

Plymouth Congregational, United Church of Christ

Labor Day Weekend, Communion Sunday
15th Sunday after Pentecost: Be Open



September 5, 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.

Masks are required in our community at this time. Thank you for your cooperation.

GATHERING

Prelude Summer Evening: Reverie J. E. Skornicka

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

*those who are able and willing may stand

Welcome & Announcements

Please, if you are new or relatively new to our community and want to be involved, share your email address or phone with a greeter in the narthex. We are delighted to get to know you!

This Sunday we do not have a children's message or Sunday School but we will have such opportunities beginning Sept. 12th! To learn more please email our office.

Children are always welcome to experience worship. There is a nursery space on the first floor if it is needed and bags with activities in the narthex too.

Introit Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Picardy

***Call to Worship** adapted from Psalm 90

One: Our God, in the glory of late summer, we come to worship reveling in the beauty of Your handiwork.

All: Give us insight this morning into how the work of our hands is part of the work of Your hands.

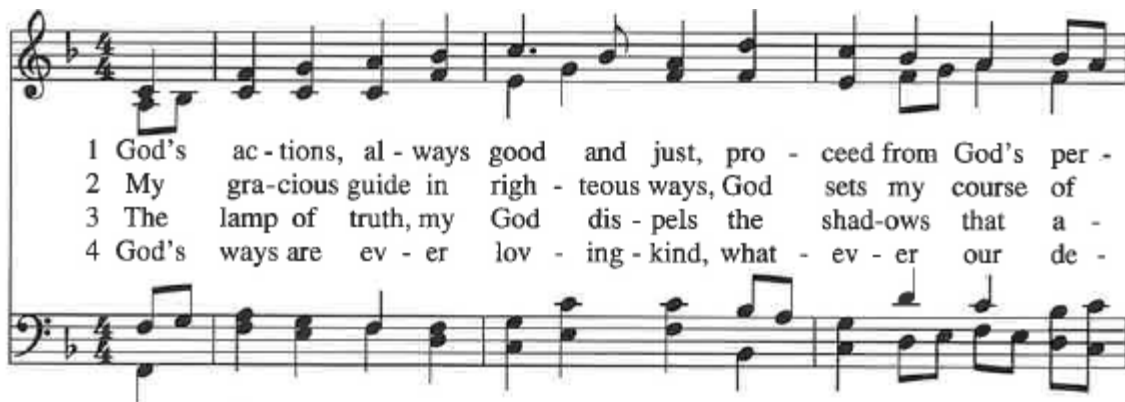
One: We join You in lifting the heavyhearted, comforting the sorrowful, and calming the anxious.

All: Fill us with the joy of service this morning. Let us listen well for Your word and wisdom.

One: Even in the midst of our troubles this morning . . .

All: Let us find Your holy grace!

***Hymn** God's Actions, Always Good and Just NCH #415



1 God's ac - tions, al - ways good and just, pro - ceed from God's per -
2 My gra - cious guide in righ - teous ways, God sets my course of
3 The lamp of truth, my God dis - pels the shad - ows that a -
4 God's ways are ev - er lov - ing - kind, what - ev - er our de -

fec - tion; So we our world's af - fairs en-trust to god - ly
 ac - tion; And I may trace life's seem - ing maze as - sured of
 lami me. A liv - ing shield, my God re-pels the death-beams
 lu - sion, And if I taste the bit - ter wine, the cup of

 just pro - tec - tion. When all I see is mis - e - ry, when
 sat - is - fac - tion. For, just and fair, God shall re - pair all
 that would harm me. The truth will win, the light break in, a -
 my con - fu - sion, Take heart, my soul, for you shall know, sweet

 rank op - pres - sion pains me, God's righ-teous-ness sus - tains me.
 e - vil and dis - tor - tion, and can - cel each mis - for - tune.
 chiev-ing rev - e - la - tion, com - plet-ing my sal - va - tion.
 com - fort fol - lows sad - ness. The pain shall end in glad - ness.

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

adapted from Louis F. Benson

O God, who offered kindred to the toil and burdens of our human lot: we pray that all who earn their daily bread by the labors of their hands may enter into fellowship with Your divinity. Let us have a sense of our call in this hour. Strengthen our hands, encourage our

hearts, and grant us the reward of our labor in all reasonable comfort for our families. Regard the well-being and prosperity of industry so that all might find peace. Establish Your realm through our worship; in this time let us be led to social righteousness and good will. We pray the love of gain will be subdued and that the love of people will prevail. Let us find the common good in this hour; we pray all this, for Love's sake. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Great Comforter, we do need healing. In so many ways the world has left us broken and hurting. You are calling us, by the breath of being, to mercy and compassion. In Your sacred text and at this table of saints, we pray that Spirit will move.

