

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

## Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



**July 31, 2022**

**9:30 am**

We Practice Just Peace: doing justice, seeking peace

We are Open and Affirming: welcoming LGBTQ+ people

☞ We Listen for the Still Speaking God

We are striving to become a racial justice church

Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

*We request that you are respectful when making decisions about masking. Please inquire to people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.*

# GATHERING

## Welcome & Announcements

*Please, if you are new to our community and want to be more involved, leave your email address in the attendance pad or email us at [office@ucplymouth.org](mailto:office@ucplymouth.org). We are delighted to get to know you! We have Sunday School between mid-September & mid-June; this morning we invite children to remain in worship. There are cute bags in the narthex which the kids may enjoy! You may contact [office@ucplymouth.org](mailto:office@ucplymouth.org) to get more information about programming for any age.*

## Prelude

Präladium

Johann Christian Heinrich Rinck

\*Those who are able may stand.

## \*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Bill Heron

One: God of the past who whispered in the prophets' ears, who rescued us from sin's slavery:

**All: we are here to thank you.**

One: God of the future, who is tearing down the old world, and building your kingdom in our midst:

**All: we are here because we trust you.**

One: God of the present who, in the giftedness of our diversity, creates us to be one people:

**All: we are here to praise you.**

One: God of life that surprises us when we find it within us:

**All: we celebrate your grace.**

## \*Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

NCH (black) #436

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the  
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that  
5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;  
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—  
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,  
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,  
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.  
 in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

## Passing of the Peace

*If you are at home, we invite you to text or email someone a note of peace today.  
 A hand-written note will work too!*

One: God be with you

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

## Unison Gathering Prayer

Extravagant God, you have been rich toward us with many gifts. Of all the things you have abundantly provided for us, we become attached to many things. Help us to let go of them all and cling only to your love and grace. We seek you in your Word, and we seek our own souls in your love. Open our hearts and help us be present for you, who are infinitely present for us. Amen.

## Moments for Confession

### *Silence for Personal Reflection*

## God's Promise of New Life

One: Dearly beloved, by the love we know in Christ, our sins are forgiven; by God's grace we are free to live by the Spirit alone, now and to eternal life.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

## Response

Let Justice Flow like Streams

NCH (black) #588

So may God's plumbline, straight, define our measure true,  
And justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

## 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!*

### ***NCH (black) #528:***

*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

Psalms 49:1-12

Luke 12:13-21

One: Blessed Redeemer, we pray that the meditations of our hearts and minds be acceptable to you, for you are our rock and redeemer. Move in the space between words and hearing that your love might be made known to those most in need.

All: Amen

Message

Rich Toward God

Rev. Rebecca Larson

\*Hymn

O Holy City, Seen of John

NCH (black) #613

1 O ho - ly cit - y, seen of John, where Christ, the Lamb, does reign,  
2 O shame to us who rest con - tent while lust and greed for gain  
3 Give us, O God, the strength to build the cit - y that has stayed  
4 Al - read - y in the mind of God that cit - y is pre - pared:

with - in whose four - square walls shall come no night, nor need, nor pain,  
in street and shop and ten - e - ment wring gold from hu - man pain,  
too long a dream, whose laws are love, whose ways are your own ways,  
oh, how its splen - dor chal - leng - es the souls that great - ly dare,

And where the tears are wiped from eyes that shall not weep a - gain.  
And bit - ter lips in deep de - spair cry, "Christ has died in vain!"  
And where the sun that blaz - es is your grace for all our days.  
Yes, bids us seize the whole of life and build its glo - ry there.

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## Prayers of the People

Pastor: O God, in your grace and mercy . . .

**Response: 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.

\*\*We believe that God is revealed in persons of all genders and sorts; we also honor tradition.

