

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: Wisdom For All



September 12, 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. Masks should be worn for the entirety of the service over both mouth and nose. If you need a mask break please take a step outside of the building.*

# GATHERING

**Prelude** All Things Bright and Beautiful arr. by Robert W. Swift  
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!  
There is a nursery space on the first floor if it is needed and bags with activities in the narthex.*

**Introit** In Thy Temple, Lord L. Zanineli

## \*Call to Worship

One: God who gathers us together in the Spirit of Christ,

**All: Let this house of prayer be a place of renewal, of powerful compassion and compassionate power.**

One: Let Your love be revealed through our worship and our lives.

**All: Let us recall that we are the Body of Christ in the world, deeply connected to Your wisdom.**

One: Grant us the ability to hear Your wisdom this morning; fill our hearts with that which comforts and compels.

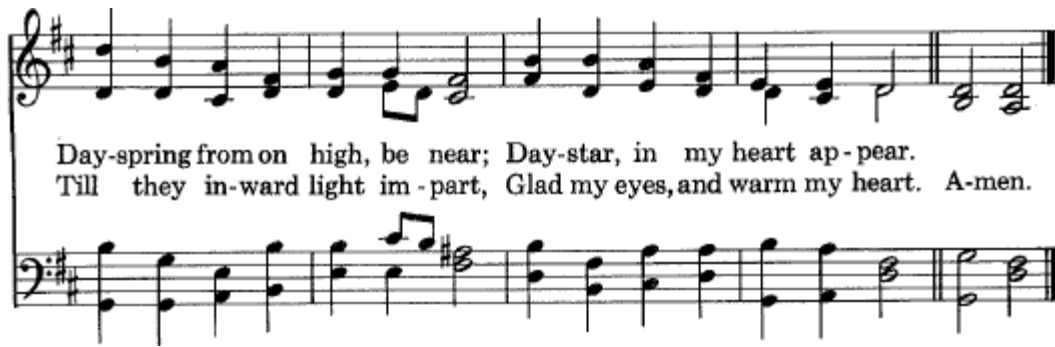
**All: We seek Your wisdom, God. Let our song and prayer be heard by those most in need.**

**\*Hymn** Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies PH (red) #43

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly Light,  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn Un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;

Sun of right-eous-ness, a - rise, Tri-umph o'er the shades of night;  
Joy - less is the day's re - turn, Till thy mer - cy's beams I see,

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. The first system has two verses of lyrics. The second system has two lines of lyrics.



3 Visit, then, this soul of mine;  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, Radiancy divine,  
Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day.

## 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: Spirit of Life, hear Your people at prayer: You are almighty and gentle. Righteousness and peace spring forth from Your sacred word and we seek these in this hour. Your never-ending grace have given us hope and so we return with our faith. Grant that the faith we have found this morning will be multiplied. Our minds and hearts have wandered from Your Way and so we will seek to be centered on Love in Christ this morning. Allow us space for wisdom from unexpected places – in silliness, playfulness, struggles, and meals shared. We aim to worship You with truth and sincerity – settle our hearts and let it be so. We pray all this, for Love's sake. Amen.**

## Silence for Personal Reflection

### God's Promise of New Life

One: Ever-changing God, You have provided us ample opportunity to hold onto wisdom. Sometimes we catch these moments and other times we miss this depth. Let us find Your deep truth in our reflections.

