

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

World Communion Sunday, Neighbors in Need  
19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



October 3, 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

Prelude

Berceuse

by Benjamin Godard

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

\*those who are able and willing may stand

## Welcome & Announcements

*Please, if you are new or relatively new to our community and want to be involved, share your email address or phone with a greeter in the narthex. We are delighted to get to know you!*

*This morning we have Sunday School on the lowest level of the church building.*

*Children are always welcome to experience worship. In addition to Sunday School, there is a nursery space on the lower level if it is needed and bags with activities in the narthex too.*

Introit

God Is In This Holy Place

J. Brahms, arr. H. Hopson

## \*Call to Worship

One: Here we gather, in a time when Christians throughout the world break bread and pour the cup of sanctity.

**All: In Your hope, let us be assured of pardon and granted a clear path to receive grace.**

One: In many cultures and tongues we collectively proclaim the head of the Church – Christ: our Redeemer, Sustainer and Creator.

**All: In Your glorious creation, let us know that we have a path to Truth and a Way of peace to choose.**

One: On this day, we remember that we are a part of the whole body of believers – whether shared in a grand cathedral, a mud hut, outside on a hilltop, in a meetinghouse or in a storefront.

**All: We celebrate Your Holy Communion, each other, and the beauty of Your earth in the diversity of our voices.**

\*Hymn

Great is Your Faithfulness

NCH #423

1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,\*  
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Great is Your Faithfulness'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is written in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff, with three verses provided. The first verse is 'Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,\*', the second is 'Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,', and the third is 'Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,'.

with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.  
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,  
 your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.

You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;  
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.  
 to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

*Refrain*

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed your



## 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** adapted from Alex Maldonado, Mission Co-Worker

**God-made-flesh, bone of our bone: We confess that we think we can go it alone. We confess that we try to do it all – that in doing so, we neglect the gifts You have given us: our bodies, created in Your image and the relationships for which you created us. We are grateful for our neighbors, God. Jesus Christ, You who lived in a human body – call us to community in this hour, week and year. Remind us that in You we are one. Awake in us a respect for one another, and celebrate with us the diversity within that unity. May it be so now and forever. Amen.**

## Silence for Personal Reflection

### God's Promise of New Life

Xiomara Cintrón Mission Co-worker

**One:** We are each a divine creation, and it is not right for us to be alone. Know now that you are forgiven and called back into relationship with God and with one another. We turn to God for mercy, justice, and peace:

**All:** At the table of sinners and saints, we pray we will be restored. With our neighbors, *all* neighbors, we seek unity. 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

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.

# HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings

Galatians 3: 26-28

Mark 10: 2-16

One: Come, Holy Spirit, come, offer us space for reconciliation as we listen and reflect. We pray You move in the meditations of our hearts and minds, for You are our rock and redeemer.

All: Amen.

Message

“Soften”

Rev. Sara M. Holland

\*Hymn

For Everyone Born

Music – Brian Mann

Verses 1, 2 & 5

Words – Shirley Erena Murray

1. For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,  
 2. For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,  
 3. For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,  
 4. For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,  
 5. For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,

for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,  
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,  
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,  
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,

a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,  
 with wis - dom and grace di - vid - ing the pow - er  
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,  
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,  
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,

for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head.  
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair.  
 for young and for old, the right to be long. And  
 for just and un - just, a new way to live.  
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free.

God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and  
 joy - - - - - com - pas - sion and peace: yes





## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**Offertory Anthem**                      **Be Thou My Vision**                      arr. by Marie Pooler

*We invite you to join us in this year's effort to support the UCC "Neighbors in Need" campaign.*

### **\*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**

African Canticle, adapted

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, Come – bless these gifts and our lives for Your service. All you big things, bless the Lord: Mount Kilimanjaro and Lake Victoria. The Rift Valley and the Serengeti Plain. All eucalyptus and tamarind trees – Bless the Lord. All you tiny things, bless the Lord: busy black ants, flying locusts and water drops. Pollen dust and flies, millet seeds and dried dagaa, bless the Lord. Praises be to Your name, God – move in our gifts this day and forever. We pray all this for Love's sake. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Holy Communion**

One: We are scattered God: in apartments, houses, condos; on counters, at dinner tables, on our couch and stretching on the floor; and some of us are here in Church. As we join in this historic ritual, let us know that this holy meal may strengthen us. Let us find renewal in this great Communion.

