

# Plymouth Congregational, United Church of Christ

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: Be Love



Aug 29, 2021

9:30 am

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.

*Masks are required in our community at this time. Thank you for your cooperation.*

# GATHERING

\*those who are able and willing may stand

## Welcome & Announcements

### Prelude

Majesty

Jack W. Hayford

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

### \*Call to Worship

One: Spirit of truth, through Christ You teach us that love fulfills the law of life.

**All: We lift up our voices and our hearts. We aim to be humble in this hour of worship.**

One: May we love You with all our hearts, with all our souls, minds and strength.

**All: We hope to turn our deepest joys and concerns to You in this time – in song, prayer and reflection.**

One: In seeking to love You more deeply, let us see the paths toward care for our neighbors. Let us see ways that we may become love ourselves.

**All: We want to abide in Your tent and find ourselves on Your holy hill – let us sense Your presence this hour!**

### \*Hymn

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

NCH (black) #22

1 Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sus - tains all cre -  
2 Praise God, our guard - ian, who lov - ing - ly of - fers cor -  
3 Sing praise to God, with sin - cere thanks for all your suc -  
4 Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God com -

a - tion! Sing praise, my soul, in pro - found and com -  
rec - tion, Who, as on ea - gle's wings, saves us from  
cess - es. Mer - ci - ful God ev - er loves to en -  
mend - ing. All that have life and breath join you, their

plete ad - o - ra - tion! Glad-some re - joi - ce — or - gan and  
 sin - ful de - jec - tion. Have you ob - served, how we are  
 cour - age and bless us. On - ly con - ceive, what god - ly  
 notes sweet - ly blend - ing. God is your light! Soul, ev - er

trum - pet and voice — join - ing God's great con - gre - ga - tion.  
 al - ways pre - served by God's pa - ren - tal af - fec - tion?  
 strength can a - chieve: strength that would touch and car - ess us.  
 keep this in sight: a - men, a - men nev - er end - ing.

## Passing of the Peace

We invite you to text or email someone a note of peace today. A hand-written note will work too.  
 (You could place this on someone's car or in their mailbox later today.)

## Unison Gathering Prayer

**All: Holy God, Precious Love - You are the maker and keeper of our souls. We come to You with thanks for breath and being. Fill us with such yearning for the new life You promise and let us consider ways to bring this for all creation. Allow us to reach for You wholeheartedly and sincerely; may we find Your Spirit in surprising ways and places, following in the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## Silence for Personal Reflection

### God's Promise of New Life

One: Almighty Creator, we seek Your reign of peace on this day. We each seek to more fully understand Your law of love and we pray that in Your word of truth we will find our path today. Let us have a sense of our call in this hour.

**All:** We seek Your promise this hour, we seek a path creating new beginnings each day. Let us listen deeply and find this in Your call. For we have been claimed, we are beloved: 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 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. The message for all ages will truly be intergenerational this morning so if children want to stay in the pews that is okay too!*

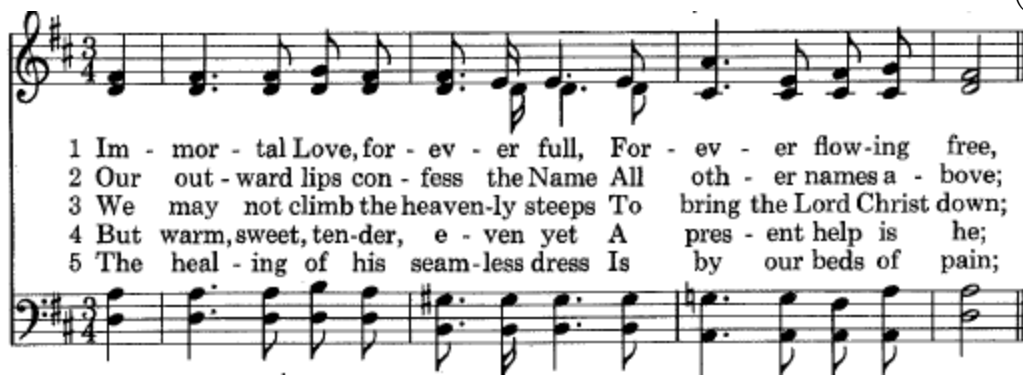
*You are the seed that will grow a new sprout,  
You're the star that will shine through the day.  
You are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a beacon to glow in the night.  
Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all:  
Messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.*

