way and consider making a contribution in any amount to a worthwhile agency which supports trans people. Such information can be found at [glaad.org](http://glaad.org)

**Faith Formation** - Julie Kelsey and Rev Sara, with the blessing of Faith Formation, are partnering this year to create at home Advent Wreath kits. These kits will come complete with candles, a wreath and devotional materials - everything you need! These can be provided for free or at cost. Please let Julie Kelsey know if your family would like one. We did order extra so if you know a family who is not necessarily in our church membership, but would like this,



please let them know about the resource. Furthermore, if you are an individual who might benefit from such a simple holiday program, please also contact Julie or Sara. We will provide these to as many people as we are able.

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

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

Cheers, Peggy

Our church has moved to digital platforms for all events until further announcement. The Worship Services will be live streamed on our Facebook page and placed on YouTube. We are also working on getting our worship services on public television once again! 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 AM-3:00 PM, Tuesday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM, Wednesday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM and Thursday by appointment 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 work cell phone number at 336-485-5618 to set up a meeting.

The Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor	<a href="mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org">plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org</a>
Deborah Healey, Office Administrator	<a href="mailto:office@uccplymouth.org">office@uccplymouth.org</a>
David Williams, Director of Music	<a href="mailto:musicdirector@uccplymouth.org">musicdirector@uccplymouth.org</a>
Ashley Paine, Organist/Pianist	<a href="mailto:organist@uccplymouth.org">organist@uccplymouth.org</a>
Gale Adams, Co-Director of Faith Formation	<a href="mailto:windygla2@yahoo.com">windygla2@yahoo.com</a>
Julie Kelsey, Co-Director of Faith Formation	<a href="mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org">faithformation@uccplymouth.org</a>
Larry Spencer, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org">treasurer@uccplymouth.org</a>
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling	<a href="mailto:clwlcs@gmail.com">clwlcs@gmail.com</a>

John Anderson, Liturgist

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)

