

Plymouth Congregational, United Church of Christ

9th Sunday after Pentecost: God's Abundant Presence



July 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.

*Per CDC guidelines, vaccinated individuals do not need to wear masks.
If you are unvaccinated, please wear a mask.*

GATHERING

*those who are able and willing may stand

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child

Cindy Berry

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

*Call to Worship

One: Holy One, in our restlessness even You see our strength and belovedness; hold our doubts in this hour.

All: Creator God, You are our refuge; You have called us to patience, rest, and belief.

One: Let us know that our doubts may buoy our faith; let us use our questions to go deeper in a walk with God.

All: Spirit of Truth, You are our refuge; You give us the ability to see the abundance that we do have. Let us feel our call to patience, rest, and belief.

One: Your command to 'sit down' was not only for the disciples but may be ours for this day and time.

All: We come before You, God; we long to see Your abundant presence. Let us see this and be challenged to share it with the world.

*Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

NCH (black) #436

Verses 1-3



The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'God of Grace and God of Glory'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. Below the staves, there are five lines of lyrics, each numbered 1 through 5. The lyrics are: 1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple; 2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the; 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to; 4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that; 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils.

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age.

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.
 in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

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

All: Great Voice of truth, through Christ You teach us that our service will heal the earth and all its people. Center us in this hour that we might become hope for the people we meet. May we love You with all our heart so that we deeply see our connections to our neighbors. Let our voices be strong to sing of Your love so that all corners of the earth might find Your joy, even in the midst of doubt. Hear Your people in this hour and lead us to reconciliation for the sake of Love. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: God it is hard for us to dwell in Your miracles. We tend to be anxious and worried. Let us be centered this hour so we may be centered this week. Let us sit down before Your love and grace – we do know deep in our hearts that we belong in Your care.

All: God of beauty which is unconventional, let us see the complexities of life. Let us know that our intricacies make us glorious in Your sight, even those with which we struggle. In our imperfection You see beauty. Remind us, God: 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.

Message for All Ages

Children and youth are welcome to come forward during the message for all ages if they like. The message for all ages will truly be intergenerational this morning so if children want to stay in the pews that is okay too!

***You are the seed that will grow a new sprout,
You're the star that will shine through the day.
You are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a beacon to glow in the night.
Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all:
Messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.***

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings 2nd Kings 4: 42 – 44 & John 6: 1-21

One: Holy One, be with the meditations of our hearts and minds. Grant that Your Spirit speaks comfort and challenge to us on this day. May we rest and lean into Your miracles today. We pray that Your spirit moves between words and hearing.

All: Amen.

Message “Make The People Sit Down” Rev. Sara M. Holland

*Hymn

Great is Your Faithfulness

NCH (black) #423

1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,*
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,

with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.

You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.
to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by
 morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed your
 hand has pro-vid-ed, Great is your faith-ful-ness, God, un-to me!

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Joys and concerns

Pastor: Oh God, in Your grace and mercy . . .

All: **Hear Your people at prayer**

You will also be invited to offer your personal prayers from the silence of your heart.

Pastoral Prayer

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.

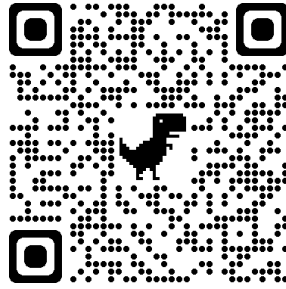
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offertory

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Wallace Willis

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: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless these gifts and us to Your service. You have called us to be patient and rest. You have called us to listen deeply to stories of miracles and to look for these in our lives. Let us become miracles with these offerings. Let us know that we might become healing to those who are hurting and suffering. Let us know that with an awareness of Your abundance we might offer grace to the world. We pray all this for Love’s sake. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn**

Nearer, My God, to Thee

PH (red) #351

1 Near - er, my God, to thee, Near - er to thee, E'en though it be a cross
 2 Though like the wan - der - er, The sun gone down, Dark-ness be o - ver me,
 3 There let the way ap - pear Steps un - to heaven; All that thou send - est me
 4 Then, with my wak - ing thoughts Bright with thy praise, Out of my ston - y griefs
 5 Or if on joy - ful wing Cleav - ing the sky, Sun, moon, and stars for - got,



That rais-eth me; Still all my song would be, Near-er, my God, to thee,
 My rest a stone, Yet in my dreams I'd be, Near-er, my God, to thee,
 In mer-cy given; An-gels to beck - on me Near-er, my God, to thee,
 Beth-el I'll raise; So by my woes to be Near-er, my God, to thee,
 Up-ward I fly, Still all my song shall be, Near-er, my God, to thee,
 Near - er, my God, to thee, Near - er to thee. A-men.

***Benediction**

Postlude The Storm is Passing Over Charles Albert Tindley

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:

- Prayers of sympathy for the Stecher family
- Galen Doscher, son of Fred & Margee Doscher
- Brian Paine
- Thoughts & Prayers for Terry Cote
- Rev. Rich Weymouth – family of Lisa Lovett
- 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!
- 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 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

Today	9:30 AM	9 th Sunday after Pentecost
	2:00 PM	Ordination of Sam Lovett, in-person and streamed on Facebook
	6:30 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv (this week's TV view will be from July 18th, 2021)

Rev Sara will be at the Horton Center the evening of July 25th through July 31st
Staff meetings resume in mid-August

Important note: we will continue to stream our service online via Facebook and also have our service on PBTv.

Please join us for Sam Lovett's ordination today at 2 pm! We will limit the number of people present to 125 so do arrive early if you are able. Please save the date and plan to support and affirm Sam and the ministries to which he is being called.

Mask wearing at this larger event will be strongly encouraged.

Our next outdoor fellowship down by the river will be the first Sunday in August just after church. As a part of this fellowship time, we will be baptizing a friend in Christ, Tiesha Fenwick. Tiesha is a Ph.D. student at PSU. This will be a wonderful event for anyone who is able to attend and support the ecumenical Christian church family through this sacrament; we hope you join us!

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!

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.

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!

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. **This position may be shared by two people and we currently have one person who would love to share the role.** 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

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 and I will send it to you! The more the merrier! **This Friday will be the last get together!**

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 August 3rd at 7 pm via zoom.

This group is examining Layla Saad's *Me and White Supremacy*.

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 – Wednesday 10:30 – 3:30 PM; please reach out to make an appointment. She keeps sabbath on Friday.
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. Again, Sara will be at Horton Center this coming week.

The Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor	plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org
Courtney Crosato, Office Administrator	office@uccplymouth.org
David Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist	organist@uccplymouth.org
Julie Kelsey, Faith Formation Chair	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org
Liturgist: Bill Heron	
Special Music: Allison Thatcher	
Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ	
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(603) 536-2626 - office@uccplymouth.org - www.uccplymouth.org	

Celebrating Birthdays in July & August in our Community:

July 6 Justice Merrithew-Stone
July 6 Marilyn Wixson
July 7 Tammy Lawler
July 8 Lorelei Paine
July 8 Sally Jensen
July 17 Johanna Bentwood
July 18 Alfie Kerr
July 21 John Anderson
July 24 Rose Shimberg
July 26 Bev Newton
July 31 Bill Torrey

August 1 Jan Bass
August 11 Arline Bownes
August 15 Dick Brace
August 15 Angi Francesco
August 17 Georgia Merrithew-Stone
August 21 Natalie Amtmann
August 22 Colton Hyde
August 24 Maeghan Warburton
August 29 Marti Shoemaker

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