

# Plymouth Congregational, United Church of Christ

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Independence Day,  
Communion Sunday



July 4, 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

\*those who are able and willing may stand

## Welcome & Announcements

*During the summer months, we do not have Sunday School and on communion Sunday we do not typically have a children's message. We invite children to experience worship this morning! There is a nursery space on the first floor if it is needed and bags with activities in the narthex too.*

## Prelude

Lonesome Valley

Anthony Giamanco

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

## \*Call to Worship

One: God, we come seeking wisdom, we come seeking connection, we come seeking You.

**All: Grant us peace, deliver us; let us find ourselves held in Love. Hear our humble prayers.**

One: We long to draw close to that which is divine; let us know the arrogance of power and how it diminishes our souls.

**All: Grant us peace, deliver us; let us find ourselves held in Love. Hear our songs.**

One: Holy One, free us from the tyranny of greed and from the seduction of wealth. We seek You this hour. Let your table, let community deliver us.

**All: Grant us peace, deliver us; let us find ourselves held in Love. Hear the whispers of a people in need.**

## \*Hymn

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

NCH (black) #42

1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,  
2 My gra-cious Sav-ior and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,  
3 Je-sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease  
4 Glo-ry to God, and love and praise be ev-er, ev-er given

The glo-ries ev-er ech-o-ing the tri-umphs of God's grace!  
To spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.  
Is mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!  
By all the saints in ev-ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

## 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.)

## Unison Gathering Prayer

**Creator on high, we have found that you are in our midst, too. For this and so much more we come with gratitude. We are grateful for the ways that we are free and we are happy to sing our praise this hour. And yet, we understand that Your liberation still needs to be carried forward; we come today: we seek Your divine guidance. We seek hope and we want to be hope to the world. At Your table we will join the historic communion which reminds us of our path and one that we might share with others. Let us find strength, even in our weakness. For as much as we are independent, we are interdependent too. Amen.**

## Silence for Personal Reflection

### God's Promise of New Life

**One:** Though we aim to be, we are not always the ones who lean into faith. Here we are God, with our weaknesses. Let us see the might we have in trusting You. Let us find grace. In Your sacred text and at this table of saints, we pray that spirit will move.

**All:** Holy God, we usually want to be as strong as possible. Open us to be vulnerable and soften our hearts. Let us lean into Your Spirit and the power of Love; let us find strength in grace. For we have heard: 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** Spirit of the Living God NCH (black) #283  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

## HEARING THE WORD

### Scripture Readings

Mark 6: 1-13

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12: 2-10

**One:** Holy One, let us find a path in Your word; bind us together as we hear and understand. Lead us to Your common place of Love. We pray that You move between words and hearing.

**All: Amen.**

### Message

“Boast Gladly”

