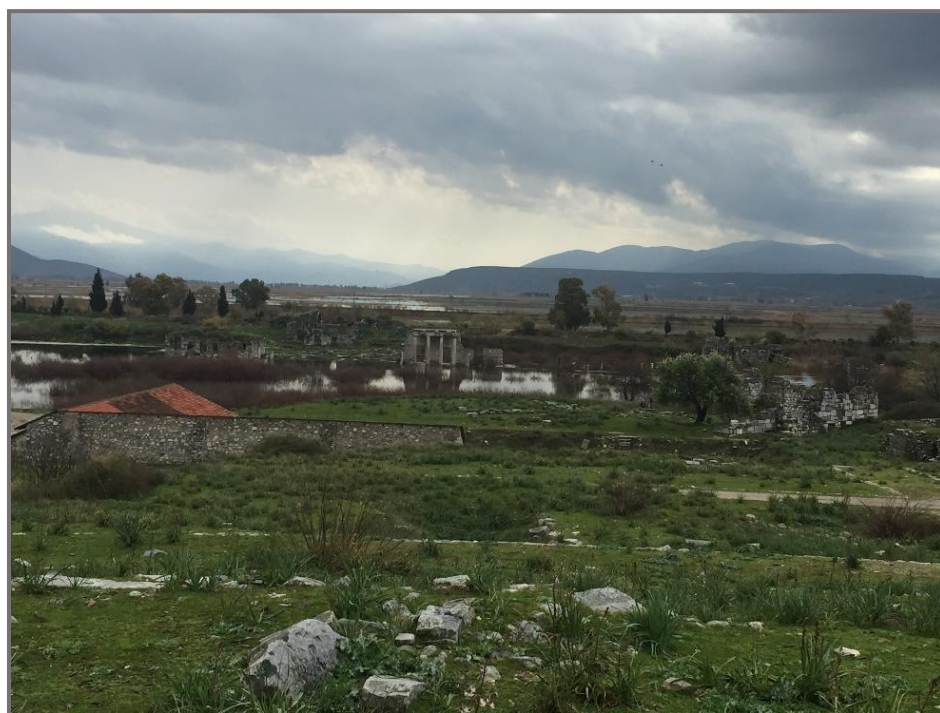


Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Transfiguration Sunday
Racial Justice Sunday

February 14, 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 & Announcements

Prelude

"I Love to Tell the Story"

William G. Fischer

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

Call to Worship

One: Jesus said - I have come that they might have life - life in all its fullness.

All: Let our minds and hearts be open to Spirit this day!

One: Jesus and the disciples traversed a high mountain and sought the fullness of life.

All: Let our minds and hearts be open to Spirit this day!

One: Let us find ourselves alongside these disciples; let us know that we too may climb mountains, even if in our thoughts and dreams. Let God be with us this hour.

All: Let our minds and hearts be open to Spirit this day!

Hymn

Nearer, My God, to Thee

PH (red) 351

Verses 1-4

The hymn is located at the end of the bulletin.

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

based on Psalm 3

One: O Holy God, Your love is steadfast and extends to the heavens. Your faithfulness is among the clouds and is with us. Your righteousness is as the mighty mountains. Your judgements are like the great deep; beyond our understanding. You save all beings, O Lord. How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

All: Giver of peace, let us dwell on the abundance of Your house. Let us drink from the river of Your delights in this hour. For with You is the fountain of life; in You we see Love. God let us continue to seek Your steadfast love and let our longing to know You give us hope. Let us draw near to You in this sacred hour, O Holy God. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Creator God, throughout Epiphany, You have been revealed to us in many ways and some we have simply missed. Whether we noticed You or not, You were present. We lean into Your great promise and covenant this day. We seek new life in Your way.

All: We aim to find Your peace and meaning this day, O Holy God. We hope to find Your holy strength and courage. Let us know in our hearts: 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 As with Gladness Those of Old NCH (black) #159
As with gladness those of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward beaming bright;
So, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.

Children's Message

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings II Kings 2:1-12 Matthew 17:1-9

One: Here end the readings from our tradition. May God come to us through word and Spirit this day. Let us find wisdom for today in these ancient words, and let us listen for Your love. O Holy Spirit, we pray You move between words and hearing.

All: Amen.

Message "Listen!" Rev. Sara M. Holland

Hymn O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair NCH (black) 184
The hymn is located at the end of the bulletin.

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 "Deck Thyself, My Soul" Charles Callahan
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: Source of great Truth, let us embody Your Love in our actions as well as in our giving. Receive these humble gifts, O Holy God. Let us know that we have the ability to listen for ways that may help reveal Your love. Bless these gifts, God; take these to all the earth - to people who are displaced, disenfranchised, those forgotten. Let us plant seeds of love where fear seems to have taken hold. We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

SENDING

Hymn

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

NCH (black) 573

The hymn is located at the end of the bulletin.

