

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

**Third Sunday of Easter:
Love – The Way Forward, Communion Sunday**



May 1, 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; for example, **mask while singing and when you are near small children**. 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

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

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@uccplymouth.org. We are delighted to get to know you! You may contact faithformation@uccplymouth.org to get more information about programming for children and families.

Introit

Alleluia!

Aaron David Miller

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship** – Christina Rossetti, 1830-1894

Liturgist – Carol Stewart

One: Upward I look with eyes that fail to see, a thirst for future light and present grace.

All: I trust the Hand of Love. I scarcely trace, with breath that fails I cry, remember me;

One: Add breath to breath, so I may run my race

All: That where Thou art there may Thy servant be.

One: For Thou art gulf and fountain of my love, I unreturning torrent to Thy sea, Yea, Thou the measureless ocean for my rill:

All: Seeking I find, and finding, seek Thee still:

One: And oh! That I had wings as hath a dove, then would I flee away to rest with Thee.

***Hymn**

Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult NCH (black) #172

1 Je-sus calls us, o'er the tu - mult of our life's wild, rest-less sea;
2 As of old, Saint An-drew heard it by the Gal - i - le - an lake,
3 Je-sus calls us from the wor-ship of the trea - sures we a - dore,
4 In our joys and in our sor-rows, days of toil and hours of ease,
5 Je-sus calls us! By your mer-cies, Sav-ior, may we hear your call,

Day by day that voice still calls us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, fol - low me."
Turned from home and toil and kin-dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
From each i - dol that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, love me more."
Je - sus calls, in cares and plea-sures, "Chris-tian, love me more than these."
Give our hearts to your o - be-dience, serve and love you best of all.

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

O Holy One: we have been caught in your love and we understand that we are called to fish for people and feed your sheep. We offer gratitude for the strength that we have found in your loving care and in Christian community. Even when we have struggled, we have found and we may find peace in a sure and steady journey with you. Challenge and comfort us in this hour, God. Soften our hearts to receive your redeeming love, that which comes to us in a simple meal. Let us find deep wells of hope and faith from which we may share as the world is in need. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Promises of love abound in our sacred text and may be heard in harmonies and melodies. Sometimes we need to pause . . . we need to share of God's meal so that we may offer spiritual food to the world.

All: Creator God, let us be assured of the ways you are in our midst. Let us know that we may grow and change as the world around us does. Let us recommit to the path offered in your love. We sing out, searching for your promise:

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 darkness clears away.**

We often will have a Children's Message during this time; again, we invite children and families to get connected to our programming by emailing faithformation@uccplymouth.org.

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings

Acts 9:1-6

John 21:1-19

One: God, you are the Ancient of Days – let us confess your grace with our reflections; let us look deeply at our paths, knowing that we may move with your spirit. We pray your mysteries move between words and hearing.

All: Amen

Message "Eat Your Wheaties, Feed God's Children" Rev. Sara M. Holland

1 Come, ris - en Lord, and deign to be our guest; Nay, let us
 2 We meet, as in that up - per room they met, Thou at the
 3 One bod - y we, one bod - y who par - take, One Church u -
 4 One with each oth - er, Lord, for one in thee, Who art one

be thy guests; the feast is thine; Thy - self at thine own
 ta - ble, bless - ing, yet dost stand; "This is my bod - y";
 nit - ed in com - mun - ion blest; One name we bear, one
 Sav - ior and one liv - ing Head; Then o - pen thou our

board make man - i - fest In this our sac - ra - ment of bread and wine.
 so thou giv - est yet: Faith still re - ceives the cup as from thy hand.
 bread of life we break, With all thy saints on earth and saints at rest.
 eyes, that we may see; Be known to us in break - ing of the bread A - men.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory Anthem

At the Name of Jesus

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, accept these gifts from our homes and hearts; these are but a portion of what we have. We pray that these will be multiplied so that your word will be carried to the far corners of the earth – to the lonely, the parentless, and those with no place to call home. We dedicate these gifts to you, let them be blessed. May your Spirit be praised as these gifts move into the world. We pray all this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Invitation to Holy Communion

Liturgist- Carol Stewart

One: Jesus said – I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst. The evangelists and early Christ followers wrote of our risen Savior, who at the table with disciples took bread and blessed and broke it, sharing graciously. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized something special. However, they would not truly understand until later. . .

We aim to come with authenticity, God – some of us at home, on the road and many of us grateful to be physically present in worship today. As we join in this historic ritual, let us know that this holy meal may strengthen us.

All: We are prepared God. A table is set in your honor – no matter how tidy or messy. Make yourself known in this meal, God. 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 sit at tables with you each day, Holy Spirit; let us find ways to feed your sheep. 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, who taught us to pray:

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.

