

Plymouth Congregational, United Church of Christ

Sixth Sunday of Eastertide, Stewardship Sunday



May 9, 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

Allegretto

Bousquet

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

Call to Worship

One: Sing to God a new song this day; we are called to make a joyful noise to the Lord – all the earth. Let us break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

All: Lead us, Holy One, let us find the joyous song and noise within our hearts this day – let us join the melody.

One: We proclaim the mystery of our faith and explore this as one people and as individuals. Our prayers sometimes feel feeble – God let us know there is strength in communal words and reflection.

All: We proclaim Your joy in the midst of struggle and our call to show this to others. We sing praises and turn to love knowing we need this good news.

One: Love has and will prevail. And so: we sing to God a new song. We are together for joy!

All: Let the joy within our hearts and our community touch the ears and hearts of those most in need and let us be led to care for neighbors this day.

Hymn

All Creatures of Our God and King

PH #64 (red)

Verses 1, 2 & 4

In unison

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'All Creatures of Our God and King'. It is written in 3/2 time and B-flat major. The score is in unison and consists of two systems of music. The first system includes five verses of lyrics. The second system includes the 'Alleluia' refrain. The lyrics are: '1 All crea-tures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing; 2 Thou rush-ing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heaven a - long; 3 Thou flow-ing wa-ter, pure and clear, Make mu-sic for thy Lord to hear; 4 And all ye men of ten-der heart, For - giv-ing oth-ers, take your part; 5 Let all things their cre-a-tor bless, And wor-ship him in hum-ble - ness, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia! Thou burn-ing sun with gold-en O praise him, Al-le - lu - ia! Thou ris - ing morn, in praise re - Al - le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia! Thou fire so mas - ter - ful and O sing ye, Al-le - lu - ia! Ye who long pain and sor - row O praise him, Al-le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa-ther, praise the'.

beam, Thou sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam, O praise him, O
 joice, Ye lights of eve - ning, find a voice, O praise him, O
 bright, That giv - est man both warmth and light, O praise him, O
 bear, Praise God and on him cast your care. O praise him, O
 Son, And praise the Spir - it, three in One. O praise him, O

praise him, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! 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.)

Gathering Prayer

adapted from Cynthia E. Cowen

One: Today, we turn to You, Creator God, to pour out a spirit of giving so that our hearts will yearn to return that which has blessed us.

All: In singing praise and thanksgiving, we know there is work to be done.

Fill us with Your spirit of generosity.

One: Let us be receptive to Your Holy Spirit and let us consider our gifts and how they may serve Your path and the wider world for Your Love's sake.

All: Let us be filled with Your Spirit of generosity and let us be centered. We ask Your empowering guidance for the use of blessing.

One: Our giving is in commitment to You and the church; let us see the ways our humble offerings and work may change the world.

All: In Your Spirit, we come once again. We long to serve You and the world as You first served us, Jesus. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: You ask nothing of us but we are invited to give. In Your grace and abundance, the materials of this world might gain some meaning. And so, we seek Your promise this day so that we may find strength for our journey. We may feel ragged and worn; we come to You for healing.

All: As a good mother tends her child, God holds us and provides. We are named as important and are given unending opportunity with our God. We are granted new life! 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 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence PH (red) #107

**Rank on rank the host of heaven, spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish as the shadows clear away.**

We invite you to check out the children's message which was pre-recorded and posted on Facebook on Saturday!

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings

John 15: 9-17

Psalm 98

One: Here ends the readings from our tradition. May Holy Spirit join us in the ways that we give. Let us find wisdom for today in these ancient words. O Holy Spirit, we pray You to move between words and hearing.

All: Amen.

Message

“So That You May Love”

Rev. Sara M. Holland

Hymn

Blessed Assurance

NCH (black) #473

1 Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a
2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light! Vi - sions of
3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blessed; Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -

God, born of the Spir - it, washed in Christ's blood.
 bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 bove, filled with God's good - ness, lost in Christ's love.

Refrain

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long;

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

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

Allegretto

Fodor

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

adapted from Cynthia E. Cowen

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come. We pray that God will take our hearts and continue to make them generous so that we will be blessed with happiness in the life of this congregation. In love, we respond to the Spirit's call. In love we make our commitment to Christ Jesus. In love, we go forth to share with the family of God from hearts yearning to bless because we have truly been blessed. Amen.

Presentation of Pledges and Pastoral Blessing

SENDING

Hymn

Just as I Am

NCH (black) #207

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that your
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a
3 Just as I am, you will re - ceive, will wel - come,
4 Just as I am, your love un - known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, And that you called in -
 con - flict, many a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with -
 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause your prom - ise
 ev - ery bar - rier down; Now to be yours, and

vit - ing me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 yours a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Benediction

Postlude

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

Keeping in Prayer

Hedwig Pocius, aunt of Starck family Maryam Pasha and her family

Continued prayers for Masvingo UCCZ in Zimbabwe

Jamie McDougall and family, friends of Alice O'Conner

Fran Lewis Bob, brother of Georgene Fabian

Prayers for Sam Lovett as Spirit calls him to ministry!

