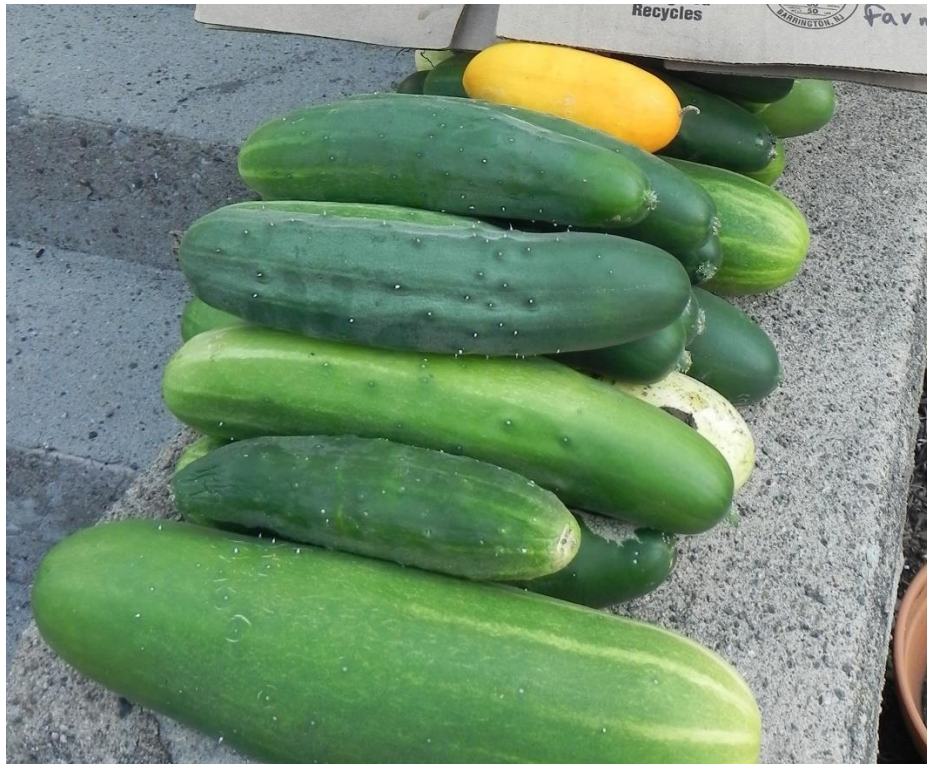


Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Fifth Sunday in Lent



March 21, 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.

GATHERING

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude “What Wondrous Love is This” arr. by Michael Mauldin

Call to Worship

One: We are called to love; we are called to God. Let us join our voices in seeking grace this hour –

All: Let us release ourselves so we will discover a rich harvest.

One: We struggle with our pride, we struggle with our relationships and so we sing, pray and reflect with hopes of discovering God, once again.

All: Let us release ourselves so we will discover a rich harvest.

One: We sense deep in our hearts that in our particular wilderness, the Divine exists with us; and so, we have gratitude.

All: Let us release ourselves so we will discover a rich harvest.

Hymn All My Hope on God is Founded NCH #408 (black)

1 All my hope on God is found - ed: who else can my hope re-new?
2 Well does the al - might-y Giv - er boun-teous gifts on us be-stow!
3 In glad hymns to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of praise be done,

Still through change and chance God guides me, on - ly good and on - ly true.
With de - light our souls are nour-ished; plea-sure leads us where we go.
high a - bove all prais - es prais-ing for the love in Christ made known.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "All My Hope on God is Founded". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a single staff and a piano accompaniment on two staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The first system contains three verses of lyrics. The second system contains the concluding lines of the hymn.



Passing of the Peace

We invite you to text or email someone a note of peace A hand-written note will work too.
(You could place this on someone's car later today if you are out and about.)

Gathering Prayer

One: We have heard and read about Your covenant, O Holy God; we seek to recommit to this today – Your covenant, which may be ours too.

All: Let us seek the law of Love together in this hour; let us consider how we might be Christ followers in the world, each day.

One: Let your word and covenant move through our reading and hearing, let the impression exist on our hearts and be a part of our being.

All: Let us seek the law of Love together in this hour; let us consider how we might be Christ followers in the world, each day.

One: We are called to grace and peace, once again – let us move with our opportunity to be and to provide release.

All: Let us seek the law of Love together in this hour; let us consider how we might be Christ followers in the world, each day.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Spirit of Comfort, let us know the ways you dwell in our midst. Let us consider how we might sacrifice to honor Love this day and week. Be with us as we move to Your rich harvest. Let us be the kernels that will drop to the earth to restore ourselves and those we encounter for Love's sake.

