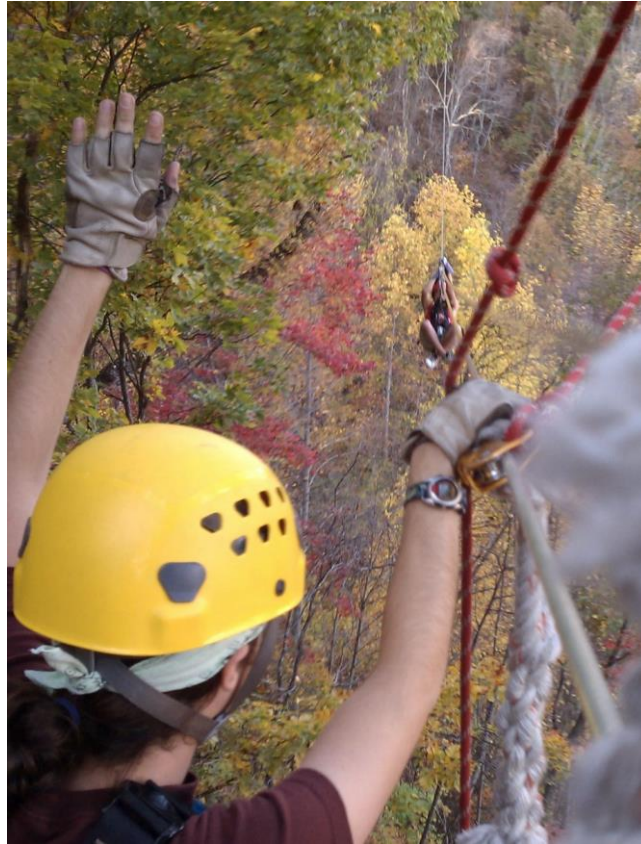


# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



September 26, 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

Reverie by Claude Debussy

arr. by Ethel Smith

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; each 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday we have Sunday School.*

## Introit

God is in this Holy Place

J. Brahms, arr. H. Hopson

## \*Call to Worship

One: We gather this hour to consider the power that we may indeed have and share.

**All: God grant us calm to receive Your holy insights and wisdom; hear our songs and offer us paths to joy.**

One: The sacred word shows us that power is not always as it seems and that there are many ways to meet God's divine call.

**All: Allow us the ability to see what particular role we might play; receive our prayers and move in our thoughts.**

One: Surely the still speaking God joins us this morning, we proclaim it to be so

**All: We turn our minds, hearts and ears to Your wisdom and texts humbly and with great hope.**

## \*Hymn

For the Healing of the Nations

NCH (black) #576

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with  
2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your  
3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the  
4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing  
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,  
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,  
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of  
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through  
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon  
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.  
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease,  
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.  
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

## 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:** Holy One, we pray for illumination and grace. You have given us sacred words to light our paths; let us hear these well. We turn ourselves over to this hour: first, with gratitude for community and the presence of our faith family. Next, we come with hope that we will be buoyed by the wisdom of our ancestors. Finally, in our worship may we be challenged to understand the ways that we do have power. The ways we are positioned

to bring Your realm, Your peace and Your glory to all those in need of truth. We pray all this for Love's sake. Amen.

## Silence for Personal Reflection

### God's Promise of New Life

**One:** Gracious and loving God, Your mercy has been poured out to us day in and day out, in the face of our greatest mistakes. We have forgotten that we have a role in your realm and that this might empower us. Let us be strengthened by Your call and love.

**All:** Let us know that no matter who we are, we may rest in God's love; our ancestors have showed 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.**

*On first and third Sundays we have a message for all ages during this time. We invite children and youth to remain in worship this Sunday if they like. There are also available 'wiggle' spaces on the sanctuary floor near the restrooms as well as on the lowest floor of the church building. We hope that families will make themselves comfortable and know that giggle kiddos are more than welcome throughout the entirety of our service!*

## HEARING THE WORD

**Scripture Readings** Mark 9:38-50 Esther 4: 9-14

**One:** O Holy God, grant us peace as we meditate and reflect. Let Your Spirit speak comfort and challenge to us on this day; give us Your word; we pray that You move between words and hearing.

