

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

21st Sunday after Pentecost
Baptism & Confirmation Sunday



October 17, 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

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

Welcome & Announcements

Please, if you are 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 lower level if it is needed and activity bags in the narthex; today there is Sunday School after the children are dismissed.

Introit

God Is In This Holy Place

J. Brahms, arr. H. Hopson

Moment of Silence and Lighting of Candles

*Please note, those who are able and willing may stand.

*Call to Worship

One: Holy God, Your word is wonderful; let us hear Your truth in this hour.

All: Help us to see Your radical yet simple power of peace.

One: Creator, You are all around us and we aim to feel and proclaim such news.

All: Let us hear Your radical yet simple power of hope.

One: Divine friend, Saving grace, we have seen infinite love:

All: May we sense Your radical yet simple power of love.

One: Holy Spirit, move with our worship:

All: Let us be comforted *and* transformed!

*Hymn

You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim

NCH (black) # 305

Verses 1,2 & 4

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. 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 3/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. Below the treble clef staff, there are four lines of lyrics, each starting with a number (1, 2, 3, 4) and corresponding to the notes above. The lyrics are: 1 You ser - vants of God, your Sov - reign pro - claim, 2 God rules from on high, al - might - y to save, 3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! 4 Then let us a - dore and ren - der God's right,

and pub - lish a - broad that won - der - ful name:
 and still God is nigh, whose pres - ence we have.
 Let all cry a - loud for what God has done.
 all glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,

The name, all vic - to - rious, of Je - sus ex - tol,
 The great con - gre - ga - tion God's tri - umphs shall praise,
 The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
 All hon - or and bless - ing with an - gels a - bove,

who, sov - ereign and glo - rious, now rules o - ver all.
 as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus al - ways.
 still veil - ing their fac - es, they wor - ship the Lamb.
 and thanks nev - er ceas - ing and in - fin - ite love.

Passing of the Peace

We invite you to text or email someone a note of peace today. A hand-written note will work too, perhaps on someone's car or in their mailbox later today.

Unison Gathering Prayer

Rev. Doug Leonhardt, S.J.

All: God of all seasons, we thank You for Autumn. We thank You for the touch of coolness in the air that gives us a new burst of energy, for the coloring of trees that shows the creativity of the Divine Artist, for the falling leaves that reveal the strength of the branches, for the hues of fields that bring peace to our souls, for the smiles on pumpkins that bring joy to children, for the fall harvest

which brings us gratitude for the bounty of our land, for the change of seasons that reveals the circle of life. God of all seasons, as You transform the earth, transform us by Your Spirit. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: You have been our refuge in times of joy and struggle. We come longing to fulfill and be fulfilled. Your commandment assures us stability and challenge. We seek Love revealed in Christ this hour. Let us be renewed in the covenant laid before us.

All: **With the waters of baptism and the assurance of faith in the midst of doubt, let us know that we are beloved: 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 Love

NCH (black) #58

Though we have frayed the fabric of Your making,
Tearing away from all that You intend,
Yet, to be whole, humanity is aching –
Come, work with us, and weave us into one.

The Sacrament of Baptism

We welcome the Ball Family to come forward.

All (from NCH, page 33): This is the water of baptism. Out of this water, we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

All (from NCH, page 35): We promise our love, support, and care.

All (from NCH, page 37): Give to the newly baptized: strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

Affirmation of Baptism and Rite of Confirmation

We welcome Anna Boyer, Natalie Boyer, Rohan Magraith & Tucker Magraith.

PCUCC Covenant

We covenant one with another to seek and to respond to the Word and will of God.

We purpose to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world while worshipping God, and striving for truth, justice and peace. As did our faith ancestors, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God and look with faith toward the triumph of righteous and eternal life.

2021 Confirmation Class Statement of Faith

Welcome and Blessing

We pledge to you our concern, our help, and our prayers, that you may continue to grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ. God: grant that loving and being loved, blessing and being blessed, serving and being served, we may be united as the body of Christ.

(children may be dismissed to church school at this time)

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings

Psalm 91: 9-16

Mark 10: 35-45

One: Spirit of Life, let us be found, once again, as Your beloved children. Let us find comfort with Your wisdom and challenge with the call of sacred text. We pray that You move between words and hearing.

All: Amen.

Message

“Sit Down”

Rev. Sara M. Holland

*Hymn

I was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

NCH (black) #351

Unison

D7 G D G D G D

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
2 When you found the won - der of the Word, I was
3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too
4 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. 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 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. Above the treble staff, there are chord symbols: D7, G, D, G, D, G, D. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with four lines of text corresponding to the four lines of music. The lyrics are: 1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be; 2 When you found the won - der of the Word, I was; 3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too; 4 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be.