**All:** Guide us back to Your promise, God. Grant us the assurance of Your sacred words and let us proclaim this to those in need. For the texts of old remind us: 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**

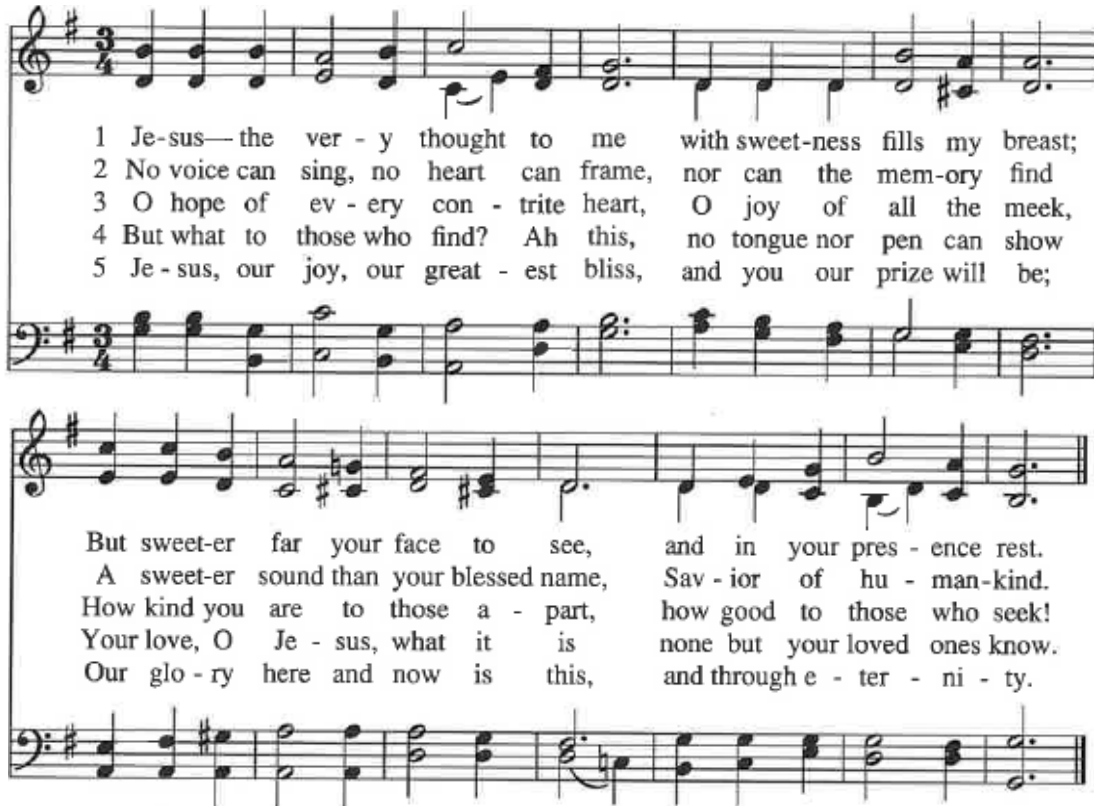
**Scripture Readings** James 3:1-12 Proverbs 1:20-23  
One: Spirit of Life, be with the meditations of our hearts and minds. Grant that Your Spirit speaks comfort and challenge to us on this day; give us strength and peace. We pray that You move between words and hearing.  
**All: Amen.**

**Message** "Wisdom Cries" Rev. Sara M. Holland

**\*Hymn**

Jesus—The Very Thought to Me

NCH (black) #507



1 Je - sus— the ver - y thought to me with sweet - ness fills my breast;  
2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mem - ory find  
3 O hope of ev - ery con - trite heart, O joy of all the meek,  
4 But what to those who find? Ah this, no tongue nor pen can show  
5 Je - sus, our joy, our great - est bliss, and you our prize will be;

But sweet - er far your face to see, and in your pres - ence rest.  
A sweet - er sound than your blessed name, Sav - ior of hu - man - kind.  
How kind you are to those a - part, how good to those who seek!  
Your love, O Je - sus, what it is none but your loved ones know.  
Our glo - ry here and now is this, and through e - ter - ni - ty.

## 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.

### Prayers for heroes and those most impacted by September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001

#### 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 Anthem

## Jubilate Deo

Dale Wood

We invite you to remember your support for the ministry of PCUCC.