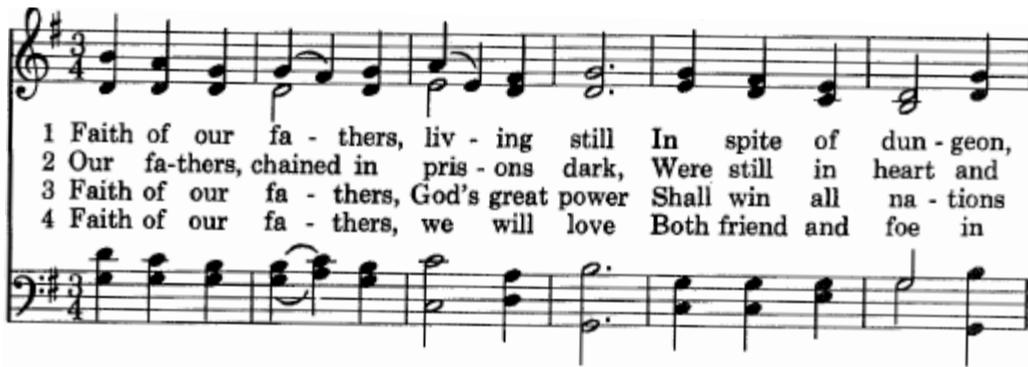
Rev. Sara M. Holland

\*Hymn

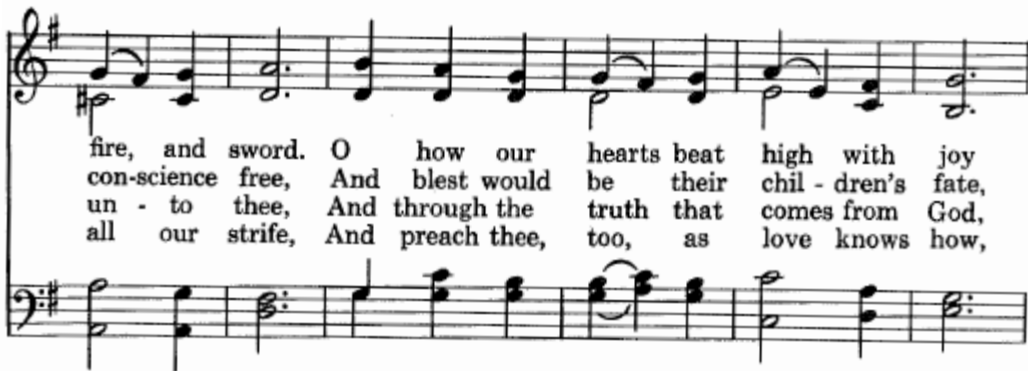
Faith of Our Fathers

PH (red) #365

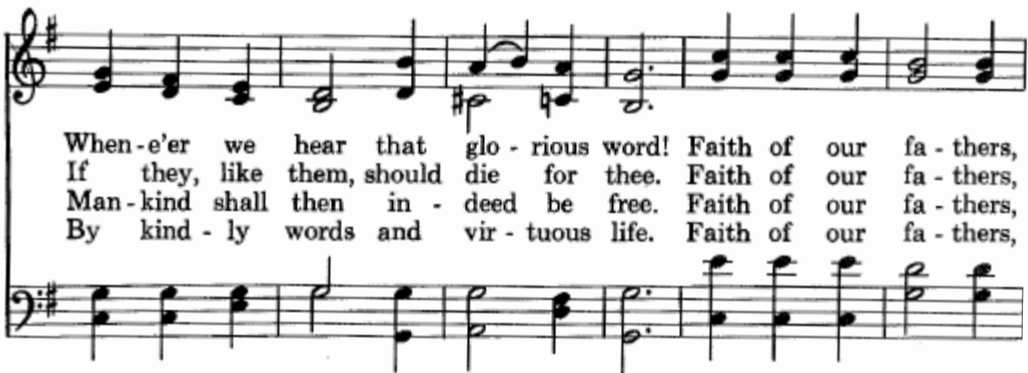
*Congregants are welcome to sing "mothers" as well as "fathers" throughout the hymn!*



1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still In spite of dun - geon,  
2 Our fa - thers, chained in pris - ons dark, Were still in heart and  
3 Faith of our fa - thers, God's great power Shall win all na - tions  
4 Faith of our fa - thers, we will love Both friend and foe in



fire, and sword. O how our hearts beat high with joy  
con-science free, And blest would be their chil - dren's fate,  
un - to thee, And through the truth that comes from God,  
all our strife, And preach thee, too, as love knows how,



When - e'er we hear that glo - rious word! Faith of our fa - thers,  
If they, like them, should die for thee. Faith of our fa - thers,  
Man - kind shall then in - deed be free. Faith of our fa - thers,  
By kind - ly words and vir - tuous life. Faith of our fa - thers,



ho - ly faith, We will be true to thee till death. A - men.

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**Offertory**

Voluntary on *America*

Robert Lind

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: Holy God, You call us to prayerful thanksgiving, united in the Spirit of Christ. Embody within us Your holy word of wisdom that our lives and Your world may be shaped for compassion, and all creation may know the joy of Your love. With these gifts, let our hands and feet become Your gospel word so that we might reach those most alone, scared and hurt. Let us build unity from our homes and hearts. Amen.**

## Gathering at the Table

*For those gathered in the sanctuary, please note there are individually wrapped communion sets in the pews for your convenience. There are also bags with gluten free wafers. If you have trouble finding what you need, please simply find an usher (the ushers will be standing as communion begins). We encourage you to sanitize your hands before taking the communion to lower risk to any and all gathered. And of course, we will only remove our masks when we consume the elements.*

### Invitation to Holy Communion

One: We are scattered God: in apartments, houses, condos; on counters, at dinner tables, on our couch and stretching on the floor; and some of us are here in Church. As we join in this historic ritual, let us know that this holy meal may strengthen us. Let us find renewal in this great Communion.

