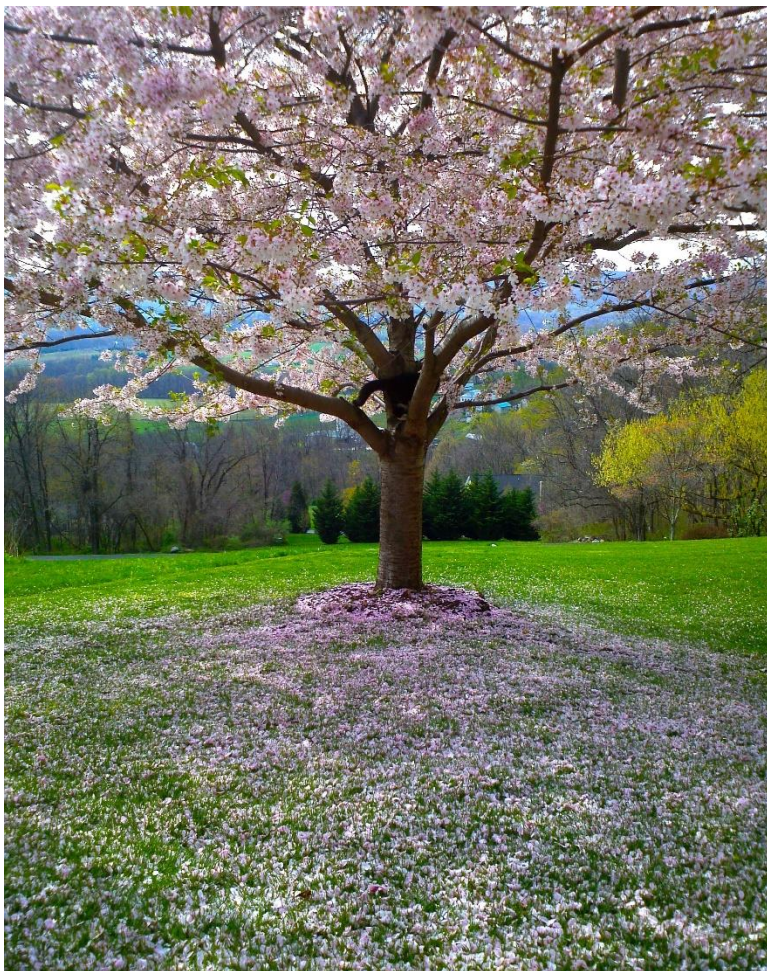


Plymouth Congregational, United Church of Christ

A Celebration of Spring, Second Sunday of Easter



April 11, 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

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

Call to Worship

One: How shall I praise God for life in the flesh, for springtime renewal, for sunshine and moonlight, for thunderstorms and violets?

All: How shall we praise you, O God, for touching our skin with the Breathe of your wind?

One: How shall we praise you, O God, for lilacs and dogwood?

All: How shall we praise you for gentle friends and sharing wonders?

One: How shall we praise you for oneness of creation?

All: By silencing our doubts, fears and frustrations, by listening to your sounds of wind blowing, oceans abounding, birds chattering. By the receiving your gifts of creation all around us, and filling our hearts with the joy of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

NCH #4 (black)

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
2 All your works with joy sur - round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
3 You are giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blessed,
4 Mor - tals, join the might - y cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Bound - less love is reign - ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, drive the storms of doubt a-way;
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Lov-ing Spir-it, Fa-ther, Moth-er, all who love be-long to you;
 Ev-er sing-ing, move we for-ward, faith-ful in the midst of strife,

Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.
 Teach us how to love each oth-er, by that love our joy re-new.
 Joy-ful mu-sic leads us on-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

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.)

Gathering Prayer (in unison)

O God of splendor, like flowers unfolding petal by petal, young birds taking flight and trees shedding shade upon the earth, all the earth greens into Spring toward fullness of being. In the calm and beauty of the morning you call us aside to rest in your care, to trust that the power unfolding in such beauty in the world about us will cause our hearts to blossom in due time as well. Through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Spirit of Renewal, Jesus: we sing praises alongside the peepers and other creatures of Your earth, Your creation. As flowers bloom and Your earth is enlivened, let us live into a resurrection Way, let us walk with You.

All: Holy God, we name ourselves to be a part of Your miracle! Let us proclaim Your good news, for You have risen indeed. 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 Halleluja NCH (black) #236

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

A C#7 F#m Bm E7sus4 E7 A

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. Below the first staff, the lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' are written. The second staff is in treble clef with the same key signature and time signature. It contains a series of chords: A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, and A. Below this staff, the lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.' are written.

