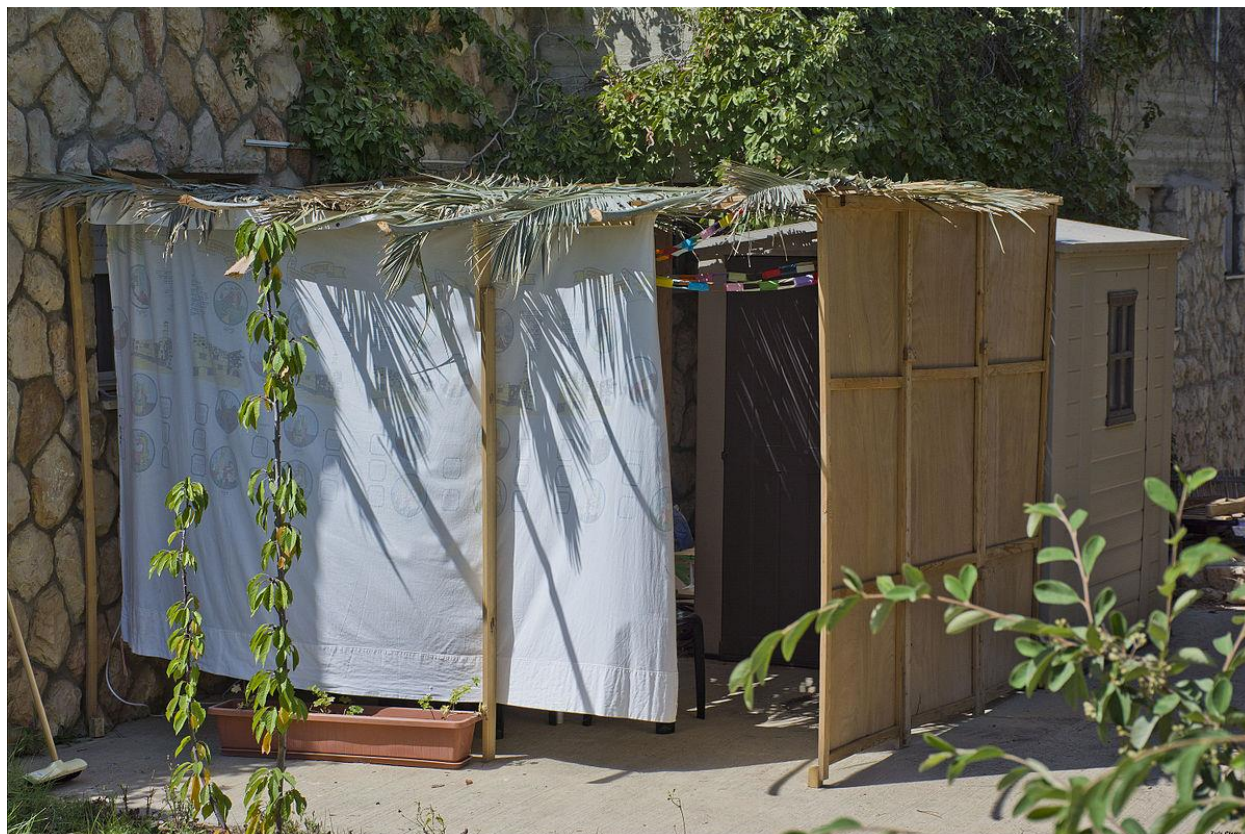


Plymouth Congregational, United Church of Christ

13th Sunday after Pentecost: At Home With God



Aug 22, 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

Petite Passacagli

Valeriy Antonyuk

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

*Call to Worship

One: Friends: like the birds in the trees or the river running along its rocky bed, come, let us sing a song to the Lord

All: Let us shout gladly to the rock of our lives, the foundation of our hope! Let us run like a river of gladness.

One: Friends: let us come into God's presence like the river enters the ocean. We are the same water from the mountain's melt and deep, dark spring—just newly alive with the salt and oceanic spirit of life!

All: Let us make the joyful noise. Let us crash with joy like the waves. Let us give our gifts of music and songs of praise!

*Hymn

From all that Dwells Below the Skies

NCH (black) #27

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The first system is marked 'Unison' and contains two verses of lyrics. The second system is marked '(Harmony)' for the piano part and '(Unison)' for the vocal part, and contains the concluding lyrics.

Unison

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let the Cre - a - tor's praise a -
2 E - ter - nal are your mer - cies, God; your truth stands ev - er high and

(Harmony) *(Unison)*

rise; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Let the Re - deem - er's name be
broad: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Your praise shall sound from shore to

sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 shore till suns shall rise and set no more.