SENDING

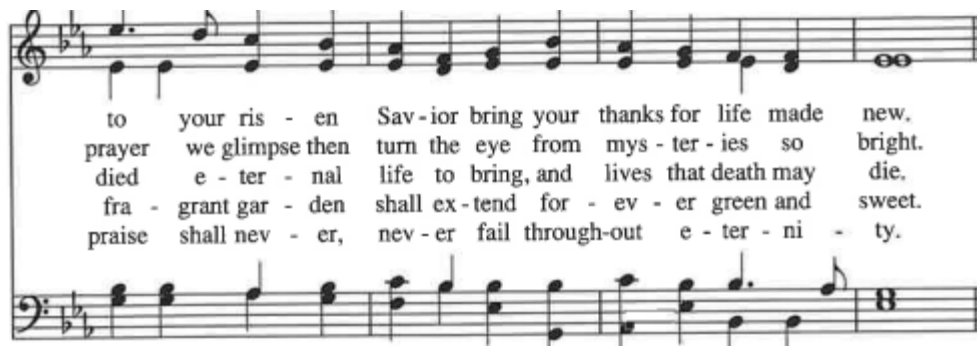
*Hymn Crown with Your Richest Crowns NCH (black)#301

verses 2-4

1 Crown with your rich-est crowns the Lamb up - on the throne;
 2 Crown Christ whose love has flowed down hands and feet and side.
 3 Crown Christ the truth, the life who tri-umphed o'er the grave
 4 Crown Christ who rules in peace, whose power a scep-tre sways
 5 Crown Christ who holds the years, em - brac - ing space and time,

Hark! how the heaven-ly an - tem drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 Look past the peak of Cal - vary's road to Christ the glo - ri - fied.
 And rose vic - to - rious in the strife, this fal - len world to save.
 From pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise:
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime:

A - wake, my soul, and sing of Christ who died for you, And
 The sun that lights the sky is pale be - fore that sight. At
 Christ's glo - ries now we sing, Christ's name we mag - ni - fy, Who
 Christ's reign shall have no end, for 'round those wound-ed feet a
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For you have died for me; Your



***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude

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

Keeping in Prayer:

- Prayers for the people of Ukraine
- Condolences and prayers for family members and friends Fran Lewis
- Prayers for 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 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
- Prayers for Rev. Sam Lovett

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

- May 5th 7:00 PM Choir Practice
- May 15th 9:30 AM Stewardship Sunday
- May 22nd 9:30 AM Rev. Renee' Rouse pulpit exchange with Rev. Holland
Special Offering for World Central Kitchen
- 2:30 PM Merrimack Association Meeting
- June 4th 1:00 PM Church 'Spiffy' Day
- June 5th 9:30 AM Children's Sunday
- June 12th 9:30 AM Choir Sunday

10:45 AM Special musical offering by TJ Wheeler
1:30 PM Confirmation Ritual
2:30 PM Merrimack Association confirmation ritual
Pride Sunday

June 19th 10:30 AM Congregational Annual Meeting

Special Offering for World Central Kitchen (WCK) will be received on May 22nd during the offering. Our donations go 100% to feed the people of Ukraine. Please make checks out to PCUCC and mark WCK in memo line All Cash received today will go toward this special need.

SIGN UP TO SERVE AS USHER OR LITURGIST: Now that we are back to in person worship, we need more ushers to greet folks, hand out bulletins and do the offering. We also need liturgist! Please sign up on the bulletin near the parlor or see Eileen Torrey!!

OUR 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 snapup tops preferred. Many thanks!

From the Finance Committee

It's Stewardship Time - This is the time to reflect on all we've accomplished this past year, and a time to look at the financial support needed to keep the flexibility, creativity and faithfulness alive and thriving this next fiscal year. Next week you should be receiving our annual pledge request. As you review this information, we hope you'll prayerfully ask God to help you discern your 2021-22 pledge. Please return your commitment by May 12th to PCUCC by US mail to PO Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264, or by email to treasurer@uccplymouth.org. For all we accomplish together, we thank God and YOU.

By-Law amendment to be voted on at annual meeting June 19, 2022.

Text: By-law 'n' under Article V111, Church Council; A. The Council; 2: Duties of the Council are to (changes in red) n.provide for and **audit/review** by an independent, qualified **auditor/CPA/accountant** secured and deemed appropriate by the Council every five (5) years or whenever the Treasurer leaves

that position before the end of a five (5) year interval.

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR: Please sign up to bring flowers on Sunday for the altar! The sign up list is posted near the kitchen window in the Fellowship Hall or see Eileen Torrey. Many Thanks!

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.

Be in touch with Rev Sara if you would want to help with fellowship hour. Many hands make light work!

Jim and Linda LaPrad would like to invite you to our house for a Sunday Niter gathering on May 1st at 6 PM. Our address is 295 Will Colburn Rd, Rumney, NH 03266. Our road is off old route 25. Please let us know if you need directions.

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. Next meeting is on May 5th at 7 PM

Book Group: The group is currently reading Always a Guest: Speaking of Faith Far from Home! Any questions please contact Peggy Martin at pmartin03223@yahoo.com or Kathy Henning at henkat52@gmail.com. Next meeting is May 2nd at 10 AM

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
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
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Celebrating Birthdays in May and April in our Community:

Wayne Martin	April 1 st
Sue Switaj	April 5 th
Benjamin Adams	April 12 th
Sabrina Tedeschi	April 17 th
Michael Carrier	April 25 th
Kurt Maiser Anderson	April 28 th
Weston Hyde	May 1 st
Kristi Zwald	May 1 st
James Preston	May 2 nd
Jessica Berman	May 4 th
Leejae Karinja	May 4 th
Richard Caron	May 5 th
Troy Tedeschi	May 9 th
Eva Karcher	May 10 th
Dana Merrithew	May 10 th
Eric Kelsey	May 12 th
Micaela Brand	May 13 th
Robbin Adams	May 20 th
Tessa Nicole Kelsey	May 22 nd
Elizabeth Fallon	May 23 rd
Jenny Thibeault	May 23 rd
Paul Brand	May 29 th

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

