

Plymouth Congregational, United Church of Christ

7th Sunday after Pentecost: “God-Inspired Joy”



July 11, 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, vaccinated individuals do not need to wear masks.
If you are unvaccinated, please wear a mask.*

GATHERING

*those who are able and willing may stand

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Variations on *Brother James'*

Austin C. Lovelace

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

*Call to Worship

One: In some ways, the world feels desolate. May we hope to find God's joy and truth this hour.

All: Let us hear God speak this hour; we turn our hearts to You, God: speak peace to us.

One: Walking towards a sunrise or a sunset, we understand Your love is present with us, though we might feel alone.

All: Glory may dwell in our land and in our hearts. With God's peace, righteousness will be actualized in a divine space.

One: From even the land which is in drought, faithfulness will spring up with God's Love. Joy will abound in the most unexpected places.

All: From the sky and from below – Your love envelopes us; let us know with our collective voices, minds and hearts, Love will be made real this very hour.

*Hymn

God is Truly with Us

NCH (black) #42

1 God is tru-ly with us; sing we and a - dore now: praise the One we
2 God is tru-ly with us; loud our praise re - sound - ing! Ech - oes of the
3 Source of ev-ery bless - ing, bless the ones who name you, let our words and

come be - fore now. Here with - in this tem - ple, here in sound and
saints sur - round - ing! "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," hear the hymn as -
deeds pro - claim you. Like the saints and an - gels prais - ing you in

si - lence, wor-ship God in deep-est rev - erence. You a - lone,
 cend - ing, an - gels, saints, their voic - es blend - ing! Bow your ear
 glo - ry, may your ser - vants sing your sto - ry. And in all,

 God, we own, you, our God and Sav - ior; praise to you for - ev - er.
 to us here; hear, O Christ, the prais - es that your Church now rais - es.
 great and small, may we do most near - ly what you love most dear - ly.

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: Blessed are You, Gracious God, holy maker of earth and heaven; we give You thanks through Christ, who is present with us, whose rising from the dead gives us hope of resurrection and the promise of life eternal in Your light. Unite us in joy with all those who have loved in that realm where every tear is wiped away. While we come with gratitude, we come knowing our faults, insecurities and the places which most need healing. Let us know that during this time we are held by Your Love and too by our kindred in Christ. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: It is hard for us to imagine the ways that God might be crafting our minds, bodies, and hearts to better the kingdom. We confess that we struggle to see and hear our path towards God's love and joy. We hope to recenter around our path with God's Love today.

All: Giver of all gifts, let us reimagine the way You have set before us and let us believe our power, which is found in You. Let us recall, once again: 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 Psalm 85: 8-13 Amos 7: 7-15

One: Merciful God, let us know that even in a desolate place we may find Your joy. Let us find ourselves in Your Love as we reflect, for you are our rock and redeemer. We pray that Your spirit moves between words and hearing.

All: Amen.

Message "Shaping & Alignment" Rev. Sara M. Holland

***Hymn** All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name NCH (black) #304

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
2 A - dorn, O mar - tyred saints of old, the cor - o - na - tion hall;
3 All heirs of Is - rael's chos - en race, now ran - sored from the fall,
4 Be - fore the cross, with heav - en's throng, we on our knees shall fall;

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown Christ ser - vant of all.
 Ex - tol the wound-ed One fore - told, and crown Christ bear - er of all.
 Pro - claim the won - ders of God's grace, and crown Christ heal - er of all.
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown Christ sav - ior of all.

At - tend the Sav - ior's sov - ereign claim, and crown Christ ser - vant of all.
 Ex - tol the wound-ed One fore - told, and crown Christ bear - er of all.
 Pro - claim the won - ders of God's grace, and crown Christ heal - er of all.
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown Christ sav - ior of all.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Joys and concerns

Pastor: Oh God, in Your grace and mercy . . .

All: Here 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

Meditation

James Patten

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: Gracious God, we often feel nourished in times of greatest need. You free our hearts and light the path we walk. We give thanks for the abundance of Your mercy every moment, and for every opportunity for new life. Receive our humble gifts as symbols of commitment to Your purposes, that all we have, all we are, and all that you call us to become may reveal Your loving presence in the world and the ability of people to truly love one another. Amen.