(Unison)

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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

One: We are God's own creation with voices that join together in prayer, saying,
All: Creator God, you built the earth, and shaped our bodies, and planted the stars across the night sky. We gather in your presence with praise and thanks for your gifts of life and light. Fill us with your many gifts, and a sense of empathy and understanding. Strengthen us to serve as mediators and conduits of your goodness in the world, building a public square of justice with the tools of peace.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: We come together within this strengthening community of friends and chosen family to live together into the reality and the mystery of God's love, knowing that in the space between us, God lives and moves and breathes.

All: God of love, move among us like the cool wind of the new day. Draw near to us in this hour. 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.

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings Psalm 18:1-6 John 7:25-41
 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 “Octavia Butler: God is Change” Rev. Sam Lovett

***Hymn** God of Change and Glory NCH (black) #177

1 God of change and glo - ry, God of time and space,
 2 God of man - y col - ors, God of man - y signs,
 3 Fresh-ness of the morn - ing, new - ness of each night,

when we fear the fu - ture, give to us your grace.
 you have made us dif - ferent, bless - ing man - y kinds.
 you are still cre - at - ing end - less love and light.

In the midst of chang-ing ways give us still the grace to praise.
 As the old ways dis - ap-pear, let your love cast out our fear.
 This we see, as shad-ows part, man - y gifts from one great heart.

Refrain

C F G C F C

Man - y gifts, one Spir - it, one love known in man - y ways.

C F C F G

In our dif - fer - ence is bless-ing, from di - ver - si - ty we praise

C F G

one Giv-er, one Word, one Spir-it, one God known in man-y ways,

F C G7 C

hal-low-ing our days. For the Giv-er, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

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.

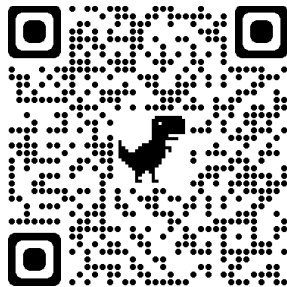
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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

Offertory

O Worship the King arr. by Robert Powell

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: Creator of all that has been and will be, thank you for the act giving to others. May these gifts change the world in your ways. We ask you to bless these gifts for the transformation of lives and communities so that what we have may be responsive to the world's needs. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

NCH (black) #23

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are placed between the lines of music. The piano part includes some handwritten annotations: a '3' above the first measure of the second system, a '2' above the second measure of the second system, and '3', '2', and '1' above the first three measures of the fourth system.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Sunshine Medley

arr. by Marilyn Ham

The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us into the world where our true service begins.

Rev. Sam will be happy to greet you outside the church as you leave

We welcome our friend Rev. Sam Lovett back to the pulpit. PCUCC had the honor of hosting Sam's Ordination service this summer

Our walkway/ramp is finally under construction! Please use our parking lot entrance to enter the building or call the office during office hours to be let in the front door.

Official call to the 220th Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ, Saturday, October 16th 2021 via zoom webinar & YouTube Livestream. To learn more visit: nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/2021-annual-meeting

Feeding Our Children Together (FOCT) - As many of you know, our church participates in this program which provides a bag of food to food-insecure children in the Plymouth Head Start Program and children in the youngest grades in Plymouth Elementary School. Depending on how many families are eligible, we usually pack between 37-52 bags each week during the school year. This year, we will probably start packing in mid-September after both schools have determined who is eligible. Right now we have a few people in our packing program: Linda and Jim LaPrad, Rebecca Larson, and myself, Alice O'Connor. We usually have about 6 or more volunteers so that no one is scheduled more than twice a month. We usually have 3-4 volunteers each week to pack. So, I am looking for 3-5 additional volunteers who would be willing to pack with us. We pack on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the lowest level of the Church. It usually takes us about 1 hour to pack. We leave the bags in the food room, and Michael Nicholas, our custodian, transports the bags to the schools on Thursdays or Fridays. If you are interested, please email Alice at alimaenh@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!

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 7:00 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

Guest Preacher: Rev. Sam Lovett
Liturgist: John Anderson

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
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(603) 536-2626 - office@uccplymouth.org - www.uccplymouth.org

Celebrating Birthdays in August & September 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

September 8 Judy Floyd
September 12 Diane Arsenault
September 16 Philip Wei
September 20 Molly McCahan
September 25 Anna Switaj
September 27 Andrew Hedberg

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