

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Communion Sunday

February 7, 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.

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

Call to Worship

adapted from Therese of Lisieux, France, 19th cent.

One: Your love, Jesus, is an ocean with no shore to bound it.

All: Let us dive into Your love this hour, God; carry us to Your glory and peace.

One: Your love, Creator God, is a mountain of strength and resilience.

All: Let us dive into Your love this hour, God; carry us to Your glory and peace.

One: Your love, Holy Spirit, is a sunset of calm and clarity.

All: Let us dive into Your love this hour, God; carry us to Your glory and peace.

Hymn

“Guide My Feet”

NCH (black) #497

The hymn is located at the end of the worship service.

Passing of the Peace

We invite you to text or email someone a note of their beauty of belovedness.

A hand-written note will work too!

Gathering Prayer

One: Holy Creator, You call us to oneness that includes the many, to singing your song in many parts. Release us from fear, from our need to control and from anxiety that leads to domination.

All: Help us grow in certain knowledge of Your unfailing love.

One: Let us be free to cherish differences in Your name.

All: Help us grow in certain knowledge of Your unfailing love.

One: By the power of Your Spirit, help us build a community which beats with one heart - with a vision of harmony; let this be mapped within us as longing for You.

All: Help us grow in certain knowledge of Your unfailing love.

One: Holy Presence, we seek You.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Friends and family in Christ, surely each of us has made mistakes. Even still, God's unconditional love is open wide for us; let us open our ears, minds and hearts to this Love today.

All: There is nothing, nothing here, nothing anywhere else that will separate us from the love of God in Jesus; because of this, our promise, we sing!

Response As with Gladness Those of Old NCH (black) #159
Holy Jesus, everyday keep us in the narrow way;
And when mortal things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.

Hearing the Word

Scripture 1st Corinthians 9: 22-23 Isaiah 40: 21-31

Message “Those Who Wait” Rev. Sara M. Holland

Hymn “You are Called to Tell the Story” NCH (black) #357
Tune #400
The hymn is located at the end of the worship service.

Responding to the Word

Offertory

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

Offertory Prayer

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless these, our humble gifts, and let us be recommitted to our service to others and to Your sacred path. We pray these gifts be carried over all the earth, to the places most in need. We pray that Your Love reach the one who is hurting, lonely, sad, scared or angry. We pray all this for Love’s sake. Amen.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

One: We are scattered God; in apartments, houses, condos; on counters, at dinner tables, on our couch and stretching on the floor. 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

All: 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. 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. This we pray through Christ our Lord who taught us to pray:

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.

Sending

Hymn "O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come" NCH (black) #175
Tune #100
The hymn is located at the end of the worship service.

Benediction

Postlude

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

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

Dick & Paulette Brace Patti Dyszinsky Alice & Margaret Avery
Fran Lewis Judy Detzel Sue Switaj Margorie Glidden
Annie Rice, Bev Tedeschi's mother
Terry Cote & David Cote, close friends of Alice O'Connor
Jean Nilson, Susan Wei's sister Heidi Watts, Fran Lewis' sister
Ron Ury, Eleanor Spencer's brother
Janet Taylor who is recovering at Goldenview Health
Tom Healey, Debbie's husband
Kelleanne Surine, family member of Alice O'Conner's
Chris, Sarah Sells' boyfriend
Peter Starck, Hanna's husband

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

If you have a prayer request you would like Pastor Sara to include in Sunday Worship, please email her at plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org.

Guide My Feet

497

*African-American traditional; alt.**Heb. 12:1-15*

1 Guide my feet while I run this race, guide my feet
 2 Hold my hand while I run this race, hold my hand
 3 I'm your child while I run this race, I'm your child
 4 Stand by me while I run this race, stand by me



Yes, my God.



while I run this race, guide my feet while I run this race,
 while I run this race, hold my hand while I run this race,
 while I run this race, I'm your child while I run this race,
 while I run this race, stand by me while I run this race,



Yes, my God.



For I don't want to run this race in vain.