**Offertory**                      Just a Closer Walk with Thee                      Traditional

*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

**God of glory and grace, receive these gifts returned from your bounty. Use them for the good of all so that all persons can know they are beloved members of one family, blessed by the covenant of love to which we are called. Amen.**

\*Hymn

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

NCH (black) #286

D G A Dsus4 D

Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the

Bm E7 Asus7 A7

wil - der-ness, call - ing and free,

D G A Dsus4 D

Spir - it, spir - it of rest - less-ness, stir me from

Bm G A7 D G D

*Last time, end*

plac - id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the  
 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the  
 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a  
 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient

D A7 D Bm

deep, then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the  
 sand, and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a  
 hill, then you whis - pered in si - lence when the  
 schemes, from the bond - age of sor - row the

E7 Asus7 A7 D G A

val - leys of sleep; And o - ver the e - ons you  
 law and a land; When they were con - found - ed by their  
 whole world was still; And down in the cit - y you  
 cap - tives dream dreams; Our wom - en see vi - sions, our

G D A7 D Bm

called to each thing, "A - wake from your slum -  
 i - dols and lies, then you spoke through your proph -  
 called once a - gain, when you blew through your peo -  
 men clear their eyes. With bold new de - ci -

G A7 D G D A7 *to Refrain*

bers and rise on your wings."  
 ets to o - pen their eyes.  
 ple on the rush of the wind.  
 sions your peo - ple a - rise.



# SENDING

## \*Pastoral Benediction

**Postlude**                      How Firm a Foundation                      arr. by Timothy Shaw

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

### Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for “Shoe” Shoemaker as he recovers from surgery  
Prayers for Jaime Armstrong, niece of Marlin Collingwood, who will be undergoing surgery  
for breast cancer  
Prayers for Sarah, wife of John Anderson, who is recovering from surgery  
Prayers for Ellen who struggles with cancer, family member of Ruth & Dale Mosher  
Prayers of healing for Sue Switaj  
Prayers for continued healing for Valerie, a dear friend of Sally Jensen  
Prayers for Alice Avery  
Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family, granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie  
Prayers for Polly Bartlett, who struggles with cancer  
Prayers for healing for Andrew Munroe  
Prayers for Mae Larson, Rebecca Larson’s mother-in-law  
Prayers for an end to gun violence, in the spirit of Isaiah 2:4  
Prayers for communities affected by war and for all immigrants  
Prayers for the Masvingo UCCZ, our partner church in Zimbabwe

If you have a prayer request that you would like Rev. Sara to include in Sunday Worship, please email her at [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org) or fill out a yellow prayer card, which can be found in the pews, and place it in the offering plate.

### This Week and More at PCUCC

July 31            5:00 Organ Recital, Bruce Adami  
Aug. 4            5:00-6:00 Meals for Many  
Aug. 5            7:30 AA Meeting

**School Supplies Donations** accepted at Whole Village till August 15<sup>th</sup>. Please consider donating some of the supplies listed below for children from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Donations can be dropped off at Whole Village Monday through Friday between 8:00-4:00.

Notebooks	Highlighters	Binders
Pens	Pencil cases	Loose leaf paper
#2 Pencils	Rulers	Lunch boxes
Pencil Sharpeners	Scissors	Backpacks
Crayons/Markers	Calculators	Thumb drives
Colored Pencils	Glue sticks	Gift cards/Cash

**Vegetables and Fruit Harvest Sharing and Caring:** Do you have an abundance of vegetables and/or fruit in your garden that you would like to share with your church friends? Please bring your extra veggies and fruit to church on Sundays and place on the shelves in the Fellowship Hall. Members and friends will be encouraged to pick them up and then leave a money donation in the jar to help stock our food pantries for our Plymouth area neighbors in need. This will run through August and September until the harvest is over for this year. Many thanks!!!

**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. If you know of someone who is in need, please put them in touch with the church office or Pastor Sara. *The Hope Fund of our church continues to touch the lives of people in the Lakes Region. This winter, we have supported a number of people who were in need of housing support or assistance with utility bills. This is a part of our Christian witness; we have deep gratitude for all of those who have contributed money and time related to the Hope Fund.*

**Our HOPE Fund Food Pantry:** Our pantry needs restocking. Please bring donations of food and place in basket at sanctuary door. Needed: Meals in a can like beef stew, tuna fish, canned fruit, cereal, snack bars. Cans with snap up tops preferred. Many thanks!