All: We trust that even in our imperfections we are called to accept compassion as well as offer this, for this is Your word. Let us know with our minds and bodies: 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 Psalm 146 Mark 7: 24-37

One: Come, Holy Spirit, come, offer us space to heal as we listen and reflect. We pray You move in the meditations of our hearts and minds, for You are our rock and redeemer.

All: Amen.

Message "Mercy Without End" Rev. Sara M. Holland

*Hymn

My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff

NCH (black) #418

1 My faith, it is an oak - en staff, the trav - eler's well - loved aid;
2 My guide is Je - sus Christ whose steps, when trav - el - ers have trod,
3 My faith, it is an oak - en staff, O let me on it lean.

My faith, it is a song of trust, sus - tains me un - dis - mayed.
Wheth - er be - neath was flint - y rock or yield - ing grass - y sod,
My faith pro - vides the ground of hope, sup - ports a pur - pose keen.

I'll trav - el on and still be stirred by si - lent thought or so - cial
They car - ried on, their joy un - spent; through pain and trial they on - ward
Your Spir - it, God, up - on me send, that I may be what you in -

word; By all my per - ils un - de - terred, a pil - grim un - a - fraid.
went, Un - staid by plea - sure, still they bent their zeal - ous course to God.
tend. With pa - tient cour - age, we'll con - tend as ra - diant saints se - rene.

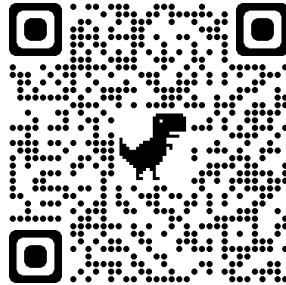
RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory Anthem

Be Still, My Soul

Roy Hopp

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 One, You have sustained us at many times and in many ways. We return thanks through these our gifts and we pray they will be carried with Your compassion. Let us remember that with the monies we earn from our labors, we may offer much back. Move us to give daily and throughout our lives. Let our minds, hands, feet and hearts move for the compassion and mercy Your good word offers. 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 & Lord's Prayer

All: God of truth, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life. Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for You and for each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray together, saying:

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.

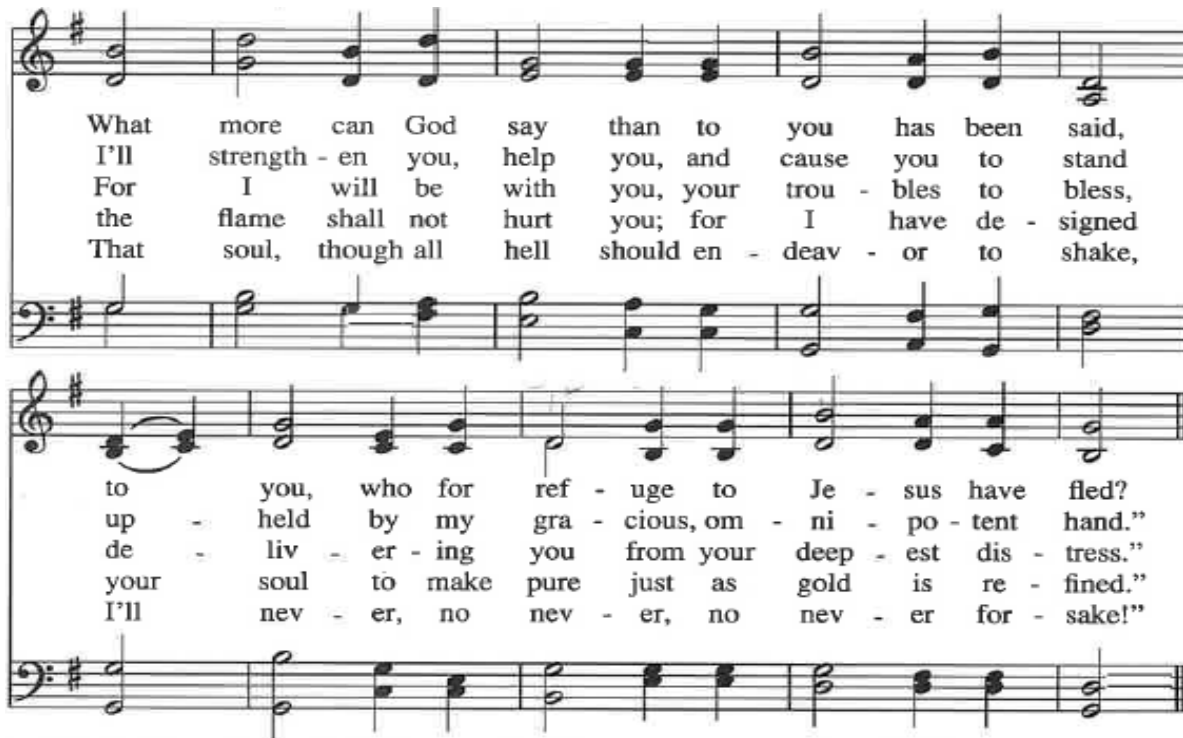
SENDING

*Hymn

How Firm a Foundation

NCH (black) # 407

1 How firm a foundation for you has been laid,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
3 "When through the deep waters I call you to go,
4 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
5 "The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
by God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!
for I am your God, I will still give you aid;
the riv - ers of woe shall not o - ver you flow;
my grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup - ply;
I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;