*This stanza may be added following stanza 1:
 Wheel with me while I run this race . . .*

The words and music of some African-American spirituals have been widely adapted during the twentieth century, especially in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. The alternate words were suggested by a fifth-grade church school class to include those who must "run this race" in a wheelchair.

Tune: GUIDE MY FEET 8.8.8.10.
African-American traditional
 Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

You Are Called to Tell the Story

357

Ruth Duck, 1991

Eph. 3:14-21

- 1 You are called to tell the sto-ry,
pass-ing words of life a-long,
Then to blend your voice with oth-ers
as you sing the sa-cred song.
Christ be known in all our sing-ing,
fill-ing all with songs of love.
- 2 You are called to teach the rhy-thm
of the dance that nev-er ends,
Then to move with-in the cir-cle,
hand in hand with strang-ers, friends.
Christ be known in all our danc-ing,
touch-ing all with hands of love.
- 3 You are called to set the ta-ble,
bless-ing bread as Je-sus blessed,
Then to come with thirst and hun-ger,
need-ing care like all the rest.
Christ be known in all our shar-ing,
feed-ing all with signs of love.
- 4 May the One whose love is broad-er
than the mea-sure of all space
Give us words to sing the sto-ry,
move a-mong us in this place.
Christ be known in all our liv-ing,
fill-ing all with gifts of love.

In this text, hymnwriter Ruth Duck sought to "set ordained ministry in the larger context of the ministry of the whole people of God." It was written for the ordination of her longtime friend, Elizabeth Caldwell.

Tune: JULION 8.7.8.7.8.7.

