

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Second Sunday in Lent  
Finish the Work of the Covenant



**March 13, 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

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

*We request that you are respectful when making decisions about masking. If you have a tickle in your throat or you feel a bit under the weather, please wear a mask. Please inquire to people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.*

# GATHERING

Prelude

“Begin Sweet World”

Richard Stoltzman

## Welcome & Announcements

*Please, if you are new to our community and want to be more involved, leave your email address on our sign in sheet in the narthex / entrance of the building or email us at [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org). We are delighted to get to know you! On 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays we have Church School. You may contact [faithformation@uccplymouth.org](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org) to get more information about programming for children and families. This Easter we will have services at 6 am & 9:30 am – please join us!*

## Introit

\*Those who are able may stand.

### \*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Wayne Martin

One: Cathedrals throughout the world praise your name, Holy God!

**All: We come before you, Spirit of Life, praising as the cathedrals.**

One: Forests quietly defrost with hope for new beginnings; quiet songs of restoration are before you . . .

**All: As the forests hope, so too do we, praising as the trees.**

One: Birds ready themselves for the spring and struggle through the last days of winter . . .

**All: As the birds call out for each moment so too do we; hear our praises this hour. For you are on high but you are also among us!**

### \*Hymn

Great is Your Faithfulness

NCH (black) #423

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Great is Your Faithfulness". 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 lyrics are as follows:

1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,\*  
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,  
with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.  
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,  
your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.

You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;  
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.  
 to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

*ave/mu*  
 Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed your

hand has pro - vid - ed, Great is your faith-ful-ness, God, un - to me!

## Passing of the Peace

*We invite you to text or email someone a note of peace today. A hand-written note will work too!*

**Leader:** God be with you

**All:** And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts

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

### **Unison Gathering Prayer**

**Your faithfulness is indeed great, O Holy One! Today, as we continue our journey in the Lenten wilderness, we come with gratitude: the songs of the birds delight our ears and the smell of summer is slowly making itself known. As we offer thanksgiving, we also come with our longings. We look to the covenant you made with your people Israel: for this covenant is ours, too. In this hour we work to fulfill our faith promises and be carried forward in Love. Grant us the ability to find your comfort and challenge; we pray all this in Jesus' name and for Love's sake. Amen.**

### *Silence for Personal Reflection*

### **God's Promise of New Life**

One: Creator God, it is easy to fall away from your covenant. In our wilderness wanderings, let us find hope in the work before us. We hear of your mercy and we seek out your blessings.

**All: We seek out your covenant and move, slowly, towards your love. Your love is one that holds our lamentation. Working to accomplish your mission of love, we sing together:**

**Response**                      Savior, When in Tears and Dust      NCH (black) #185

**Savior, when in tears and dust, low we bow to you in trust, When repentant, to the skies scarce we lift our weeping eyes, Mindful how you suffered pain that God's love in us might reign – Help us claim what we would be, hear our solemn litany.**

### **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**                      **Génesis 15:1-2, 5-15**                      **Luke 13: 31-35**

One: May the meditations of our hearts and minds be acceptable to you,  
 Spirit of life. You are our rock and redeemer. We pray you move between  
 words and hearing.

**All: Amen**

**Message**                      “A Strong & Tender Covenant”                      Rev. Sara M. Holland

**\*Hymn**                      In the Bulb There Is a Flower                      NCH (black) #433

*Unison*

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise; but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.  
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.  
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### Prayers of the People

Pastor: Oh 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.**

**Offertory Anthem**      Call To Remembrance      Richard Farrant (1530-1580)

*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 thank you for your power of redemption, for your spirit of transformation, and for your persistence in love. We thank you, O God, for the saints of all ages; for those who in times of darkness kept the lamp of faith burning; for the souls who saw visions of larger truth and dared to declare it; for the multitude of quiet and gracious souls whose presence has sanctified the world. Let our gifts this morning join these efforts – carrying love to the places most in need. Amen.

