

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



April 25, 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

Because You Live, O Christ

George Lachenauer

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

Call to Worship

based on Psalm 23

One: We who believe in freedom cannot rest. The Lord is my shepherd, let there be rest in our faithful work for justice.

All: We come together in song, prayer and scripture; we seek Your green pastures.

One: We who believe in freedom cannot rest. You have led us beside still waters in the midst of chaos; because You have restored our souls, we seek to restore Your world.

All: Indeed, we walk through valleys and shadows; we aim to fear no evil.

One: We who believe in freedom cannot rest. We have been anointed with oil of love and peace, let us share this in community for this hour and throughout our lives.

All: We do believe in freedom; we seek freedom in Christ's love and care.

Hymn

When Morning Gilds the Skies

NCH #86 (black)

1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries,
2 New strength comes night or day when from the heart we say,
3 Dis - cor - dant hu - man - kind, in this your con - cord find,
4 Be this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di - vine,

may Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer,
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let sin and e - vil fear,
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this the e - ter - nal song,

one pur-pose I de - clare: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 when this sweet chant they hear: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 through all the a - ges long: may Je - sus Christ be praised!

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 adapted from St. Patrick 4th – 5th century

One: We arise today through the strength of heaven: light of sun, radiance of moon, splendor of fire, speed of lightning . . .

All: We dwell in wonder and awe of Your creation God; hold and compel us in this hour, Holy One.

One: We celebrate Your creation, God: swiftness of wind, depth of sea, stability of earth, firmness of rock . . .

All: We dwell in wonder and awe of Your creation God; hold and compel us in this hour, Holy One.

One: We arise today through Your piloting strength, God; let us know that we are not alone in our journey.

All: We dwell in wonder and awe of Your creation God; hold and compel us in this hour, Holy One.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Spirit of resurrection, we seek Your peace this morning and pray we will be moved. Acknowledging Your offering of new beginnings, let us offer healing to the world as we ourselves are healed.

All: In coming before God, our Shepherd, we find ourselves as beloved even when we wander. We 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.**

We invite you to check out the children's message which was pre-recorded and posted on Facebook on Saturday!

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings

Acts 4: 5-12

John 10: 11-18

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

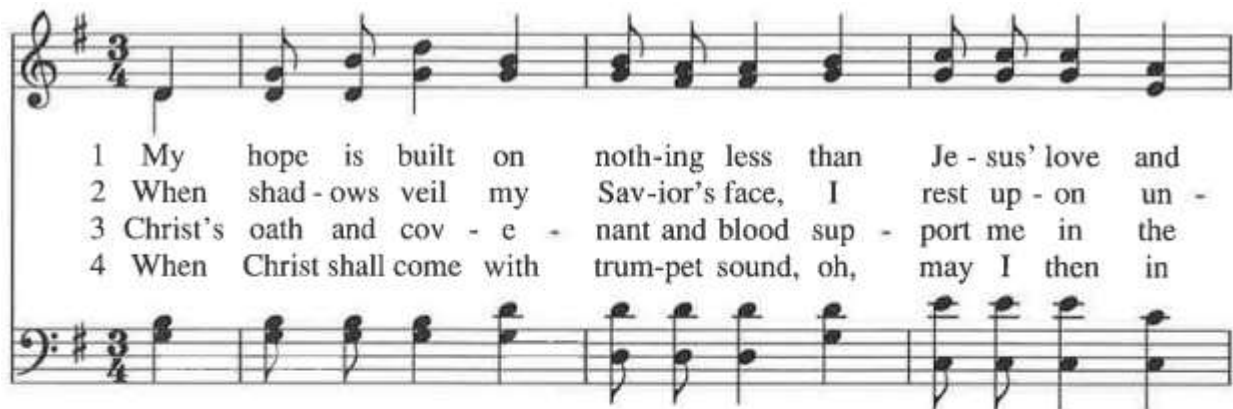
“Rough Around the Edges”

Rev. Sara M. Holland

Hymn

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

NCH (black) #403



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' love and
2 When shad - ows veil my Sav - ior's face, I rest up - on un -
3 Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me in the
4 When Christ shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in



righteous-ness; I dare not trust this earth - ly frame, but
chang-ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
ris - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, Christ
Love be found, Dressed in God's right - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