Benediction

Postlude

"Allegretto grazioso"

Friedrich Kuhlau

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

Keeping in Prayer

Dick & Paulette Brace Alice & Margaret Avery

Fran Lewis Sue Switaj Marjorie Glidden

Annie Rice, Bev Tedeschi's mother Peter & Hanna Starck

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 at Goldenview Health

Kelleanne Surine, family member of Alice O'Conner

Chris, Sarah Sells' boyfriend

Judy Detzel, friend of Hanna Starck

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'd like Pastor Sara to include in Sunday Worship,
please email her at plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org.

Nearer, My God, to Thee

351

Sarah F. Adams, 1805-1848

BETHANY 6.4.6.4.6.6.6.4.

Lowell Mason, 1792-1872



1 Near - er, my God, to thee, Near - er to thee, E'en though it be a cross
2 Though like the wan - der - er, The sun gone down, Dark-ness be o - ver me,
3 There let the way ap - pear Steps un - to heaven; All that thou send - est me
4 Then, with my wak - ing thoughts Bright with thy praise, Out of my ston - y griefs
5 Or if on joy - ful wing Cleav - ing the sky, Sun, moon, and stars for - got,



That rais - eth me; Still all my song would be, Near - er, my God, to thee,
My rest a stone, Yet in my dreams I'd be, Near - er, my God, to thee,
In mer - cy given; An - gels to beck - on me Near - er, my God, to thee,
Beth - el I'll raise; So by my woes to be Near - er, my God, to thee,
Up - ward I fly, Still all my song shall be, Near - er, my God, to thee,



Near - er, my God, to thee, Near - er to thee. A - men.



FAITH AND ASPIRATION

TRANSFIGURATION

184

O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair

Luke 9:28-36; Matt. 17:1-5; Mark 9:2-7

Latin, "Sarum Breviary," 1495
 Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.

1 O won - drous sight, O vi - sion fair of glo - ry
 2 From age to age the tale de - clare, how with the
 3 The law and proph - ets there have place, two cho - sen
 4 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray, Christ deigns to
 5 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by this great

that the church shall share, Which Christ up - on the
 three dis - ci - ples there, Where Mo - ses and E -
 wit - ness - es of grace; The voice of God out
 man - i - fest to - day What glo - ry shall be
 vi - sion's mys - ter - y, For which in joy - ful

moun-tain shows, where bright - er than the sun, Christ glows!
 li - jah meet, they with the Christ God's fu - ture greet.
 from the cloud pro - claims the Hu - man One a - loud.
 theirs be - yond, who live with - in God's lov - ing bond.
 strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

This tune was composed in honor of the defeat of France at Agincourt by England under Henry V. The words, "Deo gracias . . ." were added in honor of the English king's wish that the glory for the victory be given to God.

Tune: DEO GRACIAS L.M.
 "The Agincourt Song," England, c. 1415
 For other harmonizations, see 209, 259

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1887; alt.

1 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, we fol - low in your way;
 2 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, we fol - low not with fear,
 3 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease,

loud rings your cry for jus - tice, your call for peace this day:
 for in each hu - man con - flict your words of strength we hear:
 and all your saints to - geth - er will sing a hymn of peace;

Through prayer - ful prep - a - ra - tion, your grace will make us strong,
 That when we serve with glad - ness, you will not let us fall,
 Then all in your do - min - ion will live with hearts set free,

to car - ry on the strug - gle to tri - umph o - ver wrong.
 our trust is in your prom - ise that love will con - quer all.
 to love and serve each oth - er for all e - ter - ni - ty.

At Andover Seminary, fellow students asked Ernest W. Shurtleff to write a hymn for their graduation. This is the result. Shurtleff became a Congregational minister and in his last years established churches in Europe and did relief work during World War I.

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.
 Henry T. Smart, 1836

This Week and More at PCUCC

- Sunday - 9:30 AM Worship Service on Facebook Live
10:00 AM Virtual Sunday School
2:00 PM Black Lives Matter Workshop (sponsored by Starr UU)
Please see below for additional information.
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.

Lenten Services

All at 7:00 PM via Facebook Live
February 17th - Ash Wednesday
Wednesdays, March 17th & 24th - Lenten Evening Services
April 1st - Maundy Thursday
April 2nd - Good Friday

Announcements

Deacon's Corner - Welcome to our Deacon's Corner where we will provide updates as is appropriate and desired by community members. These updates will be general and not specific to protect the privacy of families and individuals.

This week please continue to pray for Hanna and Peter Starck who can be contacted at P.O. Box 1478 Campton, NH 03223. Peter returned home from Speare this week. Also in our prayers is Judy Detzel, friend of Hanna Starck, at 10 Willey Road, Ellsworth, NH 03223.

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:

1. Click this link to see our SignUp on SignUp.com: <https://signup.com/go/kEGjsBs> and <https://signup.com/go/ACZasWm>
2. Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
3. 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!

Black Lives Matter Workshop - The Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is hosting and invites our community to a Black Lives Matter Workshop via Zoom on the second Sunday of each month between 2:00-3:30 PM. Following is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88519314675?pwd=azhtY2xVS05LSFMvUXkycGc4cEtTdz09>. The link can also be found on their website at starrkingfellowship.org and our website at uccplymouth.org.

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. 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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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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