

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Third Sunday in Lent: Open Invitation



Amistad Chapel

March 20, 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 "What Wonderous Love is This" arr. Michael Maudlin

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. We are delighted to get to know you! On 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays we have Church School. You may contact 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 – Ruth Martz

One: O God, you are my God; I seek you. My soul thirsts for you.

All: Your presence is mysterious and captivating.

One: Our souls are as those in dry lands where there is no water.

All: Your sanctuary may quench deep thirst – let us be open to love!

One: We behold your power and glory. Your steadfast love gives us life.

All: We bless you as we pray, sing and seek out Holy Spirit

One: With unity, we call upon you, our wonderful counselor. Hear our song!

*Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

NCH (black) #23

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.

There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
 If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
 and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

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

Holy One, your mercy is indeed wide. We come to this with humility and we hope to be filled with your grace. We thank you for the simple gifts of faith – songs shared and unity in Christ. We pray our souls will be filled with good spiritual food this hour. You have been our help many times in the past and so we turn to you with joy, trust and hopes, once again. Empower us, God, so that we might become your love to the people most in need. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: We have too often mistaken repentance for simple apologies. We come today seeking the deep change and transformation your love offers. Let us find and offer your open invitation to gospel.

All: Let us open our hearts to the ways that your love shines. We sense that there are new paths of repentance that will bring us to restoration and provide us hope. Hear our song, O Holy God:

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

Psalm 63

Luke 13: 1-9

One: We meditate on you in the watches of night – we seek out a path in the Lenten wilderness. Let us discover the beauty of your mystery, once again. We pray your voice moves between words and hearing.

All: Amen

Message

“Picking Out Avocados”

Rev. Sara M. Holland

*Hymn

O Jesus, May Grateful Hymns

NCH (black) #212

1 O Je-sus Christ, may grate-ful hymns be ris-ing, in ev-ery
2 Grant us new cour-age, nev-er proud, but hum-ble, strong in your
3 Show us your Spir-it, brood-ing o'er each cit-y, as you once

cit-y for your love and care; In-spire our wor-ship, grant the
strength to ven-ture and to dare; To lift the fall-en, guide the
wept a-bove Je-ru-sa-lem, Seek-ing to gath-er all in

glad sur-pris-ing that your blessed Spir-it rous-es ev-ery-where.
ones who stum-ble, seek out the lone-ly and God's mer-cy share.
love and pit-y, and heal-ing those who touch your gar-ment's hem.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each corresponding to a line of music.

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 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God Theodore Beck

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: Spirit of Life, we commit these offerings to your path of love and life. Let us recall that no matter how much we offer financially, we are first called to give of our lives – living out your peace in the world.

May each of these offerings serve those who are most in need – the widow, the child who is hungry, the one who is lonely and those who are forgotten. All this we pray in the name Jesus and for the sake of Love. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

1. O soul, are you wea - ry and trou - bled? No
2. Thro' death in - to life ev - er - last - ing He
3. His word shall not fail you— He prom - ised; Be -

5
light in the dark-ness you see? There's light for a
passed, and we fol - low Him there; O-ver us sin no
lieve Him, and all will be well: Then go to a

10
look at the Sav - ior, And life more a - bun-dant and free!
more hath do - min - ion— For more than con-q'rors we are!
world that is dy - ing, His per-fect sal - va - tion to tell!

Turn your eyes up-on Je - sus, Look full in His

won-der-ful face, And the things of earth will grow

strange-ly dim In the light of His glo-ry and grace.

***Pastoral Benediction**

Choral Benediction

Postlude "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" Thomas Dorsey

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 healing for Valerie, a dear friend of Sally Jensen

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

This Week and More at PCUCC

Today	9:30 AM	Worship – Third Sunday in Lent
	11:00 AM	Women's March on Plymouth Common
	7:00 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv
March 23 rd	9:30 AM	Lectio Divina Bible Study (open to all!)
	11:30 AM	Staff Meeting
March 24 th	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
March 27 th		Great Hour of Sharing Offering
April 11 th		Deadline to order Easter Flowers

April 14 th	7:00 PM	Service of Tenebrae
April 15 th	7:00 PM	Good Friday Scripture and Music
April 17 th	6 AM	Sunrise Service, hot cross buns after!
	9:30 AM	Easter Service
June 4 th	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.

GREAT HOUR OF SHAIRNG - Each year, congregations promote this offering to help reach those most in need. This supports partners in countries with ministries that fund health, education, and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic disaster response. Please join us this year.

Be in touch with Georgene Fabian (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 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays of the month. Volunteers are always welcome, please contact Jennifer Byam or Julie Kelsey for more information at 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 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 or Kathy Henning at 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 or on her work cell phone number at 336-485-5618 to set up a meeting.

Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor	plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org
Aidan Boisvert, Interim Office Administrator	office@uccplymouth.org
David A. Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist	organist@uccplymouth.org
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
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Celebrating Birthdays in March in our Community:

Jean Swindell
Winnie Oustecky
Shoe Shoemaker
Caleb Sweedler
Megan Magrauth

March 8th
March 21st
March 21st
March 26th
March 30th



If you have a birthday or anniversary this month or next month that you would like listed, please email to: 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

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

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.**