

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
First Sunday in Lent

February 21, 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

"Waltz in B Minor"

Frederic Chopin

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

Call to Worship

One: Taking courage, facing darkness, we re-focus and behold the love of Christ.

All: God established a covenant with our faith ancestors, and this is ours too.

One: Seeking hope, combating despair, we center ourselves around Jesus' path.

All: God established a covenant with our faith ancestors, and this is ours too.

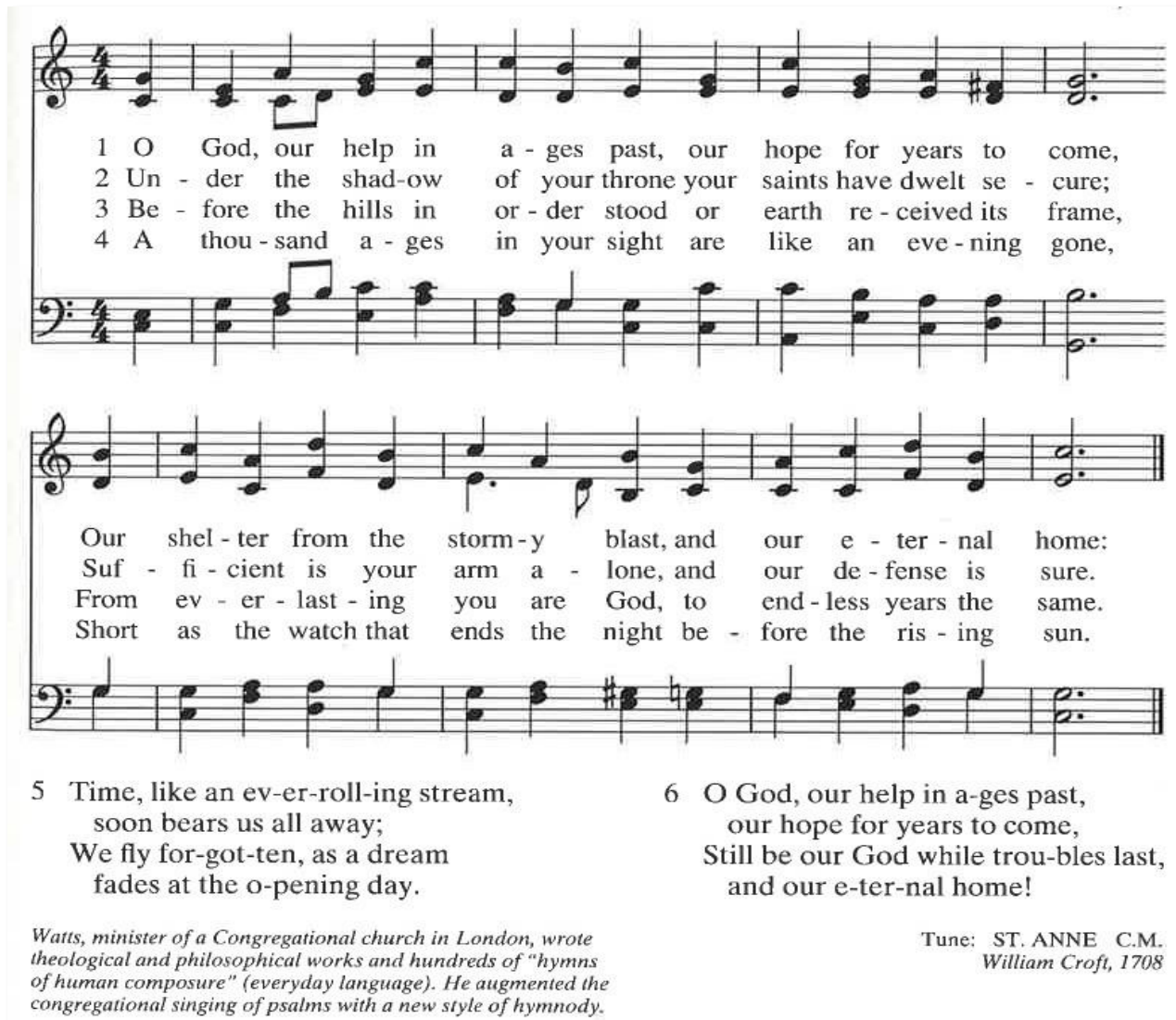
One: Moving to Love, facing harms of past and present, we journey in the wilderness.

All: God established a covenant with our faith ancestors, and this is ours too.

Hymn

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

NCH (black) #25



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad-ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,

Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream,
soon bears us all away;
We fly for - got - ten, as a dream
fades at the o - pening day.

6 O God, our help in a - ges past,
our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while trou - bles last,
and our e - ter - nal home!

Watts, minister of a Congregational church in London, wrote theological and philosophical works and hundreds of "hymns of human composure" (everyday language). He augmented the congregational singing of psalms with a new style of hymnody.