All: In a Lenten wilderness, in a global pandemic, we may find peace in giving. We are called to release, we are called to Love. Let us feel this truth: 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 Savior, When in Tears and Dust NCH (black) #185
Savior, when in tears and dust, low we bow to you in trust,
When repentant, to the skies scarce we lift our weeping eyes,
Mindful how you suffered pain that God's love in us might reign –
Help us claim what we would be, hear our solemn litany.

Children's Message

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34

John 12: 20 – 33, adapted by Robert Benson

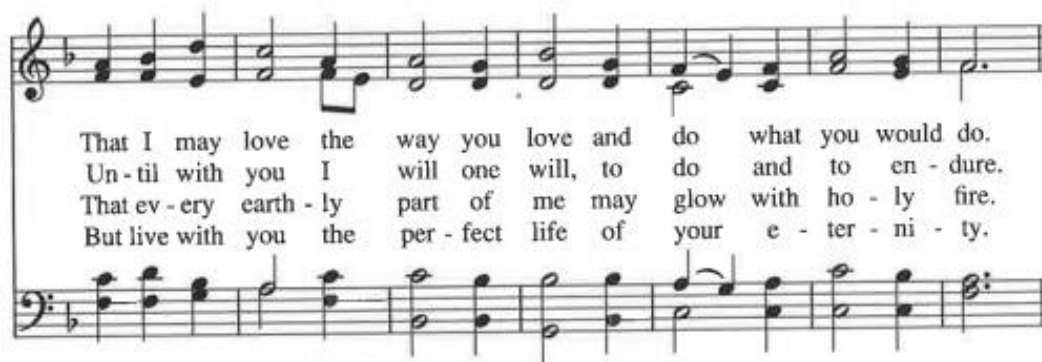
One: Here end the readings from our tradition. May Holy Spirit join us this Lenten journey. Let us find wisdom for today in these ancient words. O Holy Spirit, we pray You move between words and hearing.

All: Amen.

Message "A Single Grain" Rev. Sara M. Holland

Hymn Breathe on Me, Breath of God NCH (black) 292

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Breathe on Me, Breath of God". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. Below the treble staff, there are four lines of lyrics, each numbered 1 through 4. The lyrics are: 1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new; 2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure; 3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one de - sire; 4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die.



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

You will be invited to offer your personal prayers from the silence of your heart.

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 "Breslau" by Michael Higgins
 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; bless these gifts and our hands and feet.
 Let us point ourselves to Your path and to the service of others. For in our
 neighbor, we find ourselves as well as Your truth. We are grateful for our
 faith ancestors who taught us to share and so we present these humble
 offerings before you. In our imperfect giving, You are made real to people

throughout the world: those who are lonely, hungry and hurting. God, accept these symbols of love and multiple them with your miraculous grace. Amen.

SENDING

Hymn

What Wondrous Love is This

NCH (black) 223

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What
 2 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to
 3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
 God and to the Lamb, I will sing; To God and to the
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm

this! that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heav-y cross for my
 Lamb who is the great I Am, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the heav-y cross for my soul!
 sing, I will sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!

Benediction

Postlude “Miniatures for Organ: Twenty Six. Poco Allegro” by Herbert Howells
The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us into the world where our true service begins.

Keeping in Prayer

Sympathy to the family of Gypsy the cat, beloved member of Jim Preston’s household

Prayers for the Plymouth State community as a student passed away

Family of Tom Howe

Dick & Paulette Brace Alice & Margaret Avery

Marjorie Glidden and family

Annie Rice, Bev Tedeschi’s mother

Terry Cote & David Cote, close friends of Alice O’Connor

Jean Nilson, Susan Wei’s sister Heidi Watts, Fran Lewis’ sister

Kelleanne Surine, family member of Alice O’Conner

Judy Detzel, friend of Hanna Starck

Prayers for those administering and receiving the first 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

Sunday -	9:30 AM	Worship Service on Facebook Live
	10:00 AM	Virtual Sunday School
	4:30 PM	Confirmation
	6:30 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv
Tuesday	7:00 PM	Racial Justice Exploration meeting via zoom
	7:00 PM	Finance Committee
Wednesday -	11:30 AM	Zoom Staff Meeting
	7:00 PM	Midweek Contemplative Lenten Service via Facebook
	7:30 PM	Council meeting

Lenten & Easter Services

All at 7:00 PM via Facebook Live

Wednesdays 24th - Lenten Evening Service

March 28th – Palm Sunday, One Great Hour of Sharing

April 1st - Maundy Thursday

April 2nd - Good Friday

April 4th – Easter Sunrise Service (via Facebook) and 9:30 am Worship Service

Update re: eventual return to worship: Rev Sara seeks to create a team of 5-10 people who will help in the planning of an eventual return (likely in stages) to in-person worship. This team will likely meet two times per month and will be busy; please, if you think you have the energy and time, contact Rev Sara. It will still be some time before we return physically though we need to be well prepared; currently the NH Conference has asked that we continue to worship online.