What more can God say than to you has been said,
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand
 For I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt you; for I have de - signed
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,
 to you, who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my gra - cious, om - ni - po - tent hand."
 de - liv - er - ing you from your deep - est dis - tress."
 your soul to make pure just as gold is re - fined."
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

***Pastoral Benediction**

Choral Benediction

Give Us Peace

Hal Hopson

Postlude

Toccata on "Father, We Thank Thee" Charles Callahan

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:

Aaron, Jess and all who struggle with addiction
Charlie & Wendy Scouras
Prayers for those affected by Hurricane Ida
Prayers for Healing for Valerie, a dear friend of Sally Jensen
Prayers for the people of Haiti & to the people of
Afghanistan
Galen Doscher, son of Fred & Margee Doscher
Prayers for Healing for 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
Sympathy and prayers for the family of Robert Heal Jr.,
brother-in-law of Marlin Collingwood
Continued prayers for Masvingo UCCZ in Zimbabwe
Bob, Georgene Fabian’s brother and his wife, Joan
Marjorie Glidden and family
Dick & Paulette Brace
Alice & Margaret Avery
Annie Rice, Bev Tedeschi’s mother
Sue Switaj
Jean Nilson, Susan Wei’s sister

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	15 th Sunday after Pentecost
	7:00 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv (This week’s TV view will be from August 29th, 2021)
Wednesday	11:30 AM	Staff Meeting
Thursday	6:00 PM	Staff Meeting

**Our offices will be closed on September 6th and staff are granted Labor Day
for themselves and their families.**

Our church council voted this week to remain open for this time with our mask mandate in place and a 65 person limit for any and all services or events. Because of this limitation, we encourage people to arrive early and be ever aware of physical/social distancing upon entry into our church home. Continue to be aware of COVID related concerns when on site; please do not assume old friends are okay with physical contact - always ask out of respect for the other person and be empathetic to anxieties anyone might have on the basis of the pandemic (or otherwise).

We will offer the option of meeting digitally indefinitely (Facebook). You may also catch our services (one week delayed) on Sunday nights on PBTv at 7:00 pm. (Local channel 1302.) Please check for Constant Contact and the Facebook page for ongoing updates

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.

Please welcome Jennifer Byam to our church staff! Jennifer recently moved to Plymouth and is excited to join PCUCC as the Faith Formation Director. She has experience teaching first through third grades in Montessori classrooms. Jennifer has a Master of Arts in Teaching. Jennifer has previously attended First Parish Congregational Church in Wakefield, Massachusetts. In her spare time Jennifer enjoys walking and reading. She is looking forward to sharing the Bible with our students.

Welcome to church families! Activity bags hanging outside the doors at the front of the building and quiet toys are made available, please ask an usher if you cannot find them. If your child needs more space during worship, please feel free to use the parlor on the sanctuary level or you may also find comfortable space on the lower level in our nursery and fellowship area.

Sunday school will kick off with Rally Sunday September 12 for all ages during worship! We welcome Jennifer Byam as our new faith formation director! For this school year we will be running Sunday school in person with masks on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Please email Jennifer if you need any additional information or have questions, faithformation@uccplymouth.org. We look forward to seeing you! We are seeking volunteers especially for our middle school and high school youth, please contact Jennifer or Julie Kelsey if you are interested.

Official call to the 220th Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ, Saturday, October 16th, 2021, via zoom webinar & YouTube Livestream. To learn more visit: nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/2021-annual-meeting

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 are seeking 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.

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 in denominations of \$100, \$250 and \$500. Finance orders these cards on a regular basis, and the church receives 5% of amounts purchased. Cards are available by contacting Ann or Linda after services on Sunday, by phone, or email. Please make checks payable to PCUCC and write “Hannaford” on the memo line. If you shop at any HANNAFORD for your essentials, please purchase these prepaid cards often. 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 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 this Tuesday, September 21st 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

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 A. Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist	organist@uccplymouth.org
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Liturgist: Carol Stewart
Flautist: Peggy Martin

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 September in our Community:

September 8 Judy Floyd
September 12 Diane Arsenault
September 16 Philip Wei
September 20 Molly McCahan
September 25 Anna Switaj
September 27 Andrew Hedberg

If you have a birthday or anniversary this month or next month that you would like listed, please email us at office@uccplymouth.org