**All: We are prepared God. Our tables and makeshift tables may be messy, but they are set. These tables are open: There are no prerequisites for God's love. This table is for those who believe a little or a lot. This table is for those who need community, those who need solace and those who need strength. Let us share in this abundance.**

### **Prayers of the People**

You will be invited to offer your silent prayers for others.

## Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Cup

### Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

### Closing Prayer & Lord's Prayer

All: God of truth, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life. Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for You, for each other and for all of creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray together, saying:

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.

## SENDING

\*Hymn

As We Gather at Your Table NCH (black) # 332

*Verses 2 & 3*

1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor-ship in-to wit-ness in the sac-ra-ment of life;  
3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri-um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.

Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
 There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.  
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

**\*Pastoral Benediction**

**Choral Benediction**

Let Us Go Forth Gladly

Hal Hopson

**Postlude**

“Come, Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire”

Margaretha Christina de Jong

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**



## PREPARE COMMUNION BEFORE WORSHIP

Today's worship service will include the celebration of the Lord's Supper. We encourage you to participate in the sacrament and to prepare bread and cup before the service begins. Here is a suggested preparation. Before the time of the service, you will want to prepare some bread, a slice or a small loaf of any kind of bread.

In some parts of the world tortilla, rice cake or cassava are used as this element which is defined not as a wheat product, but as the most common food of the people. Let it be something you alone or you with others in your house may break and share.

Prepare a cup or cups of juice — perhaps grape or cranberry — or wine, with or without alcohol. Set these elements in the living room or kitchen where you experience worship electronically with our faith community.

Perhaps you want to put them on a lovely cloth or fabric that reminds you of a special time or a person deeply connected with you in the communion of saints. Perhaps you will light a candle, place a flower/plant or the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup. Thank you for your preparation.

### **Keeping in Prayer:**

Sharon Wall, a friend of Donna Castor

Lynda & Len Swenson, parents of Megan Magrauth

Aaron, Jess and all who struggle with addiction

Prayers for Courtney Crosato

Charlie & Wendy Scouras

Prayers for Healing for Valerie, a dear friend of Sally Jensen

Prayers for Healing for Brian Paine

Thoughts & Prayers for Terry Cote

Timothy Wei & Jean Nilson, family of Susan & Philip Wei

Prayers & Healing for Ruth Monroe

Mae Larson, Rebecca Larson's Mother-in-law

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

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	19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday & collection for Neighbors in Need		
	2:00 PM	Blessing of the Animals service live – bring a mask and a critter!
	2:30 PM	Final Confirmation meeting
	6:00 PM	Virtual Blessing of the Animals for shy creatures like cats – <b><u>info below.</u></b>
	7:00 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv
Monday	10:00 PM	Book Group
Tuesday	6:30 PM	Faith Formation meeting @ church

**\*Today at 2:00 PM we are having the Blessing of the Animals ceremony right in front of the Church and will last 20 minutes – all polite pets are welcome! (Rev Sara even has experience blessing chickens.) \*\*please no dogs who might bite\*\***

St. Francis of Assisi started this ritual over 800 years ago – please join us for this historical and meaningful ceremony. If you have a kitty or shy creature at home, please join us on zoom at 6pm. At each service people will be encouraged to share one blessing the pet has brought to its respective home!

6 pm zoom for pet blessing -Topic: Zoom Pet Blessing  
Time: Oct 3, 2021 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89930147573?pwd=UHh2cm1jYjM3amVoTjZXdUNQWkpU](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89930147573?pwd=UHh2cm1jYjM3amVoTjZXdUNQWkpUQT09)

QT09

Meeting ID: 899 3014 7573

Passcode: 546388

Note from Pastor Sara: Dear Church, it is hard to believe I'll joyfully celebrate 1 year with our beloved community this week! I am honored to be church with you week to week. I'll be away for my final vacation Sunday of my first year of service on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>. Libby and I will celebrate our 2-year wedding anniversary on the 12<sup>th</sup> and I'll come back with gusto for more fall and Advent preparations. As Courtney is away for health reasons at this time, please direct prayer concerns to Eileen Torrey for the upcoming week and do still contact me with urgent matters. I will likely work remotely while I am with family this week.

