

Plymouth Congregational, United Church of Christ

10th Sunday after Pentecost: Bread of Life



August 1, 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

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

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

*Call to Worship

One: We raise our voices with hope; we come seeking Your Truth.

All: Let us be present to Love; let us taste sweet spiritual food for our journey.

One: As the wandering Israelites were hungry, so too are we. In our hunger, we end up tired – let us be energized in worship and community.

All: Let us be present to Love; let us taste sweet spiritual food for our journey.

One: Being unified, may our voices be strengthened as we seek Truth. Hear our songs and prayers oh God.

All: We are present to Love, God; may we taste sweet spiritual food on our journey.

*Hymn

Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound

NCH #547

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. Below the staves, there are five lines of lyrics, each numbered 1 through 5. The lyrics are: 1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that; 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and; 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I; 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose; 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright.

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found, was blind but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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 God, we come with gratitude for space to worship – sanctuaries, homes, the outdoors, and our bodies. For it is in these places that we seek Your meaning and Way. Let us be centered this hour knowing that even the feeblest prayer has deep meaning. Let us become re-captivated by the reconciliation Your holy table offers. We want to be restored, God. Let our hearts be open to Your hope this hour. We pray all this for Love's sake.
Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: There have, indeed, been many times that we have leaned too much on either belief or action. Holy One, you have called us to deep faith *and* to action. In Your sacred text and at this table of saints, we pray that Spirit will move.

All: **Holy God, we trust that even in our imperfections we are called to trust, believe and act in Your Love. Let us see the ways we are called. 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 Exodus 16: 2-4 & 9-15 John 6: 24-35

One: Ineffable, indescribable God, let us see our own spiritual blind spots that we may heal ourselves, our relationships and Your world. Holy Spirit, do move in the meditations of our hearts and minds.

All: Amen.

Message "A Seal Of And For Love" Rev. Sara M. Holland

***Hymn** Let Us Break Bread Together NCH (black) #330

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
* 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Let Us Break Bread Together". It consists of four staves of music. The first staff is the vocal line, followed by three staves of accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the vocal line and are repeated for three different parts: 1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; 2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; 3. Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;. The music is in a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat).

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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: the stranger, the lonely, the hurting and homeless. So follow these gifts, God – lead them with Your blessing that they may promote peace and goodwill among all people and advance Your realm. Let us become a part of this realm of eternal Love and community – be with our offering as well as our step, oh Holy One. Amen.

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 Love holding us and Your word at our backs, let us be strong and calm. Let us know that as we are sealed with great Love, we may heal the world. 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

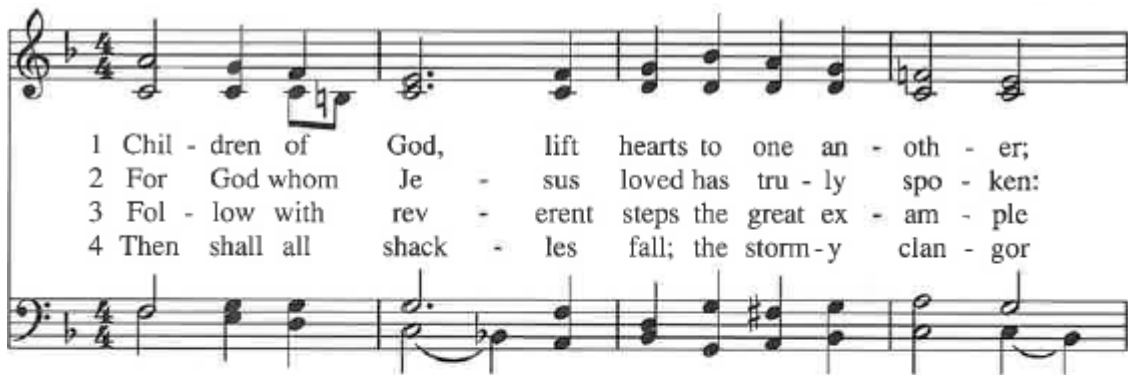
**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Sending