## HEARING THE WORD

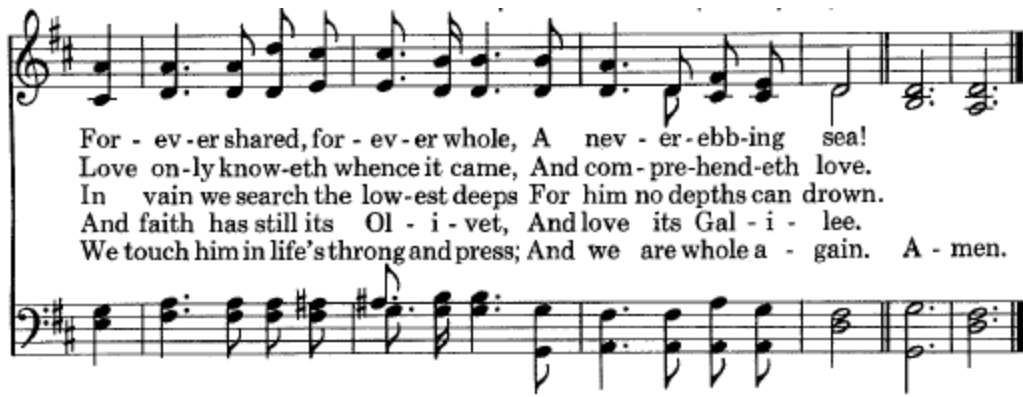
**Scripture Readings** Psalm 15 James 1: 17 – 27, adapted  
One: Holy One, be with the meditations of our hearts and minds. Grant that Your Spirit speaks comfort and challenge to us on this day. May we lean into Your comfort and strength today. We pray that Your spirit moves between words and hearing.  
**All: Amen.**

**Message** “Keepers” Rev. Sara M. Holland

**\*Hymn** Immortal Love, Forever Full PH (red) #230  
(versus 1-5)



1 Im - mor - tal Love, for - ev - er full, For - ev - er flow - ing free,  
2 Our out - ward lips con - fess the Name All oth - er names a - bove;  
3 We may not climb the heav - en - ly steep To bring the Lord Christ down;  
4 But warm, sweet, ten - der, e - ven yet A pres - ent help is he;  
5 The heal - ing of his seam - less dress Is by our beds of pain;



# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## Prayers of the People

### Joys and concerns

Pastor: Oh God, in Your grace and mercy . . .

All: **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.**

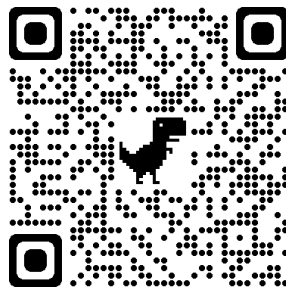
**For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## Offertory

### Give Thanks

Henry 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: Blessed are You, O God, for gracious gifts to us. You sent Jesus among us to teach and heal and show us what it means to give of self for love of others. You sent Christ among us now to teach and heal and show us what is possible in the presence of eternal love. And so, with all of creation, and with the church around the world, we give thanks in these our gifts. We pray these are carried to those most in need – the lonely, the hungry, the desperate and those commonly forgotten. We pray all this for Love’s sake. Amen.

# SENDING

**\*Hymn**

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

NCH (black) #596

1 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide; my shel-ter be!  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill your law's de - mands;  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to your cross I cling;  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when my eyes shall close in death,

Let the wat - er and the blood, from your wound - ed side which flowed,  
Could my zeal no re - spite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
Na - ked, come to you for dress; help - less, look to you for grace;  
When I soar to worlds un - known, meet you at your judg - ment throne,

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/2. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

Be of sin the dou-ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.  
 All for sin could not a - tone; you must save, and you a - lone.  
 Stained, I to the foun-tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die!  
 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide; my shel - ter be!

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

Almighty, King Eternal

arr. by Marilyn Ham

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

**Rev. Sara will be happy to greet you outside the church as you leave**

**Keeping in Prayer:**

- Prayers for Healing for Valerie, a dear friend of Sally Jensen
- Prayers for the people of Haiti & to the people of Afghanistan
- Prayers for the Wei's for their stay in Texas
- Galen Doscher, son of Fred & Margee Doscher
- Prayers for Healing for Brian Paine
- Thoughts & Prayers for Terry Cote
- Rev. Rich Weymouth – family of Lisa Lovett
- Timothy Wei, Susan & Philip Wei's Son
- Prayers & Healing for Ruth Monroe
- Mae Larson, Rebecca Larson's Mother-in-law
- Sympathy and prayers for the family of Robert Heal Jr., brother-in-law of Marlin Collingwood
- Continued prayers for Masvingo UCCZ in Zimbabwe
- Bob, Georgene Fabian's brother and his wife, Joan
- Marjorie Glidden and family
- Dick & Paulette Brace
- Alice & Margaret Avery
- Annie Rice, Bev Tedeschi's mother
- Sue Switaj
- Jean Nilson, Susan Wei's sister

Prayers for those administering and receiving COVID-19 vaccines.  
 All those who are sick or have family member/s who have passed during the pandemic.  
 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**