**Confirmation Sunday is October 17<sup>th</sup> & the Ball children will be baptized: please join in these historical rituals in person or via Facebook.**

**Corn Maze trip on Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup> more info coming soon!**

**About Neighbors in Need Offering:** Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches

and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Please join us in this year's effort!

**Good News From Mission & Social Outreach** - Gale Adams-Davis, a member of the M&O Committee is hosting a refugee family from Central America. Rebecca Larson, Ann Thurston and Linda LaPrad are helping the family get acclimated to the area, and other team members are helping them continue navigating through the paperwork needed to settle in the U.S. The M&O team will be assisting in the effort and will be looking for volunteers who can help with the family's needs. If you are interested in helping, contact Linda LaPrad.

**Welcome to church families!** Activity bags hanging outside the doors of the sanctuary in the Narthex and quiet toys are made available, please ask an usher if you cannot find them. If your child needs more space during worship, please feel free to use the parlor on the sanctuary level or you may also find comfortable space on the lower level in our nursery and fellowship area.

For this school year we will be running Sunday school in person, with masks on, the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Please email Jennifer if you need any additional information or have questions, [faithformation@uccplymouth.org](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org). We look forward to seeing you! We are seeking volunteers especially for our middle school and high school youth, please contact Jennifer or Julie Kelsey if you are interested.

**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 start typing Plymouth Congregational Church & it should show up as you are typing to select.

**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: [nhucc.org/conference-ministries/2021-annual-meeting](http://nhucc.org/conference-ministries/2021-annual-meeting)**

**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.

*The Hope Fund of our church continues to touch the lives of people in the lakes region. This summer we purchased food for people, assisted families who needed back to school supplies, assisted folks with rental expenses as well as utilities. **When we assisted families in preparation for school, we actually were able to meet a few of the children impacted; they were immensely grateful.***

*We have deep gratitude for all of those who have contributed money and time related to the Hope Fund.*

**Racial Justice Exploration:** We are continuing these explorations this summer. We welcome new attendees and we pray you'll reach out to Alison Thatcher at: [Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com](mailto:Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com) or Pastor Sara if you are considering ways to get involved in these important efforts.

This group is currently involved in taking Harvard University's Implicit Bias test online; we encourage you to consider doing so as well.

**Book Group – 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)

**Continue to be aware of COVID related concerns when on site; please do not assume old friends are okay with physical contact - always ask out of respect for the other person and be empathetic to anxieties anyone might have on the basis of the pandemic (or otherwise).**

**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 will offer the option of meeting digitally indefinitely (Facebook).** You may also catch our services (one week delayed) on Sunday nights on PBTv at 7:00 pm. (Local channel 1302.) Please check for Constant Contact and the Facebook page for ongoing updates. **Small, in person meetings are allowed as long as all people in groups agree to such a format. Zoom, google meet, Skype, phone, etc. may still be used! Please consider care for creation and reducing greenhouse emissions when scheduling in person meetings.**

### **Office Hours**

Tuesday - 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Wednesday - 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM  
Thursday - 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM  
Friday - 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

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

Pastor Sara is generally at the church for office hours Monday – Wednesday 10:30 AM – 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  
Courtney Crosato, Office Administrator  
David A. Williams, Director of Music  
Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist  
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation  
Ann Thurston, Treasurer

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Liturgist: Carol Stewart

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Celebrating Birthdays in September & October in our Community:

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

October 1 Sophie Kelsey  
October 1 Madelyn Kelsey  
October 1 Paul Mason  
October 2 Paulette Brace  
October 5 John Fallon  
October 15 Larry Spencer  
October 15 Debbie Englehardt  
October 16 Liam Kane  
October 17 Donna Castor  
October 20 Alice O'Connor  
October 30 Chase Woodsum

\*\*If you have a birthday or anniversary this month or next month that you would like listed, please email us at office@uccplymouth.org\*\*