SENDING

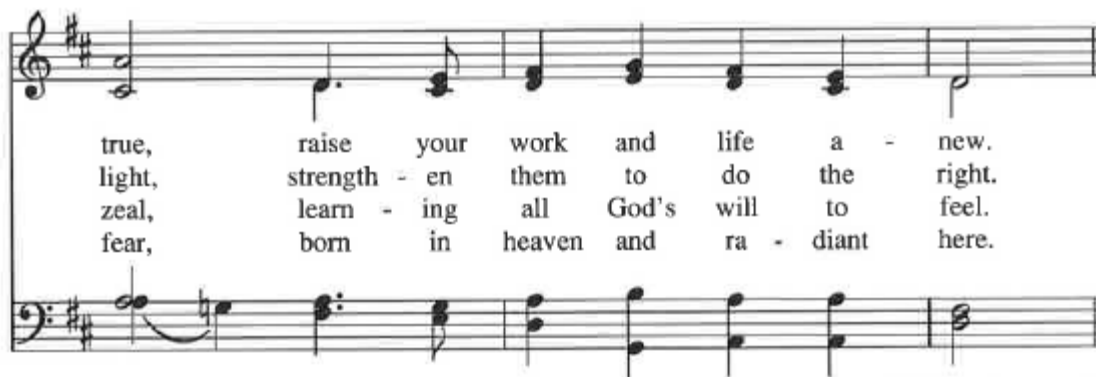
***Hymn**

Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

NCH (black) #537

1 Chris - tian, rise and act your creed; let your
2 Hearts a - round you sink with care; you can
3 Of - fer oth - ers hope and joy, and God's
4 Come then, law di - vine, and reign: faith that

prayer be in your deed; Seek the right, per - form the
help their load to bear; You can bring in - spir - ing
wor - ship your em - ploy; Giv - ing thanks in hum - ble
doubt as - sails in vain, Per - fect love be - reft of



***Benediction**

Postlude

Festival March

William Stickles

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:

- Thoughts & Prayers for Terry Cote
- Rev. Rich Weymouth By Lisa Lovett
- Prayers for the family of Mac Andrews, husband of Pat Andrews
- 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 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

Today	9:30 AM	7 th Sunday after Pentecost
	6:30 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv (this week's TV view will be from July 4th, 2021)
	5:00 PM	UCC General Synod begins (virtual event)
Tuesday	7:00 PM	Racial Justice meeting via zoom
		Staff meetings resume in mid-August

Please join us for Sam Lovett's ordination on July 25th at 2 pm! We will limit the number of people present to 125 so do arrive early if you are able. Masks are required and will also stream this to Facebook. Please save the date and plan to support and affirm Sam and the ministries to which he is being called.

Go to generalsynod.org to learn more about our national gathering which begins today July 11th!

Our next outdoor fellowship down by the river will be the first Sunday in August just after church; we hope you join us!

We are currently collecting shampoo for those utilizing services with Voices Against Violence. If you are able to drop off a shampoo or two in the next few weeks, please do so. They may be brought on Sunday morning or during regular office hours. Please let us know if there are any questions.

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 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!

We have returned for in person worship! Per CDC guidelines, vaccinated individuals do not need to wear masks. If you are unvaccinated, please wear a mask. We hope to see you soon!

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

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!

Our Director/s of Faith Formation positions are opening! We are seeking someone who is interested in faithfully leading our children and youth; we begin our search in house because theological fit is important. If you might be interested in helping us choose curriculum and plan faith formation efforts, especially for Sunday mornings, please reach out to Jan Bass, the chair of Human Resources. This position is critically important to the life and ministry of our entire church, is paid, and is part time. It would pair well with another M-F job. Consider becoming a part of our team! Jan's email is: jbass8150@gmail.com

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

Thoughts and Prayers for Terry Cote

Rev. Rich Weymouth

Prayers for the family of Mac Andrews, husband of Pat Andrews

A note from Susan Wei: I would like to invite anyone who wants to come to a Friday night potluck dinner at our condo in Thornton on Orris Road building I apartment 5 B (every Friday in June and July). Bring a chair, a dish to pass, and we will have a grill going if you want that. It will be from 5 to 8 PM. If it is raining do not come as it will be outside. Need directions? Email me at: mommyawei@gmail.com and I will send it to you! The more the merrier!

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 spring and 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 July 13th & July 20th.

This group is examining Layla Saad's *Me and White Supremacy*.

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 10:00 AM-3:00 PM (and also in pastoral visits at this time),

Tuesday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM, Wednesday 10:00 AM-4:00 PM and Thursday by appointment. Keep in mind all church doors are locked. 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: John Anderson	
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 July in our Community:

July 6	Justice Merrithew-Stone
July 6	Marilyn Wixson
July 7	Tammy Lawler
July 8	Lorelei Paine
July 8	Sally Jensen
July 17	Johanna Bentwood
July 18	Alfie Kerr
July 24	Rose Shimberg
July 31	Bill Torrey

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