**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

The musical score is written in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It includes four vocal lines and piano accompaniment.



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!

**\*Pastoral Benediction**

**Choral Benediction**

**Postlude** “I Need Thee Every Hour” arr. by Michael Bailey

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

**Keeping in Prayer:**

Condolences to the family & friends of Marine Corps Colonel Robert Thomas Forte, who recently passed

Keep in your thoughts the family of Carol Gellert, who recently passed

Prayers for the people of Ukraine

Thoughts and prayers for Fran Lewis

Prayers for Alice Avery

Prayers for Kathy Henning’s nephew, Colin Slocomb

Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family, granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie

Prayers for Healing for Brian Paine

Prayers & Healing for Ruth Munroe and her son Andrew

Mae Larson, Rebecca Larson’s mother-in-law

Annie Rice, Bev Tedeschi’s mother

Prayers for the Masvingo UCCZ, our partner church in Zimbabwe

*If we have removed a name or listing in error, please let us know.*

If you have a prayer request, you would like Rev. Sara to include in Sunday Worship, please email her at [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)



## **This Week and More at PCUCC**

Today	9:30 AM	Worship – Second Sunday in Lent
	7:00 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv
March 16 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 AM	Lectio Divina Bible Study – via zoom
	11:30 AM	Staff Meeting via zoom
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	Choir practice (open to all!)
April 11 <sup>th</sup>		Deadline to order Easter Flowers
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	Service of Tenebrae
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	Good Friday Scripture and Music
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	6 AM	Sunrise Service
	9:30 AM	Easter Service
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 PM	Church ‘Spiffy’ Day

We will have another new member Sunday in May or June – if you are interested in becoming a part of our church family, please email Pastor Sara at [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org).

**Our church council agreed in February to resume in-person worship. Online worship will continue indefinitely.**

Be in touch with Georgene Fabian ([georgene.fabian@gmail.com](mailto:georgene.fabian@gmail.com)) if you would want to help with fellowship hour. Many hands make light work!

**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. We have Sunday school in person, with masks on, the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month. Volunteers are always welcome, 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!

**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.*

**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.

**Book Group:** The group is currently reading a riveting piece about the Roosevelts! Any questions please contact Peggy Martin at [pmartin03223@yahoo.com](mailto:pmartin03223@yahoo.com) or Kathy Henning at [henkat52@gmail.com](mailto:henkat52@gmail.com)

**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	<a href="mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org">plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org</a>
Aidan Boisvert, Interim Office Administrator	<a href="mailto:office@uccplymouth.org">office@uccplymouth.org</a>
David A. Williams, Director of Music	<a href="mailto:musicdirector@uccplymouth.org">musicdirector@uccplymouth.org</a>
Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist	<a href="mailto:organist@uccplymouth.org">organist@uccplymouth.org</a>
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	<a href="mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org">faithformation@uccplymouth.org</a>
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## Celebrating Birthdays in March in our Community:

Jean Swindell  
Winnie Oustecky  
Shoe Shoemaker  
Caleb Sweedler  
Megan Magrauth

March 8<sup>th</sup>  
March 21<sup>st</sup>  
March 21<sup>st</sup>  
March 26<sup>th</sup>  
March 30<sup>th</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)



## **EASTER FLOWERS**

We plan to have beautiful spring flowers to decorate the Sanctuary on Sunday, April 17th. A portion of your donation of \$15 (or more) will go to the HOPE Fund. Those who donate will be able to choose a plant or bouquet to take home. Please complete the Easter flower dedication information below for the bulletin.

In Celebration of    In Thanksgiving for    In Memory of    Hope Fund Only

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Your Name/s (please print and write legibly):

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Phone and/or email: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Make checks payable to: **PCUCC** or pay online at -  
<https://www.uccplymouth.org/give>

Mail or drop checks off to the church office by **April 11th.**