

Plymouth Congregational, United Church of Christ

11th Sunday after Pentecost: Shaping Community



Aug 8, 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.

Per CDC guidelines, masks are strongly encouraged in our congregation as we are indoors.

GATHERING

*those who are able and willing may stand

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Amazing Grace, Early American Melody Gilbert Martin
The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

*Call to Worship

One: Our journey is long and can feel heavy; even still, we are called to gratitude and hope.

All: Hear Your people, Holy One – we cry out to You, first with thanks:

One: We have found space in which to worship, masks with which to protect ourselves and the opportunity to consider how we may care for humanity and your earth.

All: Hear Your people, Creator God – we cry out to You, second with ancestors:

One: We understand that the Ephesians and the prophet Elijah struggled much like we do today. We join these, our faith ancestors.

All: Hear Your people – we cry out to You seeking strength and wisdom; hear our songs and prayers of hope.

*Hymn

O Word of God Incarnate

NCH (black) #315

1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 O God, we hold this trea - sure from you, its source di - vine,
3 O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of pur - est gold,

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of cloud - ed sky:
a light that to all a - ges through - out the earth will shine;
to bear be - fore all peo - ple your true light as of old!

We praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that all life's voy - age through,
 O teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this their path to trace,

 a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 'mid mists and rocks and tem - pest, still guides, O God, to you.
 till, doubt and striv - ing end - ed, they meet you face to face.

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 Spirit, we come with our deepest doubts and fears. In our connections let us find hope and strength to support our communities. We read in the scriptures that Elijah was depressed and the Ephesians struggled to support one another; let us take their lessons and create our own this morning. Let us find thanks and praise through our ability to be with one another in this hour and let such joy carry us well this week. Let us learn to be imitators of the great Love You so graciously brought to earth. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: God, You are with us through the trauma of this pandemic. We each have had journeys of sadness during the past months much like the prophet Elijah. For the sadness we have not carried ourselves we have seen our neighbors do so. Let us become ever aware of Your love and how it may calm and strengthen us.

All: We return to Your covenant and promise, Holy One. We bring our struggles before and we pray for and move towards divine healing. Let us know with our minds, bodies and souls: 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 Ephesians 4:25 – 5:1a & 1st Kings 19: 4 – 8

One: Holy One, be with the meditations of our hearts and minds. Grant that Your Spirit speaks comfort and challenge to us on this day. May we rest and lean into Your comfort and strength today. We pray that Your spirit moves between words and hearing.

All: Amen.

Message “Imitators” Rev. Sara M. Holland

***Hymn** All My Hope On God Is Founded NCH (black) #408

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.

God un - known, grace a - lone, calls my heart to be God's own.
 At God's hand does love stand; joy a - waits each new com - mand.
 Hear Christ's call, one and all; those who fol - low shall not fall.

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.

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.

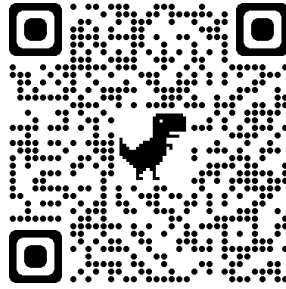
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offertory

Variations on *Endless Song*

Robert Lowry

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: Spirit of Peace, let Your hope and will fall upon these gifts that they might serve those who are desperate, lonely and hurting. Let us become a part of these offerings with our actions and words. Let us speak truth to power causing injustice and let us know our own might. We aim to be imitators of the love you brought to earth. We are Your people and we pray that our gifts will speak to Your great glory that all may prosper. We pray all this for Love’s sake. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

PH (red) #93

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might-y; Hold me with thy
stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloud-y pil - lar Lead me all my
fears sub - side; Death of death, and hell's de-struc-tion, Land me safe on

power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
jour - ney through; Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer,
Ca - naan's side; Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es,

Feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.
Be thou still my strength and shield, Be thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to thee, I will ev - er give to thee. A-men.

***Benediction**

Postlude

How Firm a Foundation

Franklin D. Ashdown

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:

Prayers & Healing for Philip Wei
Prayers of sympathy for the Stecher family
Galen Doscher, son of Fred & Margee Doscher
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
Rob & Monica Heal & family, Marlin Collingwood's brother-in-law
Sympathy & Prayers for Carol Hahn's family
Continued prayers for Masvingo UCCZ in Zimbabwe
Bob, Georgene Fabian's brother and his wife, Joan
Prayers for Sam Lovett as Spirit calls him to ministry!
Marjorie Glidden and family
Dick & Paulette Brace
Alice & Margaret Avery
Annie Rice, Bev Tedeschi's mother
Sue Switaj
Jean Nilson, Susan Wei's sister
Judy Detzel, friend of Hanna Starck

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 11th Sunday after Pentecost
 6:30 PM Worship service airs on PBTv (this week's TV view will be from
 August 1st, 2021)
 Staff meetings resume in mid-August

**Important note: we will continue to stream our service online via Facebook and also
have our service on PBTv.**

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of a few volunteers to help clean out the cabinets in the kitchen on August 17th and/or 18th

If you are able to help or have any questions please call

Donna Castor: 603-968-9627 or email her: dandbcastor@gmail.com

We are seeking out 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.

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 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 Ann 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!

Deacon's Corner – The updates in this area are general so as to protect the privacy of families and individuals.

Prayers & healing for Philip Wei

Prayers of sympathy for the Stecher family

Galen Doscher, son of Fred & Margee Doscher

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 August 31st 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 13th 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 OR

Kathy Henning: henkat52@gmail.com

Our church is now meeting in person and digitally; we will continue to offer both options indefinitely. The Worship Services will continue to 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.

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 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
Courtney Crosato, Office Administrator	office@uccplymouth.org
David Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist	organist@uccplymouth.org
Julie Kelsey, Faith Formation Chair	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Liturgist: Wayne Martin

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
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Celebrating Birthdays in August in our Community:

August 1 Jan Bass
August 11 Arline Bownes
August 15 Dick Brace
August 15 Angi Francesco
August 17 Georgia Merrithew-Stone
August 21 Natalie Amtmann
August 22 Colton Hyde
August 24 Maeghan Warburton
August 29 Marti Shoemaker

If you have a birthday or anniversary in either of these two months that you would like listed, please email us at office@uccplymouth.org