Children’s Message

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings Genesis 2: 4 – 9, 15 – 18 Luke 12: 22 - 31

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

All: Amen.

Message “We Are Called To Be Stewards of the Earth, Not Spoilers”
Reverend Bill Torrey

Hymn Fairest Lord Jesus PH (red) 227

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all na - ture,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair - er still the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair - er still the moon - light,

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Fairest Lord Jesus'. It features two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. Below the first staff, three verses of lyrics are provided: '1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all na - ture,', '2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair - er still the wood - lands,', and '3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair - er still the moon - light,'. The second staff contains the bass line for the hymn.

O thou of God and man the Son, Thee will I cher-ish,
 Robed in the bloom-ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
 And all the twink - ling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright-er,

Thee will I hon - or, Thou, my soul's glo-ry, joy, and crown.
 Je - sus is pur - er, Who makes the woe-ful heart to sing.
 Je - sus shines pur - er, Than all the an-gels heaven can boast. A-men.

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

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: O God most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty we have all received. Accept, we pray, this offering of your people. Remember in your love those who have brought it and those for whom it is given; and so follow it with your blessing that it may promote peace and good will among all people and advance the kingdom of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

SENDING

Hymn

This is My Father's World

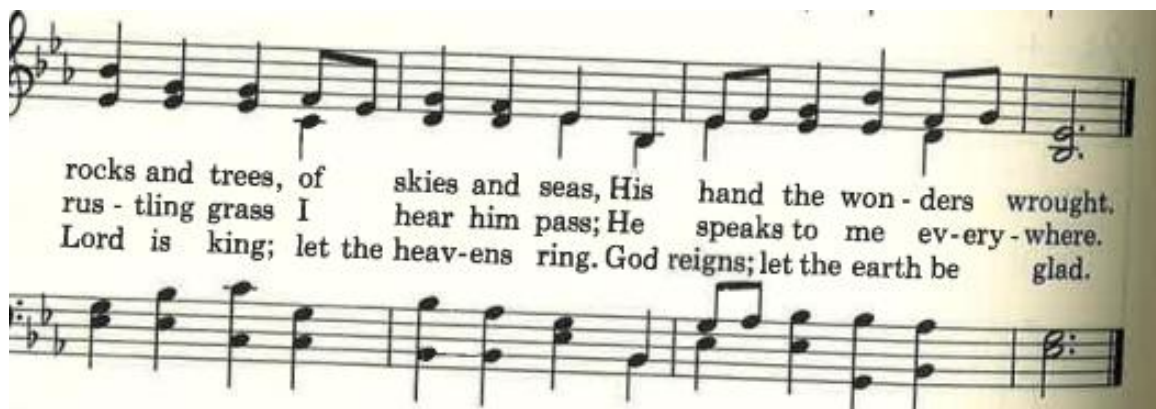
PH (red) #485

In unison *composed by Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-19*

1 This is my Fa-ther's world; And to my lis-tening ears, All
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; The birds their car - ols raise, The
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; Oh, let me ne'er for - get That

na - ture sings, and round me rings The mu - sic of the spheres,
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, De - clare their Mak - er's praise,
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought Of
This is my Fa-ther's world; He shines in all that's fair; In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; Why should my heart be sad? The



Benediction

Postlude

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

Keeping in Prayer

Maryam Pasha and her family

Jamie McDougall and family, friends of Alice O'Conner

Sympathy to the family of Gypsy the cat, beloved member of Jim Preston's household

Prayers for the Plymouth State community as a student passed away

Fran Lewis Bob, brother of Georgene Fabian

Sarah Thorne Marjorie Glidden and family

Dick & Paulette Brace Alice & Margaret Avery

Lisa and Dawn, friends of Plymouth Congregational

Annie Rice, Bev Tedeschi's mother Sue Switaj

Terry Cote & David Cote, close friends of Alice O'Connor

Jean Nilson, Susan Wei's sister Heidi Watts, Fran Lewis' sister

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.