Tune: ST. ANNE C.M.
William Croft, 1708

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 One, Your love envelopes all people, no matter their identities. We are scattered, and yet, we gather to praise You in this hour. Let our intention be centered on Love and peace. Embarking on a Lenten journey, our hope is to find meaning in Your path, once again. May all dimness be cleared from our vision. We hope to catch a glimpse of You this day and carry such vision to the world.

All: You are the keeper of the least, the lost, those who have been betrayed. During our worship today, let us be reminded that Your covenant is for each and every person. Let us recall the ways You called to our faith ancestors, and let us see this call as our own too. Grant that we may find the ways You join us in our struggle: Let us know Your presence is beside us, providing strength and resilience. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Source of Truth, let us know that as we reflect on Your covenant and look inward, we are not alone. Let us know that in the wilderness, we walk alongside You and therefore, we may find courage.

All: In the wilderness, we encounter hardships and strife. We hope to find ourselves at peace on our journey during Lent. May our bodies and minds be made aware, once again: 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 Savior, When in Tears and Dust NCH (black) #185

Savior, when in tears and dust, low we bow to you in trust,
When repentant, to the skies scarce we lift our weeping eyes,
Mindful how you suffered pain that God's love in us might reign –
Help us claim what we would be, hear our solemn litany.

Children's Message

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings Genesis 9: 8-13 Mark 1: 9-15

One: Here end the readings from our tradition. May Holy Spirit join us for this Lenten journey. Let us find wisdom for today in these ancient words. O Holy Spirit, we pray You move between words and hearing.

All: Amen.

Message

“With You”

Rev. Sara M. Holland

Hymn

O for a World

NCH (black) #575

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Inspired by Charles Wesley's phrase "O for a thousand tongues" and the familiar tune Azmon, Miriam Therese Winter wrote this hymn envisioning a new world order for the Presbyterian Women's Triennial Conference in 1982. It was later recrafted and recorded by the Medical Mission Sisters.

Tune: AZMON C.M.
Carl G. Gläser, 1828
Adapt. Lowell Mason in Modern Psalmody, 1839

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

"Trio and Waltz in B Minor"

Frederic Chopin

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: Gracious God, we thank You for your power of redemption, for Your spirit of transformation and for Your persistence in love. We thank You, O God, for the saints of all ages; for those who in times of struggle keep faithful; for the souls who saw visions of larger truth and dared to declare it; for the multitude of quiet and gracious souls whose presence has purified and sanctified the world; and for those known and loved by us who have encouraged us to contribute. Take these humble gifts, God, and let them be multiplied. Amen.

SENDING

Hymn

O God, How We Have Wandered

NCH (black) #202

1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
 3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

In fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
 By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.
 Com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.

But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic - ing bring,
 Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith-less-ness may cease.

As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.
 In glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

The tune for this contemporary text appears five times in J. S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion, and first appeared as a hymn setting in the early 1800s. It has an ecumenical history reaching back many centuries. Originally it was a German love song.

Tune: PASSION CHORALE 7.6.7.6.D.
 (HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN)
 Melody by Hans Leo Hassler, 1601
 Harm. J. S. Bach, 1729
 For another harmonization, see 179

Benediction

Postlude

"Azmon"

George Job Elvey

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

Keeping in Prayer

Family of Tom Howe

Dick & Paulette Brace Alice & Margaret Avery

Sue Switaj Marjorie 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 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 would like Rev. Sara to include in Sunday Worship,
 please email her at plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org.

This Week and More at PCUCC

- Sunday - 9:30 AM Worship Service on Facebook Live
10:00 AM Virtual Sunday School
4:30 PM Confirmation
6:30 PM Worship service airs on PBTv
- Wednesday - 11:30 AM Zoom Staff Meeting
6:30 PM Midweek Prayer & Devotion via Zoom
To be recorded and uploaded to Facebook.
7:00 PM Council Meeting

Lenten Services

All at 7:00 PM via Facebook Live
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 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!

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 will 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.

Racial Justice Exploration - A subgroup of the Mission and Social Outreach Board is hard at work preparing a 4-5 week educational program that will relate to race and racial justice. This will likely begin in early March and the culmination will be a larger training and educational offering from Rev Renee Rouse, one of the Racial Justice Ministers from the New Hampshire Conference.

If you know you want to participate in this program, please let Rev. Sara know and if you are able to do so, please purchase Robin DiAngelo's *White Fragility: Why it is so Hard for White People to talk about Race*. If purchase of this book is a barrier and you want a copy, let Rev Sara know. There will also be at least 1-2 meetings that will be open for people who are unable to make time to read the book or prepare. We hope to get the schedule out for this group within a week or so.

On Saturday, there is a webinar focusing on White Nationalism, Contemporary Racism and the Christian Church. This being offered by the New Hampshire conference and is free to attend. It is most of Saturday morning, but if you are on a drive or are doing chores, you could listen while busy! Here is a link to the registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_o1cIU9EZRE23kijw8AVX6A

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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| The Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor | plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org |
| Deborah Healey, Office Administrator | office@uccplymouth.org |
| David Williams, Director of Music | musicdirector@uccplymouth.org |
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Bev Newton, Liturgist

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