**All: We are prepared God. Our tables and makeshift tables may be messy, but they are set. These tables are open: There are no prerequisites for God's love. This table is for those who believe a little or a lot. This table is for those who need community, those who need solace and those who need strength. Let us share in this abundance.**

## Prayers of the People

You will be invited to offer your silent prayers for others.

### Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Cup

### Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

### Closing Prayer

**All:** Gracious and loving God, You have made us one in the body of Christ, and nourished us at Your table with holy food and drink. With our independence and with knowledge of Your grace, let us proclaim interdependence and Love. Send us forth to be Your people in the world. Grant us strength to persevere in proclaiming Your Good News in Jesus – our Savior, also named as Love. This we pray through Christ our Lord who taught us to pray:

### 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.

## Sending

\*Hymn

Forward through the Ages

NCH (black) #377

1 For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,  
2 Wide grows God's do - min - ion, reign of love and peace;  
3 Not a - lone we con - quer, not a - lone we fall;

move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine;  
 for it we must la - bor, till all striv - ings cease.  
 in each loss or tri - umph, lose or tri - umph all.

Gifts in dif - fer - ing mea - sure, hearts of one ac - cord,  
 Proph - ets have pro - claimed it, teach - ers tes - ti - fied,  
 Bound by God's far pur - pose in one liv - ing whole,

man - i - fold in ser - vice, one the sure re - ward.  
 po - ets sung its glo - ry, mar - tyrs for it died.  
 move we on to - geth - er to the shin - ing goal.

*Refrain*

For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,

Move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine.

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude** Variations on Simple Gifts Adrienne Tindall & Austin C. Lovelace

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

**Rev. Sara will be happy to greet you outside the church as you leave**

**Keeping in Prayer:**

Thoughts & Prayers for Terry Cote  
Rev. Rich Weymouth By Lisa Lovett  
Prayers for the family of Mac Andrews, husband of Pat Andrews  
Timothy Wei, Susan & Philip Wei's Son  
Prayers & Healing for Ruth Monroe  
Mae Larson, Rebecca Larson's Mother-in-law  
Rob & Monica Heal & family, Marlin Collingwood's brother-in-law  
Sympathy & Prayers for Carol Hahn's family  
Continued prayers for Masvingo UCCZ in Zimbabwe  
Bob, Georgene Fabian's brother and his wife, Joan  
Prayers for Sam Lovett as Spirit calls him to ministry!  
Prayers of joy as Fran Lewis is doing a bit better  
Marjorie Glidden and family  
Dick & Paulette Brace  
Alice & Margaret Avery  
Annie Rice, Bev Tedeschi's mother  
Sue Switaj  
Jean Nilson, Susan Wei's 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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org).

**This Week and More at PCUCC**

Sunday	9:30 AM	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Independence Day, Communion Sunday
	11:00 AM	Coffee hour / Fellowship Time @ Plymouth beach/Amphitheatre
	6:30 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv (this week's TV view will be from June 27th, 2021)

**Office and staff are taking July 5<sup>th</sup> due to the holiday falling on Sunday**  
\*Staff meeting resumes in mid August\*

**Please join us for Sam Lovett's ordination on July 25th at 2 pm! We will limit the number of people present to 125 so do arrive early if you are able. Masks are required and will also stream this to Facebook. Please save the date and plan to support and affirm Sam and the ministries to which he is being called.**



**Please, if you wish, join us for a time of fellowship down by the river just after church on July 4th.** We have reserved the space at the amphitheater and we welcome you to come with a lemonade in hand, a snack and a springtime story to share with friends. There is no specific agenda and you are welcome to bring a float or kayak to put in the water if you wish. Rev Sara plans to head down as soon as she can just after worship and we are permitted to use the space at the riverside until noon time. She will bring seltzers over ice and simple snacks too.