**Stewardship Update:** As we look to A Future with Hope, we are pleased to update that we are almost to our 2022-23 Stewardship Campaign goal of \$180,000. As of July 26<sup>th</sup>, we have received 49 pledges totaling \$166,892. Thank you to all who have pledged their financial support.

If you have not yet pledged, please prayerfully consider doing so by returning a pledge card to PCUCC at PO Box 86, Plymouth, dropping it in the collection plate on Sunday, or emailing your commitment to the treasurer at [treasurer@uccplymouth.org](mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org). **Please indicate in the memo of your check whether it is for the 2021-2022 or 2022-2023 fiscal year. If you do not indicate, it will go towards the 2022-2023 fiscal year.** If you have any questions, please contact Linda LaPrad or Ann Thurston. THANK YOU!

**Welcome to church families!** Activity bags are hanging in the Narthex and toys are made available, please ask an usher if you cannot find them. If your child needs more space during worship, please feel free to use the parlor on the sanctuary level or downstairs in our nursery and fellowship area. Sunday School will resume in September. Please contact Jennifer Byam or Julie Kelsey for more information at [faithformation@uccplymouth.org](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org).

**AmazonSMILE** - By choosing our church as your favorite charity, Amazon will make a donation to the charity you designate at no cost to you. Please let Ann Thurston, Linda LaPrad or the office know if you need help setting PCUCC up as your favorite charity on AmazonSMILE.

**PREPAID HANNAFORD CARDS** - For every card purchased from the Finance Committee, the church receives 5% without any additional cost to you. Denominations of \$100, \$250 and \$500 are available by contacting Ann Thurston or Linda LaPrad after services on Sunday, by phone or email. Thank you for your continued support!

**Racial Justice Exploration:** We welcome new attendees, and we pray you'll reach out to Alison Thatcher at [Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com](mailto:Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com) or Pastor Sara if you are considering ways to get involved in these important efforts.

**Please continue to be aware of COVID-related concerns when on site. We want to encourage all community members (who are able) to get a COVID-19 vaccine and boosters. We hope that this will ensure the health and well-being of our most vulnerable community members.**

**We will offer the option of meeting digitally indefinitely.** You may also catch our services (one week delayed) on Sunday nights on PBTv at 7:00 pm. (Local channel 1302.) Please check Constant Contact and the Facebook page for ongoing updates.

#### **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 is generally at the church for office hours Monday – Wednesday 10:30 AM – 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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org) or on her work cell phone number at 336-485-5618 to set up a meeting.

Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor  
Alison Thatcher, Office Administrator  
David A. Williams, Director of Music  
Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist  
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation  
Ann Thurston, Treasurer

plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org  
office@uccplymouth.org  
musicdirector@uccplymouth.org  
organist@uccplymouth.org  
faithformation@uccplymouth.org  
treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Guest Preacher: Rev. Rebecca Larson

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 and August in our Community

Justice Merrithew-Stone	July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Jan Bass	August 1 <sup>st</sup>
Marilyn Wixson	July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Arline Bownes	August 11 <sup>th</sup>
Tammy Lawler	July 7 <sup>th</sup>	Dick Brace	August 15 <sup>th</sup>
Sally Jean Jensen	July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Angi Francesco	August 15 <sup>th</sup>
Lorelei Paine	July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Georgia Merrithew-Stone	August 17 <sup>th</sup>
Johanna Bentwood	July 17 <sup>th</sup>	Natalie Amtmann	August 21 <sup>st</sup>
Alfie Kerr	July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Colton Hyde	August 22 <sup>nd</sup>
John Anderson	July 21 <sup>st</sup>	Maeghan Warburton	August 24 <sup>th</sup>
Rose Shimberg	July 24 <sup>th</sup>	Marti Shoemaker	August 29 <sup>th</sup>
Bev Newton	July 26 <sup>th</sup>		
Bill Torrey	July 31 <sup>st</sup>		

If you have a birthday or anniversary this month or next month that you would like listed, please email to: [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org)