G D G D7 G D

there when you are old. I re-joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the
 old, no long-er young, I'll be there to guide you
 there when you are old. I re-joiced the day you

G D G C D7 G

were bap-tized, to see your life un-fold.
 liv-ing God, to whom you now be-long.
 through the night, com-plete what I've be-gun.
 were bap-tized, to see your life un-fold. *St. 4, end*

G/B C G

I was there when you were but a child, with a
 Should you find some-one to share your time and you
 When the eve-ning gent-ly clos-es in and you

Am D G G/B C

faith to suit you well; I'll be there in case you
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
 shut your wea-ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

G A7 D *to beginning*

wan-der off and find where de-mons dwell.
 vers-es rhyme from dusk till ris-ing sun.
 al-ways been with just one more sur-prise.

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

A Gaelic Blessing

John Rutter

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: Much is given to us in Your creation and word, Holy God. We sense Your love, strong and gentle; we hope we will continually return to gratitude. And so: we return these offerings to You. We pray that with these gifts many more people will find that they are beloved – those who are hungry, hurting and alone. Spirit of Life, we pray these gifts be carried far and wide, Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn

Touch the Earth Lightly

NCH (black) #569

1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
* 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

**The second verse only may be sung in A minor, omitting the sharps except where indicated in parentheses.*

nour-ish the life of the world in our care:
a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,
God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

Gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,
We who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—
Health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
Teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

***Pastoral Benediction**

Choral 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:

Bill Larsen's recovery and for his family
Prayers for Tommy Hadley and Family
Dianne Anderson, sister of Donna Castor
Love and sympathy for the family of Sid Lovett
Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family
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 Healing for Valerie, a dear friend of Sally Jensen
Prayers for Healing for Brian Paine
Thoughts & Prayers for Terry Cote
Timothy Wei & Jean Nilson, family of Susan & Philip Wei
Prayers & Healing for Ruth Monroe
Mae Larson, Rebecca Larson's mother-in-law
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

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	21 st Sunday after Pentecost, Baptism & Communion Sunday
	7:00 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv
Oct 19 th	7:00 PM	Racial Justice Meeting
Oct 20 th	9:30 AM	Lectio Divina Bible Study
	11:30 AM	Staff Meeting
	4:00 PM	Mission & Social Outreach Meeting

Oct. 24 th	1:30 PM	Corn Maze trip!
Oct. 24 th	5:00 PM	Sunday Niters at Tink & Fran Taylors house
Oct. 26 th	7:00 PM	U.S. Air Force Heritage Winds Free Concert
Oct. 31 st		All Saints Day
Nov. 7 th	9:30 AM	Installation of Rev. Sara M. Holland as our Pastor and Teacher, and thanksgiving for her leadership.
Nov. 14 th	9:30 AM	New Member Sunday

Come join us for a free concert provided by the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band on Tuesday, October 26th at 7pm! Heritage Winds is the wind quintet component of the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band. As professional Airmen, the musicians of Heritage Winds are dedicated to using the power of music to honor our veterans, inspire patriotism, communicate the Air Force story, and recruit those who are interested in serving our nation.

About Neighbors in Need Offering: Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebearers of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and northern Nebraska. Please join us in this year's effort!

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. The M&O team 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, contact Linda LaPrad.

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 Byam 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.

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.

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. If you know of someone who is in need, please put them in touch with the church office or Pastor Sara. *The Hope Fund of our church continues to touch the lives of people in the Lakes Region. This summer we purchased food for people, assisted families who needed back to school supplies, assisted folks with rental expenses as well as utilities. When we assisted families in preparation for school, we actually were able to meet a few of the children impacted; they were immensely grateful.*

We have deep gratitude for all of those who have contributed money and time related to the Hope Fund.

Racial Justice Exploration: We are continuing these explorations this fall.

We welcome new attendees and we pray you’ll reach out to Alison Thatcher at Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com or Pastor Sara if you are considering ways to get involved in these important efforts. This group is currently involved in taking Harvard University’s Implicit Bias test online; we encourage you to consider doing so!

Book Group: All are welcome! Any questions please contact Peggy Martin at pmartin03223@yahoo.com or Kathy Henning at henkat52@gmail.com

Please 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 - 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Wednesday - 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Thursday - 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM
Friday - 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Pastor's Office Hours

Pastor Sara is generally at the church for office hours Monday – Wednesday 10:30 AM – 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
Courtney Crosato, Office Administrator
David A. Williams, Director of Music
Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation
Ann Thurston, Treasurer
Liturgists: Anna Boyer & Tucker Magrauth
Acolytes: Natalie Boyer & Rohan Magrauth

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Celebrating Birthdays in October in our Community:

October 1	Paul Mason	October 16	Liam Kane
October 2	Paulette Brace	October 17	Donna Castor
October 5	John Fallon	October 20	Alice O'Connor
October 15	Larry Spencer	October 28	Carol Stewart
October 15	Debbie Engelhardt	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