

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Fifth Sunday of Eastertide: Stewardship Sunday
Glorify God



May 15, 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

Welcome & Announcements

Please, if you are new to our community and want to be more involved, leave your email address or address on an attendance pad or on our sign in sheet in the narthex / entrance of the building. You may also email us at office@uccplymouth.org. We are delighted to get to know you! On 1st – 4th Sundays we have Church School. You may contact faithformation@uccplymouth.org to get more information about programming for children and families.

Introit I am the way, the truth and the life. Alleluia! Alan David Miller

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship** adapted from Jeremiah 29 Liturgist – Wayne Martin

One: We are to come with our gifts; let us remember that miracles are in store for us!

All: Let us seek the welfare of the whole world.

One: Our joy will be multiplied and our sorrows will be held by the divine spirit.

All: On God's path, we will find ways to serve neighbors, to walk in Love.

One: Perhaps we have felt that we are in exile, but our home is here – in the house of God.

All: We come with our gifts: these should be given in Love!

One: Surely God will hear us; so says the sacred text.

*Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

PH (red) #66

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, For the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the beau - ty of each hour Of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,

For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
 For the mys - tic har - mo - ny Link - ing sense to sound and sight,
 Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, For all gen - tle thoughts and mild,

Lord of all, to thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise. A - men.

5 For each perfect gift of thine
 Unto us so freely given,
 Graces, human and divine,
 Flowers of earth and buds of heaven,

6 For thy Church that evermore
 Lifteth holy hands above,
 Offering up on every shore
 Her pure sacrifice of love,

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

Spirit of Truth, we come with gratitude for the love and life that you have placed before us. Let us see ways to serve the church and your world, so that hearts may be healed and we will live out our call. We are told to love one another and this call is truly a challenge; let us dive deep in meditation and reflection so that our hearts may be truly be changed for the greater good. Bring us to your hope, once again, that we might carry it to all the world. We pray all this for Love's sake. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: We often dwell on the problems in front of us, such that we cannot see the possibilities of the future. Let us discern God's path in word and song. We seek out ways to live with commandments of love.

All: Grant us the grace of your gospel word; give us peace in the call to care for your world and church. Let us dwell in unity rather than uniformity. Hear us sing out for the promise of new life:

Response

There Is a Balm in Gilead

NCH (black) #553

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin sick soul.

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin sick soul.

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

Jeremiah 29: 1-12

John 13: 31-35

One: O Holy God, may 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

“Faith and Futures”

Rev. Sara M. Holland

*Hymn

Help Us Accept Each Other

NCH (black) #388

Sung to the tune of “The Church’s One Foundation”

1 Help us ac-cept each oth-er
as Christ ac-cept-ed us;
teach us as sis-ter, broth-er,
each per-son to em-brace.
Be pres-ent, God, a-mong us,
and bring us to be-lieve
we are our-selves ac-cept-ed
and meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O God, your les-sons,
as in our dai-ly life
we strug-gle to be hu-man
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for peo-ple,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may be-come.

3 Let your ac-cep-tance change us,
so that we may be moved
in liv-ing sit-u-a-tions
to do the truth in love;
To prac-tice your ac-cep-tance,
un-til we know by heart
the ta-ble of for-give-ness
and laugh-ter’s heal-ing art.

4 God, for to-day’s en-coun-ters
with all who are in need,
who hun-ger for ac-cep-tance,
for righ-teous-ness and bread,
Bring us new eyes for see-ing,
new hands for hold-ing on;
re-new us with your Spir-it;
God! Free us, make us one!

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 Anthem The Lord's My Shepherd - Emma Lou Diemer
We invite you to remember your support for the ministry of PCUCC.

Blessing and Dedication of Pledges

*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: Almighty and gentle God, you have given us the ability and opportunity to embrace one another and to serve your larger purpose. Let our offerings care for the world in the ways that you intend. Let these offerings move with grace, forgiveness and hope that is born in your holy word. We pray that these gifts will strengthen your church so that Love will be carried to all those in need. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn

Forward through the Ages

NCH (black) #377

1 For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,
2 Wide grows God's do - min - ion, reign of love and peace;
3 Not a - lone we con - quer, not a - lone we fall;

move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine;
for it we must la - bor, till all striv - ings cease.
in each loss or tri - umph, lose or tri - umph all.

Gifts in dif - fer - ing mea - sure, hearts of one ac - cord,
Proph - ets have pro - claimed it, teach - ers tes - ti - fied,
Bound by God's far pur - pose in one liv - ing whole,

man - i - fold in ser - vice, one the sure re - ward.
po - ets sung its glo - ry, mar - tyrs for it died.
move we on to - geth - er to the shin - ing goal.

*Pastoral Benediction

Postlude

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

Keeping in Prayer:

Condolences & prayers to Bev Tedeschi and the family of Annie Rice

Condolences & prayers to family of Ruth Munroe

Condolences & prayers for his children, stepchildren, and relatives of Jonathan Gellert, son of Carol Gellert

Condolences & 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 Andrew Munroe

Prayers for Healing for Brian Paine

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

Prayers for the people of Ukraine

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

May 15 th	9:30 AM	Stewardship Sunday
May 16 th	6:30 PM	Parish Relations group meeting
May 22 nd	9:30 AM	Rev. Renee' Rouse pulpit exchange with Rev. Holland Special Offering for World Central Kitchen
June 4 th	1:00 PM	Church 'Spiffy' Day
June 5 th	9:30 AM	Children's Sunday
June 12 th	9:30 AM	Choir Sunday Pride Sunday
	10:45 AM	Special musical offering by TJ Wheeler
	1:30 PM	Merrimack Confirmation Ritual
	2:30 PM	Merrimack Association Meeting
June 19 th	10:30 AM	<u>Congregational Annual Meeting</u>

Annual Reports due on June 1st- All committee chairs should turn in their reports as soon as possible.

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@ucplymouth.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!

It is quite possible that you have wondered what the Parish Relations group does; this group first offers support to the pastor. A second function of the group is that they work to keep the pastor accountable. Currently serving on this team is Marlin Collingwood, Rebecca Larson and Bev Newton.

We will have another new member Sunday on June 19 – 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!

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 24th 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 16th 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	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
4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264
(603) 536-2626 - office@uccplymouth.org - www.uccplymouth.org

Celebrating Birthdays in May in our Community:

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
Kathy Henning	May 24 th
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