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

April 10	10 – 12 a/p	Rev. Reneé Rouse - Racial Justice Education
Sunday	9:30 AM	Worship Service on Facebook Live
	10:00 AM	Virtual Sunday School
	4:30 PM	Confirmation via Zoom with mentors
	6:30 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv (this week's TV view will be from Easter Sunday)
Tuesday	7:00 PM	Racial Justice Exploration meeting via zoom
Wednesday	11:30 AM	Zoom Staff Meeting
	3:30 PM	Mid-week prayer and devotional
April 18	3:00 PM	Merrimack Association meeting (via Zoom) - visit nhcucc.org

Call to meeting for April 25th: From Alice O'Connor, Clerk, PCUCC: The members of the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Plymouth, NH are called to attend a Congregational Meeting to inform everyone on the progress of our Capital Campaign. This meeting will be held on Sunday, April 25, 2021 starting at 10:45 am. Due to our current practices related to the Covid-19 virus, this meeting will be held via Zoom, but can also be accessed over the telephone. A link to this Zoom meeting, as well as an agenda for the meeting, will be sent out 1 day prior to the meeting to all who have contacted us. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

A message from the Finance Committee: It's stewardship time.

This is the time we look back at all we've accomplished and look forward at the financial support needed to meet the challenges of our next fiscal year.

We've been blessed with exceptional lay and pastoral leadership and your financial support is needed to keep our programs and mission thriving.

Our TOGETHER FOR JOY stewardship information is being mailed out this week. We ask that you prayerfully consider your financial support and return your pledge by May 5th. Mailing and email addresses are listed on our web page, in the bulletin and in the information package.

If you have any questions, please contact the treasurer, Larry Spencer or Linda LaPrad, Finance chair. They'll be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

For all we accomplish TOGETHER FOR JOY, we thank you.

Update re: eventual return to worship: Rev Sara has created a team of 5-10 people who will help in the planning of an eventual return (likely in stages) to in-person worship. Currently, the NH Conference has asked that we continue to worship online. We hope to come back a bit by the end of May (attendees will be required to register ahead of time and all will remain masked).

Huge thanks to Eileen Torrey for her commitment to our church family during the interim office time. We continue to be blessed by her presence and leadership.

Capital Campaign update: Lisa and Bev are standing by to answer any questions you may have via phone or email. **Please mark your calendars: April 25th Congregational Zoom Meeting just after worship, please save the date.** Our campaign is focusing on the ramp on the north side of the building, a modest A/C installation, audio / visual upgrade and an organ console replacement. Email inquiries should be directed to Lisa Lovett at lilylovet@gmail.com and phone inquiries to Bev Newton at 603-254-9991.

Notice from Human Resources: We are actively seeking out an Office Administrator; if you know of someone who might be interested, please contact Jan Bass at jbass8150@gmail.com.

We continue to pray for the PSU community as courses enter the spring season, the athletic department takes to outdoor fields and courts, and future students prepare to matriculate this fall.

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.

Please continue to pray for Judy Detzel, friend of Hanna Starck, at 10 Willey Road, Ellsworth, NH 03223; if you didn't know – the wonderful stained glass in the chapel was made by Judy.

Continued prayers for Jim Preston as Gypsy passed away recently; he is happy to receive phone calls or notes of support during this time.

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 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 - Save the date for April 10th, 10 am – 12 pm when Rev. Reneé Rouse will lead our community in a Racial Justice exploration via Zoom. No preparation is needed to attend this session.

This group encourages examination of any of the following books:

Robin DiAngelo's *White Fragility: Why it is so Hard for White People to talk about Race*

Ibram X. Kendi's *How to be An Antiracist*

Rebecca Carroll's *Surviving the White Gaze*

Book Group - Here is our intended order of Book Group readings so that you can purchase or otherwise obtain them in advance: 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.

Consider attending the UCC national gathering this year! General Synod will take place between July 11 & 18 and will explore the theme Rooted in Love. We encourage attendance, especially because it is virtual this year. You are able to attend just a day or two if you like! Visit generalsynod.org for more information.

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. (Local channel 1302.)

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.

The Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor
David Williams, Director of Music

plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org
musicdirector@uccplymouth.org

Ashley Paine, Organist/Pianist	organist@uccplymouth.org
Gale Adams-Davis, Co-Director of Faith Formation	windygla2@yahoo.com
Julie Kelsey, Co-Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Larry Spencer, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling Special	clwlcsw@gmail.com

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Celebrating Birthdays in March and April in our Community:

March 4 Eliza McKinnon
March 8 Jean Swindell
March 11 Lisa Lovett
March 21 Winnie Oustecky, Shoe Shoemaker
March 26 Caleb Sweedler
March 30 Megan Magrauth
March 31 Michael Nicholas

April 1 Wayne Martin
April 5 Sue Switaj
April 17 Sabrina Tedeschi
April 12 Benjamin Adams
April 28 Kurt Maiser Anderson

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