**All: Amen.**

**Message** "Deliverance *From And In* Power" Rev. Sara M. Holland

1 O ho - ly cit - y, seen of John, where Christ, the Lamb, does reign,  
 2 O shame to us who rest con - tent while lust and greed for gain  
 3 Give us, O God, the strength to build the cit - y that has stayed  
 4 Al - read - y in the mind of God that cit - y is pre - pared:

with - in whose four - square walls shall come no night, nor need, nor pain,  
 in street and shop and ten - e - ment wring gold from hu - man pain,  
 too long a dream, whose laws are love, whose ways are your own ways,  
 oh, how its splen - dor chal - leng - es the souls that great - ly dare,

And where the tears are wiped from eyes that shall not weep a - gain.  
 And bit - ter lips in deep de - spair cry, "Christ has died in vain!"  
 And where the sun that blaz - es is your grace for all our days.  
 Yes, bids us seize the whole of life and build its glo - ry there.

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## Prayers of the People

### Joys and concerns

Pastor: O 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 Anthem**                      **Be Joyful in the Lord**                      **Georg Telemann**  
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. Accept these offerings for which Your people have toiled. Grant that these gifts will be multiplied and that Your realm will move with them. Accomplish grace and peace in these gifts and let us know our actions must move with our financial contributions. Let us take heart as we work to offer of our lives. We pray these gifts will be carried to those at the far corners of the earth – the desolate, the most vulnerable, the child who is hungry and the one forgotten. We pray all this in Jesus' name, the Creator, Redeemer, the Sustainer of us all; amen.

## SENDING

**\*Hymn**                      **This Is a Day of New Beginnings**                      **NCH (black) #417**  
Verses 1-4

*Unison*

The musical score is written for a unison voice part. It features a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of six measures. Below the staff, the lyrics are provided for four verses. The lyrics are: 1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re - ; 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y ; 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the ; 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and ; \* In faith we'll gath - er 'round the ta - ble to taste and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is  
 Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of  
 past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and  
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -  
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.  
 dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.  
 griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.  
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new,  
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

**\*Pastoral Benediction**

**Choral Benediction**

Let Us Go Forth Gladly

Hal Hopson

**Postlude**

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

by J. S. Bach

arr. by Stephen J. Baranoski

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:**

Sharon Wall, a friend of Donna Castor  
Lynda & Len Swenson, parents of Megan Magrauth  
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  
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).

**This Week and More at PCUCC**

Today	9:30 AM	18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost
	7:00 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv (Due to technical difficulties last week, this week's TV view will be from September 12th, 2021)
Monday	10:00 PM	Book Group
	4:00 PM	Music Committee
Wednesday	11:30 AM	Staff Meeting

**\*October 3rd at 2:00 PM we are having the Blessing of the Animals ceremony right in front of the Church and will last 20 minutes – all polite pets welcome! (Rev Sara even has experience blessing chickens!)\***

**\*Save the date! Corn Maze trip on Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup> more info coming soon!\***



**Special thanks to Georgene and Bev along with anyone else that helped serve snacks and refreshments after Joe Oustucky's memorial service.**

**NH Food Bank is having a mobile food pantry on Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM in the Walmart parking lot at 683 Tenney Mtn. Highway. This is a drive thru event, all items will be distributed to you in your vehicles.**

**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.**

**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.

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.

**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 start typing Plymouth Congregational Church & it should show up as you are typing to select.

**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)**

**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 Alison Thatcher at: [Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com](mailto:Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com) or Pastor Sara if you are considering ways to get involved in these important efforts.

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

**Book Group** – Plymouth Congregational Book Group will meet at 10 am Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> in the Church Sanctuary. Please join us as we gather in fellowship and discuss our first selection of the year: *Anxious People* By Fredrik Backman.

**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)

**Continue to be aware, our church council voted 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 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 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 - 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM  
Thursday - 8:30 AM – 2:30 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: Bill Heron	
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 15 Larry Spencer  
October 15 Debbie Englehardt  
October 16 Liam Kane  
October 17 Donna Castor  
October 20 Alice O'Connor  
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@ucplymouth.org](mailto:office@ucplymouth.org)\*\*