Today	9:30 AM	14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost
	7:00 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv (This week's TV view will be from August 29th, 2021)
Monday	4:00 PM	Music Committee (via zoom)
Tuesday	6:30 PM	Faith Formation Meeting
	7:00 PM	Racial Justice Meeting (via zoom)
Wednesday	11:30 AM	Staff Meeting

**Our offices will be closed on September 6th and staff are granted Labor Day for themselves and their families.**

**Important note: we will continue to stream our service online via Facebook and also have our service on PBTv.**

**Official call to the 220<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ, Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> 2021 via zoom webinar & YouTube Livestream. To learn more visit: [nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/2021-annual-meeting](http://nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/2021-annual-meeting)**

**Feeding Our Children Together (FOCT)** - As many of you know, our church participates in this program which provides a bag of food to food-insecure children in the Plymouth Head Start Program and children in the youngest grades in Plymouth Elementary School. Depending on how many families are eligible, we usually pack between 37-52 bags each week during the school year. This year, we will probably start packing in mid-September after both schools have determined who is eligible. Right now we have a few people in our packing program: Linda and Jim LaPrad, Rebecca Larson, Peggy Martin and myself, Alice O'Connor. We usually have about 6 or more volunteers so that no one is scheduled more than twice a month. We usually have 3-4 volunteers each week to pack. So, I am looking for 3-5 additional volunteers who would be willing to pack with us. We pack on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the lowest level of the Church. It usually takes us about 1 hour to pack. We leave the bags in the food room, and Michael Nicholas, our custodian, transports the bags to the schools on Thursdays or Fridays. If you are interested, please email Alice at [alimaenh@gmail.com](mailto:alimaenh@gmail.com)

**We want to encourage all community members (who are able) to get a COVID-19 vaccine. We hope that this will ensure the health and well-being of our most vulnerable community members.**

**We are seeking out people to join a technology team** which will include a rotation of folks to assist on Sunday mornings. Please let Rev Sara know if you are willing for this summer or fall. Training will be provided.



**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 in denominations of \$100, \$250 and \$500. Finance orders these cards on a regular basis, and the church receives 5% of amounts purchased. Cards are available by contacting Ann or Linda after services on Sunday, by phone, or email. Please make checks payable to PCUCC and write “Hannaford” on the memo line. If you shop at any HANNAFORD for your essentials, please purchase these prepaid cards often. 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. Send to Plymouth Congregational UCC, P.O. Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264. If you know of someone who is in need, please put them in touch with the church office or Pastor Sara.

**Racial Justice Exploration:** We are continuing these explorations this summer. We welcome new attendees and we pray you’ll reach out to Pastor Sara if you are considering ways to get involved in these important efforts. We will meet next on this Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm via zoom.

This group is examining Layla Saad’s *Me and White Supremacy*.

**Book Group** – Plymouth Congregational Book Group will meet at 10 am Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> in the Church Parlor. Please join us as we gather in fellowship and discuss our first selection of the year: *Anxious People* By Fredrik Backman.

During that meeting, we will choose our selections for the remaining months.

**All are welcome!**

Any questions please contact Peggy Martin: [pmartin03223@yahoo.com](mailto:pmartin03223@yahoo.com) OR

Kathy Henning: [henkat52@gmail.com](mailto:henkat52@gmail.com)

**Our council is reviewing recent guidelines from our conference with regard to in person meetings.**

The worship services will continue to be live streamed on our Facebook page and are available on Sunday nights on PBTv at 7:00 pm. (Local channel 1302.) Please check for Constant Contact and the Facebook page for information about upcoming services.

**We continue to encourage people to use zoom, google meet, Skype, phone and the like when possible for meetings. In person meetings should be used sparingly until our council reviews the most recent NH Conference guidelines.**

**Please also consider care for creation and reducing greenhouse emissions when scheduling in person meetings.**

**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 will be at the church for office hours Monday – Wednesday 10:30 – 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.

The Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor	<a href="mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org">plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org</a>
Courtney Crosato, 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 Rose, Organist/Pianist	<a href="mailto:organist@uccplymouth.org">organist@uccplymouth.org</a>
Jennifer Byam, Faith Formation Chair	<a href="mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org">faithformation@uccplymouth.org</a>
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org">treasurer@uccplymouth.org</a>
Liturgist: Bill Heron	
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Celebrating Birthdays in August & September in our Community:

August 1 Jan Bass  
August 11 Arline Bownes  
August 15 Dick Brace  
August 15 Angi Francesco  
August 17 Georgia Merrithew-Stone  
August 21 Natalie Amtmann  
August 22 Colton Hyde  
August 24 Maeghan Warburton  
August 29 Marti Shoemaker

September 8 Judy Floyd  
September 12 Diane Arsenault  
September 16 Philip Wei  
September 20 Molly McCahan  
September 25 Anna Switaj  
September 27 Andrew Hedberg

\*\*If you have a birthday or anniversary in either of these two months that you would like listed, please email us at [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org)\*\*