

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

**First Sunday in Lent:
Sacrament of Holy Communion & New Member Sunday**



March 6, 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 wear a mask in our community at this time. Masks should be worn for the entirety of the service over both mouth and nose.

If you need a mask break, please take a step outside of the building.

GATHERING

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!

Prelude

*Those who are able may stand.

*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Alison Thatcher

Adapted from St. Francis of Assisi

One: Be praised my lord, because our sister Mother Earth sustains and rules us and because she raises food to feed us:

All: Colored flowers and grass show your humble beauty.

One: Be praised my lord for those who pardon by your love and suffer illness and grief:

All: Snow, and mud, and muck of life show your mystery.

One: Be praised my lord for the cycles; none of us escape death and so we must truly depend on you and on each other.

All: Prayers, hymns and sacred words bring us parts of your divine love.

Let us not only hear these but become these. We are before you God.

***Hymn**

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

NCH (black) #25

Verses 1-4

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O God, Our Help in Ages Past'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The first system contains four verses of lyrics. The second system contains the final lines of the hymn. The music is written in a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad-ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,
Our shel - ter from the storm-y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

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 love envelopes all people, no matter their identities. We are scattered, and yet, we gather to praise You in this hour. Let our intention be centered on Love and peace. Embarking on a Lenten journey, our hope is to find meaning in Your path, once again. May all dimness be cleared from our vision as we welcome new members into our local church. Give us open hearts to welcome family and to receive your sacrament; move us to reconciliation, God. We sense you are with us in the wilderness of life. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Almighty Creator, we are tempted to dwell in self-pity, forget our neighbors and neglect our relationship with you. The Lenten journey reminds us to collect our hearts for a deeper faith.

All: You have given us an example of love; as we journey through the wilderness, let us find that this love is not only enough for us, but becomes multiplied for us to share. Seeking depth, 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.

We often will have a Children's Message during this time; today we invite children and youth to help us welcome new church family before heading to Sunday School. Again, we invite children and families to get connected to our programming by emailing faithformation@uccplymouth.org.

Reception of New Members

We invite forward Ruth Martz & Steve Majeski. You may learn more about them in the announcement section of our bulletin.

***Community Covenant: We covenant one with another to seek and to respond to the Word and will of God. We purpose to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world while worshipping God, and striving for truth, justice and peace. As did our faith ancestors, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God and look with faith toward the triumph of righteous and eternal life.**

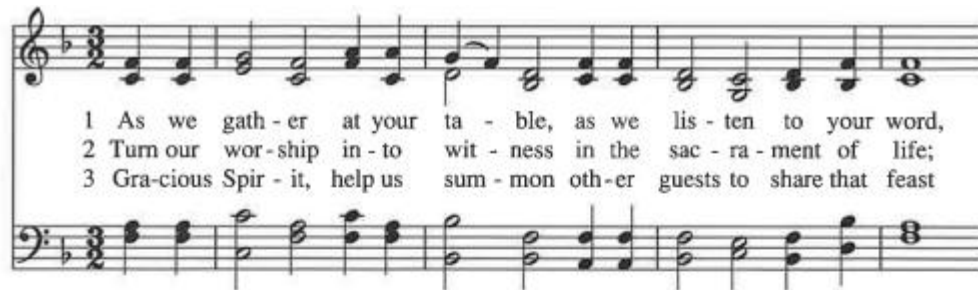
Words of Welcome: We welcome you with joy into the life of our church! We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes, labors and joys of life lived in Christian community. In the Spirit of Jesus, in

laughter and in love, may we continue to grow together in faith, serving God and our neighbors.

