# 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.

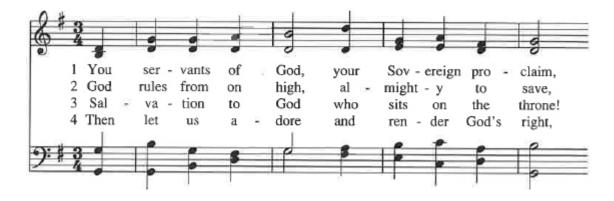
One: Divine friend, Saving grace, we have seen infinite love:

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





# 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 Magrauth & Tucker Magrauth.

#### **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.

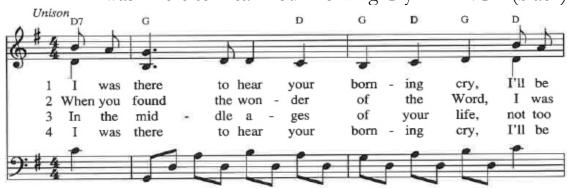
All: Amen.

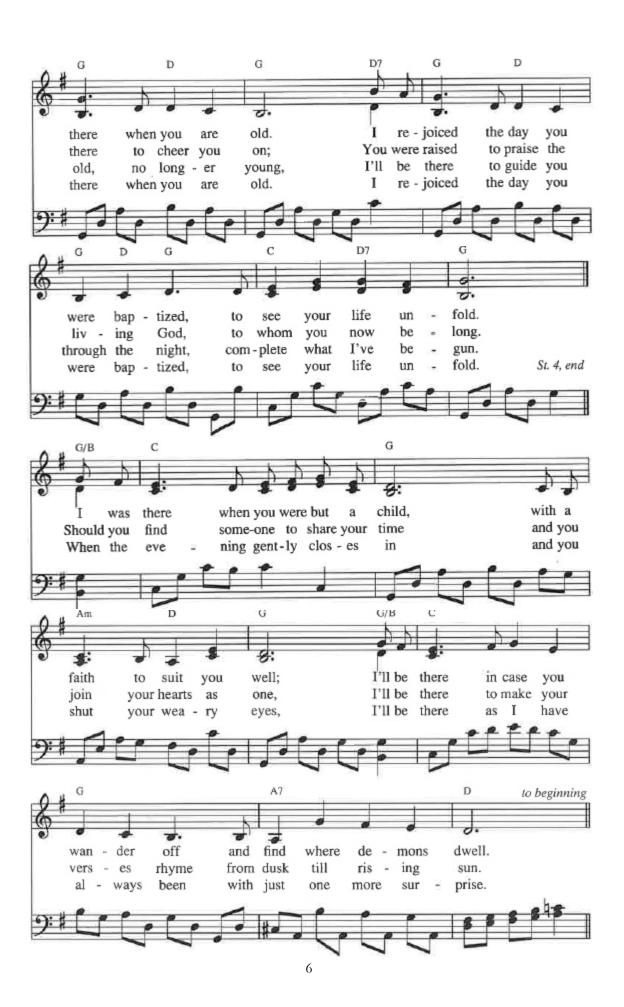
Message

"Sit Down"

Rev. Sara M. Holland

\*Hymn I was There to Hear Your Borning Cry NCH (black) #351





# 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



#### \*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 <a href="mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org">plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org</a>.

#### This Week and More at PCUCC

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

Oct. 24 <sup>th</sup>	1:30 PM	Corn Maze trip!
Oct. 24 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 PM	Sunday Niters at Tink & Fran Taylors house
Oct. 26 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	U.S. Air Force Heritage Winds Free Concert
Oct. 31st		All Saints Day
Nov. 7 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 AM	Installation of Rev. Sara M. Holland as our Pastor and Teacher,
		and thanksgiving for her leadership.
Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup>	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 fa5milies 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 <a href="mailto:Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com">Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com</a> 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 <a href="mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org">plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org</a> 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 plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org office@uccplymouth.org musicdirector@uccplymouth.org organist@uccplymouth.org faithformation@uccplymouth.org treasurer@uccplymouth.org

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 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

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