*If you have cash or check please feel free to leave these in the baskets as you exit the sanctuary.*

### \*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 this offering of Your people. With hearts seeking wisdom we return a part of what we have to Your church and, therefore, to the world. Let Your church be compelled to move these gifts to those most in need – the hurting, the impoverished and the one who is too commonly forgotten. Let these gifts promote peace among all people. We pray all this for Love's sake. Amen.

# SENDING

### \*Hymn

O Jesus, I Have Promised

NCH (black) #493

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;  
2 O let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,  
3 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

re - main for - ev - er near me, my Sav - ior and my Friend;  
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will!  
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be, too;

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has three vocal parts (1, 2, and 3) and a bass line. The second system has a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

I shall not fear life's strug - gles if you are by my side,  
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol!  
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.  
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, O guar - dian of my soul!  
 O give me grace to fol - low my Sav - ior and my Friend!

**\*Pastoral Benediction**

**Choral Benediction**

Go in Peace

Hal Hopson

**Postlude**

Wir Pflugen

Norman Warren

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:**

Lynda & Len Swenson, parents of Megan Magraith  
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  
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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org).

**On September 18th at 11 am family and church family are welcome to attend a memorial service for Joe Oustecky at PCUCC. Joe was a beloved community member for many years; please continue to hold his family in your prayers.**

**This Week and More at PCUCC**

Today	9:30 AM	16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost
	7:00 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv (This week’s TV view will be from September 5th, 2021)
Monday	10:00 AM	Book Group gathering in Sanctuary
Wednesday	11:30 AM	Staff Meeting
Thursday	6:00 PM	Staff Meeting



**A BIG thank you to Donna and Butch Castor for the superb job of cleaning & sealing the kitchen, classroom & fellowship hall floors!**

**Good News From Mission & Social Outreach** - Gale Adams-Davis, a member of the M&O Committee, is hosting a refugee family from Central America. Rebecca Larson, Ann Thurston and Linda LaPrad are helping the family get acclimated to the area, and other team members are helping them continue navigating through the paperwork needed to settle in the U.S. M&O will be assisting in the effort and will be looking for volunteers who can help with the family's needs. If you are interested in helping, please contact Linda LaPrad.

**Invitation to Sunday Nighters** - Peggy and Wayne Martin would like to invite you to our house for a gathering of Sunday Nighters at 5:00 pm on Sunday, September 26. Please come only if you are fully vaccinated against Covid-19. We will meet inside our home. This is a pot-luck meal, so bring something to share. Our address is **2196 US Route 3, Campton, NH 03223. Our phone number is 603-726-3033.**

**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 of the sanctuary in the Narthex 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 today 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](mailto: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 220<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ, Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, via zoom webinar & YouTube Livestream. To learn more visit: [nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/2021-annual-meeting](http://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.**

**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:pmartin03223@yahoo.com)  
OR Kathy Henning: [henkat52@gmail.com](mailto:henkat52@gmail.com)

**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.

**Our church council voted last 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.**

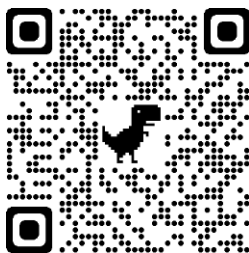
**Office Hours**

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](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 A. 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>
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	<a href="mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org">faithformation@uccplymouth.org</a>
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org">treasurer@uccplymouth.org</a>
Liturgist: Natalie Boyer	
Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ 4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264 (603) 536-2626 - <a href="mailto:office@uccplymouth.org">office@uccplymouth.org</a> - <a href="http://www.uccplymouth.org">www.uccplymouth.org</a>	



Celebrating Birthdays in September & October 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

October 1 Sophie Kelsey  
October 1 Madelyn Kelsey  
October 1 Paul Mason  
October 2 Paulette Brace  
October 5 John Fallon  
October 16 Liam Kane  
October 17 Donna Castor  
October 30 Chase Woodsum

\*\*If you have a birthday or anniversary this month or next month that you would like listed, please email us at [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org)\*\*