

**Plymouth Congregational,
United Church of Christ
Third Sunday of Eastertide**



April 18, 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

It is Well

Arr. Krug

"Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, it is well with my soul." -H.G. Spafford

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

Call to Worship

based on Psalm 4

One: We come seeking Your Truth, God; be gracious and hear our prayer. You have given us space when we have been in distress, You have heard our cries.

All: We praise Your name, even in the midst of our struggles. Grant us strength.

One: We turn our ears and hearts Your way; we listen with our souls on this day. With silence, song and scripture, You will be revealed, once again.

All: We praise Your name, for even when we do not trust in You we are held with love and care.

One: With hope, we are before You, God. Let us see Your Love, Your path. Let Your countenance be made so clear to us.

All: We praise Your name, even when our sadness has been deep, a gladness has been present. In our praises, this day, we will find peace.

Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

NCH #43 (black)

1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;
4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;

Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;
Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the treble clef staff of each system. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the final four lines.

Je - sus, you are all com - pas - sion; pure, un-bound - ed love im - part.
 Take a - way our love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 You we would be al - ways bless - ing, love you as your an - gels love,
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,

Vis - it us with your sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 Pray and praise for your un - fail - ing, wound - ed arms out - stretched a - bove.
 Crowned as saints, we ev - er shall be lost in won - der, love, and praise.

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

Morning prayer from Kenya, adapted

One: Holy God, we see Your sun rise in the east and it has moved by Your power.

All: Let us be moved too, Spirit of Truth; we want Your love to dwell in our hearts.

One: Creator, bless us so that we may not be harmed and so that we will be ready to live in Your light.

All: Guide us through our daily work and play God, let us see that You have made us to be well, to live peaceably among all of creation.

One: Be with us in our seeking and suffering this day, O Giver of Peace; let us know that we are not alone as we sing, learn and pray together.

All: Bring abundance with the rising sun, Holy God; let us see our good fortune this day and be moved to share with those we encounter.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: God of rebirth, we cry out to You this morning so that we might move with Your grace. We aim to be deeply aware of Your love and how we might continue to be healed. Let us find new beginnings on this day.

All: In coming before our God, one of peace, we aim to let go of our brokenness. We seek resurrection on this day and we will call out the good news, for Christ has 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 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence PH (red) #107
Rank on rank the host of heaven, spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish as the shadows clear away.

Children's Message

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings Acts 3: 12 – 19 Luke 24: 36 – 48

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 "What is Well?" Rev. Sara M. Holland

Hymn When Peace, Like a River NCH (black) #438



1 When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each day, when
2 Though e - vil should tempt me, though tri - als should come, let
3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought—my
4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, What - ev - er my lot, you have
 this blessed as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my
 sin— not in part, but the whole— Is nailed to the cross and I
 clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trum - pet shall sound and the

Refrain

taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
 help - less es - tate, and has paid life and blood for my soul: It is
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall ap - pear, "e - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul.

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.

du, il rou - le la pier - re du tom-beau vain - cu.
 way; con - quered is the grave in which your bod - y lay.
 sing; tell it with-out ceas - ing: Death has lost its sting.
 Head; Je - sus is my glo - ry, noth - ing shall I dread.

Refrain

A toi la gloi - re, ô Res - sus - ci - té!
 Yours is the glo - ry, Res - ur - rect - ed One!

Benediction

Postlude

Laudes Domini

Arr. Bergquist

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

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

Sunday	9:30 AM	Worship Service on Facebook Live
	10:00 AM	Virtual Sunday School
	3:00 PM	Merrimack Association Meeting via Zoom
	6:30 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv (this week's TV view will be from April 11, 2021)
Monday	7:00 PM	Back to in-Person Worship Team meeting (at church, masked)
Tuesday	2:00 PM	Human Resource Meeting
	7:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
	7:00 PM	Music Committee Meeting
Wednesday	11:30 AM	Staff meeting
	3:30 PM	Prayer time and devotion via Facebook
	4:00 PM	Mission & Social Outreach Meeting
Thursday		Earth Day – celebrate God's creation!

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 the week 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 6 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 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.

We continue to pray for the PSU community as courses slow down, 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 offer prayers for peace for Fran Lewis who has upcoming global travels. She appreciates our support and love 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: We are continuing these explorations this spring and summer, on an every other week basis. For now, we will shift to reflections of readings and education. We welcome new attendees and we pray you'll reach out to Pastor Sara if you are considering ways to get involved in these important efforts.

This group encourages examination of any of the following books:

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 Woman Who Smashed Codes by Jason Fagone (discussed on April 26th)

The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate (discussed on May 10th)

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah (discussed on May 24th)

Leading from the Outside by Stacey Abrams (discussed on June 7th)

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	plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org
David Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist	organist@uccplymouth.org
Gale Adams-Davis, Co-Director of Faith Formation	windygl2@yahoo.com
Julie Kelsey, Co-Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Larry Spencer, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Special Thanks to Margot Swift for her assistance with music today!
 Liturgist: Arline Bownes

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Celebrating Birthdays in April and May in our Community:

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

- May 1 Weston Hyde, Kristi Zwald
- May 2 Jim Preston
- May 4 Jessica Berman
- May 5 Richard Caron
- May 9 Troy Tedeschi
- May 13 Micaela Brand
- May 20 Robbin Adams
- May 22 Tessa Nicole Kelsey
- May 23 Elizabeth Fallon
- May 24 Kevin Steiner
- May 29 Paul Brand

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