

Plymouth Congregational, United Church of Christ

8th Sunday after Pentecost: Our Dwelling Place



July 18, 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

Holy Ground

Geron Davis

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

*Call to Worship

One: Blessed are you, gracious God, maker of earth and heaven; we give You thanks for the mystery revealed in the radiance of Christ and the Spirit.

All: Are we strangers? How might we see ourselves in a communion of saints?

One: You Spirit is life-giving creativity for which we long, that which is undivided in beauty and power.

All: Are we strangers? How might we see ourselves in a communion of saints?

One: With all the saints of the ages we lift our hearts to praise You forever.

All: Let us find ourselves as members of the household of God; let us know we are in a great communion.

*Hymn

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

PH (red) #461

1 Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come, Raise the song of har-vest home;
2 All the world is God's own field, Fruit un-to his praise to yield;
3 For the Lord our God shall come, And shall take his har-vest home;
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick-ly come To thy fi - nal har-vest home;

All is safe - ly gath - ered in, Ere the win - ter storms be - gin;
Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, Un - to joy or sor - row grown;
From his field shall in that day All of - fens - es purge a - way,
Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, Free from sor - row, free from sin;

God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied;
 First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear;
 Give his an - gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
 There for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In thy pres - ence to a - bide;

Come to God's own tem - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we Whole - some grain and pure may be.
 But the fruit - ful ears to store In his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, Raise the glo - rious har - vest home. A - men.

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: Power of Peace, Eternal God, we come humbly and with gratitude. We have received much needed rain this week and the simplicity of the earth has held us. With our anxieties we forget Your ever-presence and abounding love. Let us find these in the hour; let us know that even when we feel as if we are strangers from You, from our neighbors and from ourselves, we are held. Let us know we are beloved as we sing, pray and hear Your good word. Give us hope, Holy One, that we might send such hope to people we encounter. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: When we feel like strangers we often clam up and assume the worst about the people we know and meet. Let us be ever aware that even when we feel like strangers we are deeply known by You and held by Your love. We aim to rename ourselves as beloved.

All: Gracious God, remind us of the ways You created our bodies, minds and souls and let us name ways we are beloved. For your stories and word show us: 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 139: 1-14 Ephesians 2: 11-22

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 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 "With the Saints" Rev. Sara M. Holland

***Hymn** We Are Your People NCH (black) #309

Unison

1 We are your peo - ple: Spir - it of grace,
2 Joined in com - mu - ni - ty, trea - sured and fed,
3 Rich in di - ver - si - ty, help us to live
4 Glad of tra - di - tion, help us to see



you dare to make us Christ to our neigh - bors
 may we dis - cov - er gifts in each oth - er,
 clos - er than neigh-bors, o - pen to strang - ers,
 in all life's chang-ing, where Christ is lead - ing,

of ev - ery cul - ture and place.
 will - ing to lead and be led.
 a - ble to clash and for - give.
 where our best ef - forts should be.

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

Be Thou My Vision

Performed by Trish Lindberg

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: Morning Star, we give You thanks for all good things which bless us. We give You thanks for the gift of selfhood, for hearts and minds to see Your miracles, and for relationships through which we are challenged to growth and new life. Bless these gifts, we pray. Let these humble offerings be carried to the child who is hungry, the grandparent who is lonely, the caretakers working long days and the ones who are commonly forgotten. We pray all this for Love's sake. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn**

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

NCH (black) #181

1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!
 4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!

Share the fla-vor of life, O peo-ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
 Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
 Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!
 Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!

Chords: G, D/F#, A7, D, G, D, A7, D

Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;
 Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

***Benediction**

Postlude Oh Jordan's Stormy Banks arr. By Cindy Berry

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:

- Galen Doscher, son of Fred & Margee Doscher
- Brian Paine
- 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 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	8 th Sunday after Pentecost
	6:30 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv (this week's TV view will be from July 11th, 2021)
		UCC General Synod ends (virtual event)
Tuesday	7:00 PM	Racial Justice meeting via zoom
		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.

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. Please save the date and plan to support and affirm Sam and the ministries to which he is being called.

Our next outdoor fellowship down by the river will be the first Sunday in August just after church. As a part of this fellowship time, we will be baptizing a friend in Christ, Tiesha Fenwick. Tiesha is a PhD student at PSU. This will be a wonderful event for anyone who is able to attend and support the ecumenical Christian church family through this sacrament; we hope you join us!

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 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!

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.

Galen Doscher, son of Fred & Margee Doscher

Brian Paine

Thoughts and Prayers for Terry Cote

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 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

Monday – 9:00 AM – 2:15 PM
Tuesday - 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM
Wednesday - 8:00 AM – 11:15 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: Rebecca Larson	
Special Musician: Trish Lindberg	
Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ	
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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