We do realize this is a less optimal form of fellowship for those with accessibility concerns and we are so sorry we couldn't find a better location. This is our first no mask required event that is open to all church members. We do still encourage people to ask before approaching others for hugs as our personal space bubbles have shifted in light of the pandemic.

**We will have a similar event after worship on the first Sunday of August!**

**We are currently collecting shampoo for those utilizing services with Voices Against Violence.** If you are able to drop off a shampoo or two in the next few weeks, please do so. They may be brought on Sunday morning or during regular office hours. Please let us know if there are any questions.

**We want to encourage all community members (who are able) to get a COVID-19 vaccine.** We hope that this will ensure the health and well-being of our most vulnerable community members.

**We have returned for some in person worship!** Masks are required and all in attendance will practice care for neighbor by practicing physical distancing. We hope to see you soon! **Important note: we will continue to stream our service online via Facebook and also have our service on PBTv.**

**We are seeking out people to join a technology team which will include a rotation of folks to assist on Sunday mornings!** Please let Rev Sara know if you are willing for this summer or fall. Training will be provided!

**Our Director/s of Faith Formation positions are opening!** We are seeking someone who is interested in faithfully leading our children and youth; we begin our search in house because theological fit is important. If you might be interested in helping us choose curriculum and plan faith formation efforts, especially for Sunday mornings, please reach out to Jan Bass, the chair of Human Resources. This position is critically important to the life and ministry of our entire church, is paid, and is part time. It would pair well with another M-F job. Consider becoming a part of our team! Jan's email is: [jbass8150@gmail.com](mailto:jbass8150@gmail.com)

**Deacon's Corner** – The updates in this area are general so as to protect the privacy of families and individuals.

Thoughts and Prayers for Terry Cote

Rev. Rich Weymouth

Prayers for the family of Mac Andrews, husband of Pat Andrews

**A note from Susan Wei:** I would like to invite anyone who wants to come to a Friday night potluck dinner at our condo in Thornton on Orris Road building I apartment 5 B (every Friday in June and July). Bring a chair, a dish to pass, and we will have a grill going if you want that. It will be from 5 to 8 PM. If it is raining do not come as it will be outside. Need directions? Email me at: [mommyawei@gmail.com](mailto:mommyawei@gmail.com) and I will send it to you! The more the merrier!

**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. 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. We will meet next on July 13<sup>th</sup> & July 20<sup>th</sup>.

This group will soon embark on examining Layla Saad's *Me and White Supremacy*.

**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](http://generalsynod.org) for more information.

**Our church is now meeting in person and digitally;** we will continue to offer both options indefinitely. The Worship Services will continue to 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.

**Small, in person meetings are allowed as long as all people in groups agree to such a format. Zoom, google meet, Skype, phone, etc. may still be used! Please consider care for creation and reducing greenhouse emissions when scheduling in person meetings.**

**Office Hours**

Tuesday - 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Wednesday - 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Thursday - 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Friday - 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Pastor’s Office Hours**

Pastor Sara will be at the church for office hours Monday 10:00 AM-3:00 PM (and also in pastoral visits at this time),  
Tuesday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM, Wednesday 10:00 AM-4:00 PM  
and Thursday by appointment. Keep in mind all church doors are locked.  
Please feel free to contact her by email at [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org">plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org</a>
Courtney Crosato, Office Administrator	<a href="mailto:office@uccplymouth.org">office@uccplymouth.org</a>
David Williams, Director of Music	<a href="mailto:musicdirector@uccplymouth.org">musicdirector@uccplymouth.org</a>
Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist	<a href="mailto:organist@uccplymouth.org">organist@uccplymouth.org</a>
Julie Kelsey, Faith Formation Chair	<a href="mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org">faithformation@uccplymouth.org</a>
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org">treasurer@uccplymouth.org</a>
Liturgist: Carol Stewart	
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Celebrating Birthdays in July in our Community:

July 6	Justice Merrithew-Stone
July 17	Johanna Bentwood
July 18	Alfie Kerr
July 24	Rose Shimberg
July 31	Bill Torrey

\*\*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](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org)\*\*