David Hurd, 1974

Alternate tune: REGENT SQUARE

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come

175

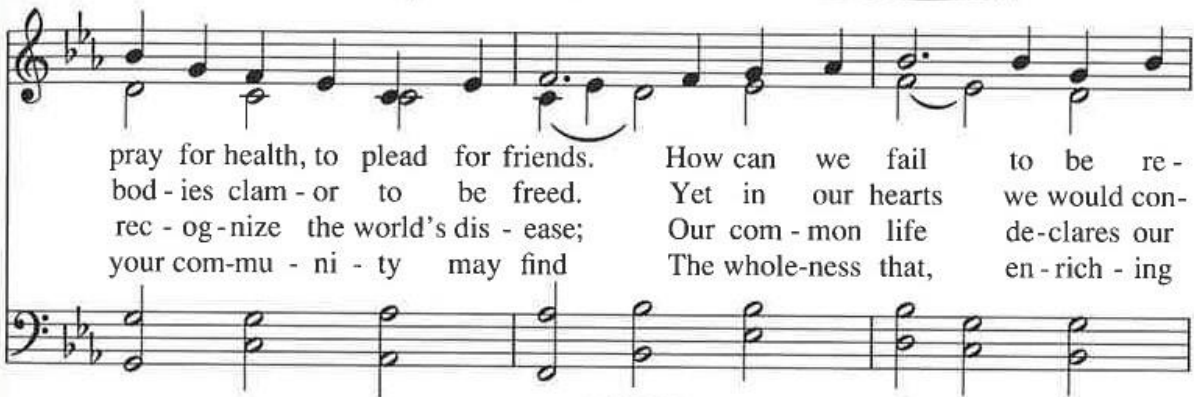
Fred Pratt Green, 1967

Matt. 8:5-13; 15:21-28; Mark 5:25-34; Luke 7:1-10; 9:37-43a

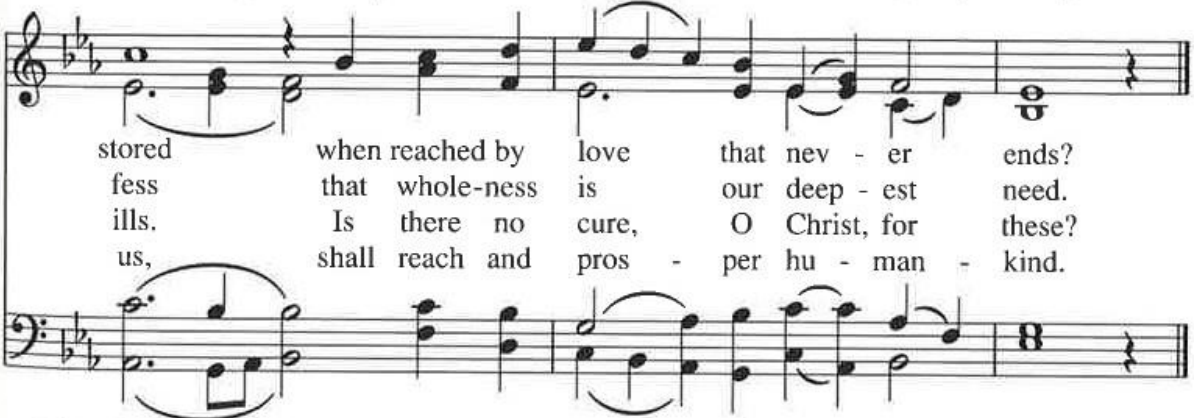
Unison



1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to
2 From ev - ery ail - ment flesh en - dures our
3 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we
4 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in



pray for health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to be re -
bod - ies clam - or to be freed. Yet in our hearts we would con -
rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease; Our com - mon life de - clares our
your com - mu - ni - ty may find The whole - ness that, en - rich - ing



stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.
ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
us, shall reach and pros - per hu - man - kind.

Fred Pratt Green wrote this hymn in 1967 at the suggestion of the committee compiling Hymns and Songs, when they noted the need for a new healing text. Green immediately produced this prayer for wholeness of body, mind, and spirit.

Tune: KENTRIDGE L.M.
Richard Gieseke, 1988
Alternate tune: TALLIS' CANON

This Week and More at PCUCC

Sunday - 9:30 AM Worship Service on Facebook Live
10:00 AM Sunday School
4:00 PM Confirmation
6:30 PM Worship service airs on PBTv

Wednesday - 11:30 AM Zoom Staff Meeting
7:00 PM Midweek Prayer & Devotion via Zoom
To be recorded and uploaded to Facebook.

Wednesday
February 17th - 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service via Facebook Live

Announcements

**Please note we have a quarterly postal mailing going out this week or early next.
If you do not receive this within the next 7 days, please email the office.**

Lenten Reflection Booklet - As we dwell in this season of Epiphany, looking for the ways that God's presence is made known to us, the season of Lent slowly but surely approaches. The two weeks before Lent this year, we'll be producing a Lenten reflection book by and for our community. **We invite you, whoever you are, to contribute. If we do not receive 40 submissions, we'll pad what we do receive with pieces from theologians, artists, poets, etc. So... calling all artists and contemplatives in this community! Here is your invitation to submit a piece for the greater good. Express in prose, poetry, prayer, picture, some visual piece or photo with caption what Lent means to you. We ask that whatever you contribute be one page or less. Higher quality jpgs are appreciated if you choose to send in any sort of image. These need not be perfect. With God's guidance, we'll join in the season of Lent. Please submit by Feb. 10th at the latest!**

SignUp.com - We're using SignUp.com - the leading online SignUp and reminder tool - to organize our upcoming SignUps to deliver meals.

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

Click this link to see our SignUp on SignUp.com: <https://signup.com/go/kEGjsBs>
and <https://signup.com/go/ACZasWm>

Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.

Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.

Please Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact Sara or Eleanor, and they can sign you up manually.

Sign up to bring meals to the Avery sisters here: <https://signup.com/go/kEGjsBs>

Sign up to bring meals to the Braces here: <https://signup.com/go/ACZasWm>

Thanks everyone!

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, electric 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.

Book Group - Here is our intended order of Book Group readings so that you can purchase or otherwise obtain them in advance: February - *The Yellow House: A Memoir* by Sarah M. Broom. Our next selections will be *The Elephant Whisperer* by Lawrence Anthony, *Daughters of Erietown* by Connie Schultz, *The Woman Who Smashed Codes* by Jason Fagone and *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate.

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 are available on Sunday nights on PBTv at 6:30 pm.
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
or on her work cell phone number at 336-485-5618 to set up a meeting.

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Carol Stewart, Liturgist

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