Faith Formation update: We'll have an egg hunt soon so stay tuned for more information for children and youth!

One Great Hour of Sharing is coming right up: Our gifts to OGHS enables the UCC to be present for the long term in disaster recovery as we partner with churches and organizations around the world to walk with families as they rebuild their lives.

Please prayerfully consider increasing your OGHS gift this year. The need truly is great.

On Palm Sunday we invite you to make checks out to our church and add a memo that reads OGHS so our finance team can ensure funds are appropriately allocated.

Capital Campaign update: The Capital Campaign co-chairs Lisa Lovett and Bev Newton would like to thank Michael Carrier, Dale Mosher, David Williams and Pastor Sara for their assistance with the Zoom meeting last week. It was well attended and interactive. Stay tuned to Constant Contact for all updates as we progress. Onward we go! Our campaign will focus on the ramp on the north side of the building, a modest A/C installation and an organ console replacement. Email inquiries should be directed to Lisa Lovett at ttevol2002@yahoo.com and phone inquiries to Bev Newton at 603-254-9991. We will have an official congregational meeting on April 25th in regards to the Capital Campaign just after the worship service; please save the date!

Notice from Human Resources: Debbie Healey has submitted a note of resignation and is no longer serving our church community.

What's going on at PSU? Our hearts are heavy for our neighbors at PSU this week as a student has passed away; please remember the community in your prayers and meditations this week.

Deacon's Corner - Welcome to our Deacon's Corner where we will provide updates as is appropriate and desired by community members. These updates will be general and not specific to protect the privacy of families and individuals.

Please continue to pray for Judy Detzel, friend of Hanna Starck, at 10 Willey Road, Ellsworth, NH 03223; if you didn't know – the wonderful stained glass in the chapel was made by Judy.

Continued prayers for Jim Preston as Gypsy passed away recently; he is happy to receive phone calls or notes of support during this time.

Huge thanks to all of our community members who have delivered meals in the past couple of months. The Averys and Braces have been so appreciative of this offering.

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 during this "stay-at-home" time of practicing safe distancing. Denominations of \$100, \$250 and \$500 are available. Finance orders cards regularly. Please let Linda or Larry know via phone or email what you would like to purchase. We will let you know when to mail your check to the church. If you shop at HANNAFORD for your essentials, please purchase a prepaid card. The church receives 5% of each card purchased. Thank you for your continued support!

HOPE Fund - The need for assistance through our HOPE Fund will increase as families at risk 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 - This is continuing on March 23rd at 7 pm. The culmination will be a larger training and educational offering from Rev Renee' Rouse, one of the Racial Justice Ministers from the New Hampshire Conference; save the date for April 10th, 10 am – 12 pm.

This group encourages examination of any of the following books:

Robin DiAngelo's *White Fragility: Why it is so Hard for White People to talk about Race*

Ibram X. Kendi's *How to be An Antiracist*

Rebecca Carroll's *Surviving the White Gaze*

If purchase of a book is a barrier and you want a copy, let Rev Sara know.

Book Group - Here is our intended order of Book Group readings so that you can purchase or otherwise obtain them in advance: Our next selections will be *The Elephant Whisperer* by Lawrence Anthony, *Daughters of Erietown* by Connie Schultz, *The Woman Who Smashed Codes* by Jason Fagone and *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate.

Our church has moved to digital platforms for all events until further announcement. The Worship Services will be live streamed on our Facebook page and are available on Sunday nights on PBTv at 6:30 pm. (Local channel 1302.) Please check for Constant Contact and the Facebook page for information about upcoming Worship Services.

Pastor's Office Hours

During this time of “physical distancing” and working remotely, Pastor Sara will be at the church for office hours Monday 10:00 AM-3:00 PM, Tuesday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM, Wednesday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM and Thursday by appointment though all church doors are locked. Small meetings may be possible in person with masks. 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
David Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
Ashley Paine, Organist/Pianist	organist@uccplymouth.org
Gale Adams-Davis, Co-Director of Faith Formation	windygla2@yahoo.com
Julie Kelsey, Co-Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Larry Spencer, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling	clwlcsw@gmail.com

Bev Tedeschi, Liturgist

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(603) 536-2626 - office@uccplymouth.org - www.uccplymouth.org

EASTER FLOWERS



We plan to have beautiful spring flowers to decorate the Sanctuary on Sunday, April 4th. A portion of your donation of \$15 (or more) will go to the HOPE Fund. Those who donate will be able to choose a plant or bouquet to take home. Please complete the Easter flower dedication information below for the bulletin.

Thank you!

In Celebration of Hope Fund Only

In Thanksgiving for

In Memory of

Your Name: _____

Phone: _____

*Make checks payable to: **PCUCC**

Mail or drop checks off to the church office by **March 29**.