Refrain

whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand;

all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

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

Neander, Variations 1 and 2

Harold Rutz

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

pieces of Hebrews 13: 20 -21

All: O God of peace who brought from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by Your eternal covenant, all is made good. Let these offerings move with Your will. Let these gifts work among us and let us become Your hands and feet. Let these glorify Your holy name. In the unity of the Spirit, all power and possibility are Yours, God most holy, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

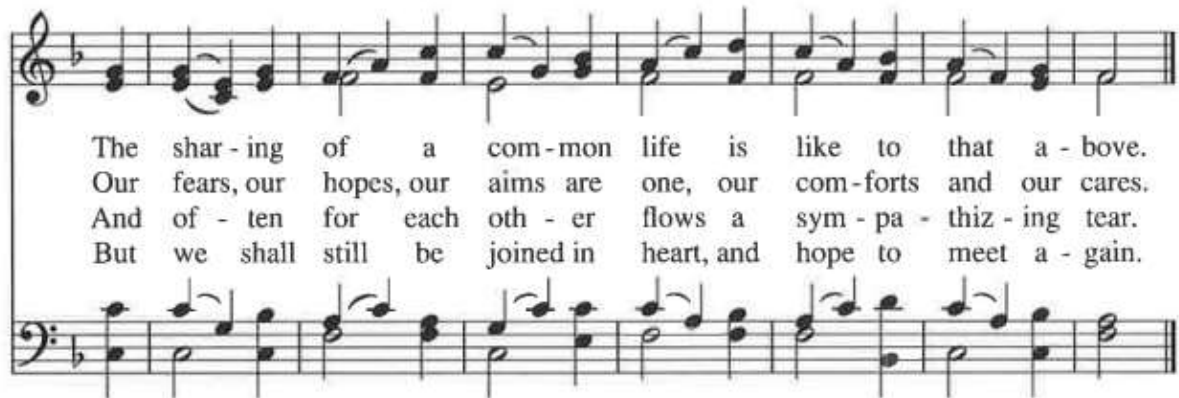
Hymn

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

NCH (black) #393



1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our God we come and pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,
4 When we are called to part it gives us in - ward pain,



The shar - ing of a com - mon life is like to that a - bove.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
And of - ten for each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

Benediction

Postlude

Hymn To Joy

Robin Dinda

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
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
	10:45 AM	Congregational Meeting re: capital campaign
	6:30 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv (this week's TV view will be from April 18, 2021)
Monday	10:00 AM	Book Group meets
Tuesday	7:00 PM	Racial Justice Exploration
Wednesday	11:30 AM	Staff meeting
	4:00 PM	Prayer time and devotion via Zoom
	7:00 PM	Council

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. Zoom information:

<https://zoom.us/j/95406782612?pwd=cFRvL09zREpZdDBWT25iZXJpaWxuUT09>

Meeting ID: 954 0678 2612

Passcode: 077271

One tap mobile

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+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 954 0678 2612

Passcode: 077271

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/ab3UMLE0ZD>

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.

Elva Piehn is turning 104! Elva was a member from 2001-2015. She helped create the cookie walk and was well known for her peanut brittle. Elva now lives in Illinois. She will be celebrating her 104th birthday May 3rd. If anyone is interested in sending her birthday wishes they may send them to: Elva Piehn, 1953 W. Laurel Freeport, IL 61032.

Update re: eventual return to in-person worship: Currently, the NH Conference has asked that we continue to worship online. We hope to come back for in person worship a bit on May 23rd, with restrictions. Registration will be required and in the first week priority will go to those who have been unable to access the web-based services.

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 attend today's meeting if you are able.** 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 graduation rapidly approaches.

Deacon's Corner – The updates in this area are general so as 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*

If you are interested in taking a trip to the Black Heritage Trail in June, we hope you will let Peggy Martin know, her email is: pmartin03223@yahoo.com

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. Keep in mind 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	windygla2@yahoo.com
Julie Kelsey, Co-Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Larry Spencer, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Liturgist: Bill Heron

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
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(603) 536-2626 - office@uccplymouth.org - www.uccplymouth.org

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