Sarah Thorne Marjorie Glidden and family

Dick & Paulette Brace Alice & Margaret Avery

Annie Rice, Bev Tedeschi's mother Sue Switaj

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

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

Sunday	9:30 AM	Worship Service on Facebook Live – Pledge Sunday! Church School via zoom
	6:30 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv (this week’s TV view will be from May 2, 2021)
Monday	10:00 AM	Book Group meets
Tuesday	7:00 PM	Racial Justice Group meets
Wednesday	11:30 AM	Staff meeting
	4:00 PM	Prayer time and devotion via Zoom

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.

A message from the Finance Committee: It’s stewardship time.

This is the time we look back at all we’ve accomplished and look forward at the financial support needed to meet the challenges of our next fiscal year.

We’ve been blessed with exceptional lay and pastoral leadership and your financial support is needed to keep our programs and mission thriving.

Our TOGETHER FOR JOY stewardship information is being mailed out this week. We ask that you prayerfully consider your financial support and return your pledge as soon as you are able.

If you have any questions, please contact the treasurer, Larry Spencer or Linda LaPrad, Finance chair. They’ll be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

For all we accomplish TOGETHER FOR JOY, we thank you.

-PLEASE TURN IN YOUR PLEDGE CARD ASAP-

We will be returning SOME for in person worship beginning on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd! Our max capacity will be 20 people in addition to those ushering and leading worship. Masks will be required and all in attendance will practice care for neighbor by practicing physical distancing in faithful covenant for one another. Priority the first few Sundays will go to those who do not have web access at home. People registering ARE welcome to bring a friend who is in their ‘pod;’ you just have to register! We hope you will register online if you are able by using this link: <https://forms.gle/G6JkSx2k1NEKY1zT8>

You may also call the church office to register! 603-536-2626

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

Huge thanks to Eileen Torrey for her commitment to our church family during the interim office time. We continue to be blessed by her presence and leadership.

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

Capital Campaign update: Lisa and Bev are standing by to answer any questions you may have via phone or email. Our campaign is focusing on the ramp on the north side of the building, a modest A/C installation, audio / visual upgrade and an organ console replacement. Email inquiries should be directed to Lisa Lovett at lilylovet@gmail.com and phone inquiries to Bev Newton at 603-254-9991.

We continue to pray for the PSU community as commencement is on May 8th. Prayers of joy for all of the graduates this year!

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

We continue to hold Judy Detzel in prayer during this time.

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 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.

Consider attending a Listening Session on May 23rd via zoom. A Listening Session is an event designed to engage congregations in discerning the issues that affect their members deeply and personally. They are 60-90 minutes long and discussion-based. All members of the congregation are invited, and some congregations choose to invite other local groups, such as schools, neighboring congregations, or non-profits. Participants share responses to questions such as, “*think about what is your deepest concern for your community or town. Why is this a concern for you and how has it affected you personally?*” This will be led by Rev. Sara, Rebecca Larson and Christ Potter of Granite State Organizing project; register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUzd-ysrTgvHteMN3TOjS7N9Yev3efj5om>

Racial Justice Exploration: We are continuing these explorations this spring and summer, on an every other week basis. For now, we will shift to reflections of readings and education. 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.

This group encourages examination of any of the following books:

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

Rebecca Carroll’s *Surviving the White Gaze*

If you are interested in taking a trip to the Black Heritage Trail (which is in Portsmouth) in June, we hope you will let Peggy Martin know, her email is:

pmartin03223@yahoo.com

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 Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate (discussed on May 10th)

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah (discussed on May 24th)

Leading from the Outside by Stacey Abrams (discussed on June 7th)

Consider attending the UCC national gathering this year! General Synod will take place between July 11 & 18 and will explore the theme Rooted in Love. We encourage attendance, especially because it is virtual this year. You are able to attend just a day or two if you like! Visit generalsynod.org for more information.

Our church has moved to digital platforms for all events until May 23rd. 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.

Meetings will continue to be held remotely until further notice.

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. Keep in mind 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 Rose, 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

Liturgist: Wayne Martin

Flautist: Peggy Martin

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Celebrating Birthdays in April and May in our Community:

April 1	Wayne Martin
April 5	Sue Switaj
April 12	Benjamin Adams
April 17	Sabrina Tedeschi
April 25	Michael Carrier
April 28	Kurt Maiser Anderson
May 1	Weston Hyde, Kristi Zwald
May 2	Jim Preston
May 4	Jessica Berman
May 5	Richard Caron
May 9	Troy Tedeschi
May 12	Eric Kelsey
May 13	Micaela Brand
May 20	Robbin Adams
May 22	Tessa Nicole Kelsey
May 23	Elizabeth Fallon
May 24	Kevan Steiner
May 29	Paul Brand

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