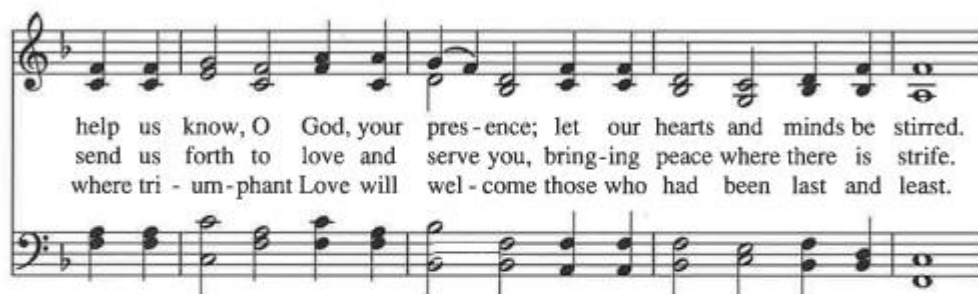
*Hymn

As We Gather at Your Table

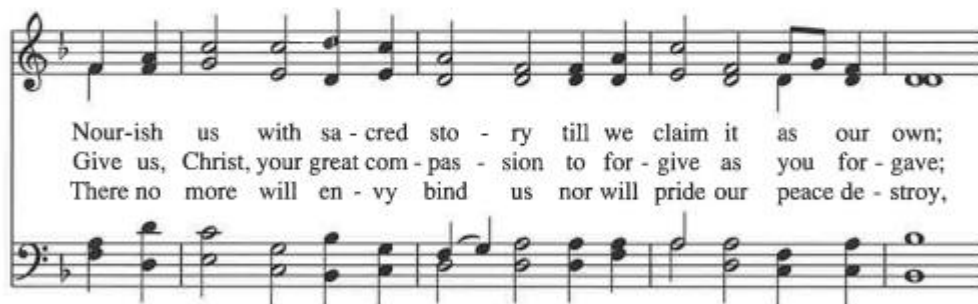
NCH (black) #332



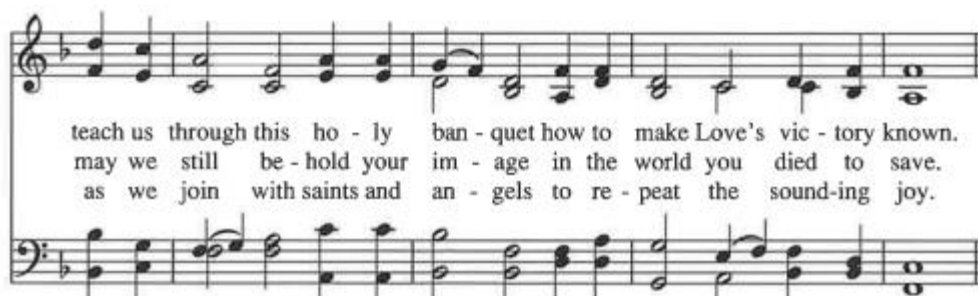
1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings

Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16

Luke 4: 1-13

One: Here end the readings from our tradition. May Holy Spirit join us for this Lenten journey. Let us find wisdom for today in these ancient words. O Holy Spirit, we pray You move between words and hearing.

All: Amen

Message

“It Is Written”

Rev. Sara M. Holland

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory Anthem

“Lamb of God, Pure and Holy”

Healey Willan

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 struggle keep faithful; 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 purified and sanctified the world; and for those known and loved by us who have encouraged us to contribute. Take these humble gifts, God, and let them be multiplied. Amen.

Invitation to Holy Communion

One: We are scattered God: in apartments, houses, condos; on counters, at dinner tables, on our couch and stretching on the floor. As we join in this historic ritual, let us know that this holy meal may strengthen us. Let us find renewal in this great Communion.

All: We are prepared God. Our tables and makeshift tables may be messy, but they are set. These tables are open: There are no prerequisites for

God's love. This table is for those who believe a little or a lot. This table is for those who need community, those who need solace and those who need strength. Let us share in this abundance.

Prayers of the People

You will be invited to offer your silent prayers for others.

Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Cup

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Closing Prayer & Lord's Prayer

All: Gracious and loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink. Let us be caught by the love given in the gospel and let us offer this to those we encounter. Send us forth to be your people in the world. Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil and to proclaim in all we say and do the good news in Christ Jesus our Savior.

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.

SENDING

***Hymn**

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross NCH (black) #197

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross; there a pre - cious foun - tain,
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream, flows from Cal - vary's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me live from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross, be my glo - ry ev - er,

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

***Pastoral Benediction**

Choral Benediction

Let us go Forth Gladly

Postlude

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 died. She, her husband Don, and son, John, lived in the Plymouth area for a number of years before moving southeast to the Laconia region. Many in the parish have taken voice lessons from her and she was well known for her musical talents.

Thoughts and prayers for Fran Lewis

Prayers for the Malone family who are grieving

Prayers for Kathy, a friend of a community member who is struggling.

Prayers for Alice Avery

Prayers for Kathy Henning's nephew, Colin Slocomb

Prayers for Bill Larsen

Dianne Anderson, sister of Donna Castor

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

Charlie & Wendy Scouras

Prayers for Healing for Valerie, a dear friend of Sally Jensen

Prayers for Healing for Brian Paine

Prayers & Healing for Ruth Munroe

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

Annie Rice, Bev Tedeschi's mother

Prayers for Sue Switaj

Prayers for the Masvingo UCCZ, our partner church in Zimbabwe

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 – First Sunday in Lent
	7:00 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv
March 8 th		2022-23 Budgets are due
		Faith Formation Meets
March 9 th	9:30 AM	Lectio Divina Bible Study
	11:30 AM	Staff Meeting
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	Easter Moring Service
	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.

Our church council agreed in February to resume in-person worship. Because we sing and there are small children in our community, masks and distancing are required.

Welcome Ruth Martz & Steve Majeski! Ruth and Steve have been getting to know our church for more than 6 months now; we are so happy they have found spiritual care in our church home. Ruth joins the ranks of clergy in our church home, loves the story of Ruth and Naomi and celebrates diverse names of God. Steve has previously served on worship boards, worked as a tax attorney, appreciates our quality worship services and cares about the way faith helps individuals and communities work towards peaceful relations.

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 next book group will be on March 7th at 10 AM via Zoom. All are welcome! 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 for 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
Aidan Boisvert, Interim 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

Liturgist: Alison Thatcher

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
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(603) 536-2626 - office@uccplymouth.org - www.uccplymouth.org

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 Hope Fund Only In Thanksgiving for In Memory of

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

*Make checks payable to: **PCUCC**

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