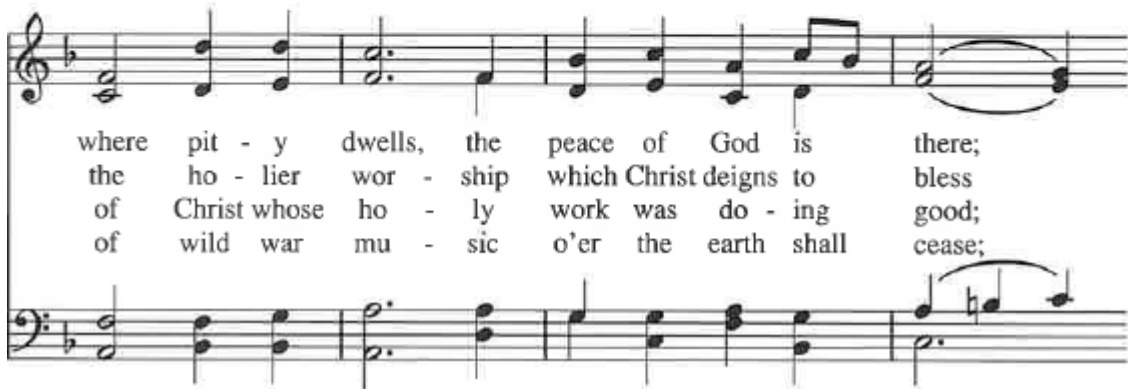
*Hymn

Children Of God

NCH (black) # 533



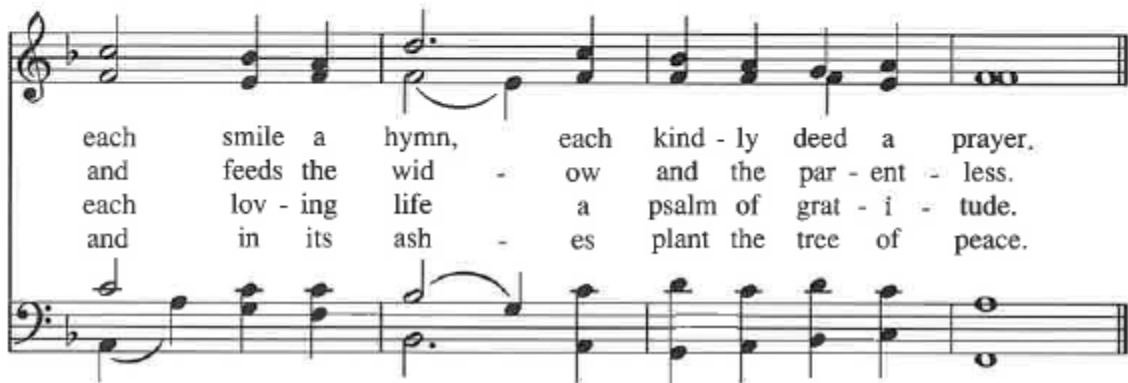
1 Chil - dren of God, lift hearts to one an - oth - er;
2 For God whom Je - sus loved has tru - ly spo - ken:
3 Fol - low with rev - erent steps the great ex - am - ple
4 Then shall all shack - les fall; the storm-y clan - gor



where pit - y dwells, the peace of God is there;
the ho - lier wor - ship which Christ deigns to bless
of Christ whose ho - ly work was do - ing good;
of wild war mu - sic o'er the earth shall cease;



To wor - ship right - ly is to love each oth - er,
Re - stores the lost, and binds the spir - it bro - ken,
So shall the wide earth seem a ho - ly tem - ple,
Love shall tread out the bale - ful fire of an - ger,



each smile a hymn, each kind - ly deed a prayer,
and feeds the wid - ow and the par - ent - less.
each lov - ing life a psalm of grat - i - tude.
and in its ash - es plant the tree of peace.

*Benediction

Postlude

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 10th Sunday after Pentecost
6:30 PM Worship service airs on PBTv (this week's TV view will be from July 25th, 2021)
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.

Our next outdoor fellowship down by the river will be today just after church. Rev Sara will bring snacks and seltzer and you are welcome to bring something if you wish.

Inscape Chamber Orchestra Washington DC's Grammy-nominated chamber orchestra performs a series of chamber music concerts at our Church, see below!

August 1st at 5 PM

Golijov: Last Round for Strings, Prokofiev: Quintet & Copland: Appalachian Spring

August 6th at 7:30 PM

Zelenka: Sonata No. 3 in B-flat major, Nielsen: Woodwind Quintet & Mendelssohn: String Quintet in B-flat major

August 7th at 7:30 PM

Scriabin/Plylar: Black Mass & White Mass, Dvorak: Quintet for Strings in G major & Barber: Medea

Reserve your in person & streaming tickets at www.inscape.org/events

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 Ann 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

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

Prayers of Gratitude for Megan & Walker Magrauth

Prayers of sympathy for the Stecher family

Galen Doscher, son of Fred & Margee Doscher

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*.

Book Group – Plymouth Congregational Book Group will meet at 10 am Monday, September 13th in the Church Parlor. Please join us as we gather in fellowship and discuss our first selection of the year: *Anxious People* By Fredrik Backman.

During that meeting, we will choose our selections for the remaining months.

All are welcome!

Any questions please contact Peggy Martin: pmartin03223@yahoo.com OR

Kathy Henning: henkat52@gmail.com

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.

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: Carol Stewart	
Guest Organist: Zi Liang	
Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ	
4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264	
(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