

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Sixth Sunday of Eastertide: Love God, Love One Another; Disciples Together



May 22, 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 “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens” arr. by Timothy Shaw

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 Those Who love Me Will Keep My Word. Alleluia! Aaron David Miller

*Those who are able may stand.

*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Donna Castor

One: Source of being, Holy God, we come to you with gratitude and thanksgiving:

All: For extended faith family, for the ability to hope and for the challenge of your scripture.

One: You have been with us throughout time, even when we have forgotten.

All: Let us be reminded of your caring and presence. Thank you, Holy Spirit.

One: Let us brood as the Holy Spirit does – even with our gratitude we may be transformed to bring your love to the world.

All: Thank you, Holy Spirit – you do not expect us to leave our broken hearts; we come simply as we are:

One: Broken and beautiful, we come.

*Hymn

Womb of Life, and Source of Being

NCH (red) #274

1 Womb of life, and source of be - ing, home of ev -
2 Word in flesh, our broth - er Je - sus, born to bring
3 Brood - ing Spir - it, move a - mong us; be our part -
4 Moth - er, Broth - er, ho - ly Part - ner; Fa - ther, Spir -

- ery rest - less heart, in your arms the worlds a -
 us sec - ond birth, you have come to stand be -
 - ner, be our friend. When our mem - ory fails, re -
 - it, On - ly Son: we would praise your name for -

wak - ened; you have loved us from the start.
 side us, know - ing weak - ness, know - ing earth.
 mind us whose we are, what we in - tend.
 ev - er, one - in - three, and three - in - one.

We, your chil - dren, gath - er 'round you, at the ta -
 Priest who shares our hu - man strug - gles, Life of Life,
 La - bor with us, aid the birth - ing of the new
 We would share your life, your pas - sion, share your word

- ble you pre - pare. Shar - ing stor - ies, tears, and
 and Death of Death, Ris - en Christ, come stand a -
 world yet to be, Free of ser - vant, lord, and
 of world made new, Ev - er sing - ing, ev - er

laugh - ter, we are nur - tured by your care.
 mong us, send the Spir - it by your breath.
 mas - ter, free for love and u - ni - ty.
 prais - ing, one with all, and one with you.

Passing of the Peace

We invite you to text or email someone a note of peace today. A hand-written note will work too! We apologize for the change, but we will be switching back to virtual passing of the peace for this week and until further notice.

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

adapted from Henri J.M. Nouwen

Holy One, the precision and broadness of your love amazes us. Thank you. In this hour, we might experience your presence in the voices of our faith family so that we might move with hope this week. With you and the saints who have passed before us, we boldly proclaim the joy of the resurrection season – that even in loss and trouble hope may be found. We joyfully profess and announce your presence to all the world. Let us be made well in this hour, let us find your love. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: We need the healing of Holy Spirit; we need the Advocate, the one who will bring us hope. Sometimes even naming our need can be challenging. Let us come with honesty in this time and receive mercy so that we might offer it to those we encounter.

All: We want to be made well and so we proclaim our need – as individuals and a community. There is nothing – nothing here, nothing anywhere else that will separate us from the love of God in Jesus; it is for this promise that we sing:

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

Psalm 67

John 5: 1-9

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

Rev. René Rouse

*Hymn

For the Healing of the Nations

NCH (black) #576

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with
2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

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 is Rich and Merciful Austin C. Lovelace

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: Indescribable, ineffable God, some of the gifts that we are provided we do not even realize. And some we simply forgot, only to be reminded periodically. Allow us to center ourselves on gratitude today and this week. Let us see your abundance even in the face of great struggles. As we seek healing, let us know that healing is connected to all parts of our lives. Let us know that we may grace the world with many types of gifts as we receive your grace. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn**

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

UMH (insert only) #703

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot". It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The first system includes the lyrics "Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com - ing for to car - ry me home;". The second system includes the lyrics "swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com - ing for to car - ry me home." and is marked with a "Fine" symbol. The third system includes four verses of lyrics: "1. I looked o - ver Jor - dan, and what did I see, 2. If you get there be - fore I do, 3. I'm some - times up, I'm some - times down, 4. The bright - est day that I can say,". The music is in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat).

com-ing for to car-ry me home? A band of an-gels
 com-ing for to car-ry me home; tell all my friends I'm
 com-ing for to car-ry me home; but still my soul feels
 com-ing for to car-ry me home; when Je - sus washed my

com-ing af - ter me, com-ing for to car-ry me home. D.C.
 com-ing too, com-ing for to car-ry me home.
 heav-en - ly bound, com-ing for to car-ry me home.
 sins a - way, com-ing for to car-ry me home.

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude

“Festive Postlude”

by Iouri Grichetchkine

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

Keeping in Prayer:

For an end to gun violence, in the spirit of Isaiah 2:4

Prayers for Ellen who struggles with cancer, family member of Ruth & Dale Mosher

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 continued 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

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 22 nd	9:30 AM	Rev. Renee' Rouse pulpit exchange with Rev. Holland Special Offering for World Central Kitchen
May 24 th	7:00 PM	Racial Justice meeting in the parlor
May 25 th	9:30 AM	Lectio Divina Bible Study on site with Rev. Holland
May 25 th	7:00 PM	Council meeting – on site, masks <u>encouraged</u> Rev Sara will also send out a zoom link for those who want to attend virtually
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>Annual Congregational 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 Linda LaPrad!!

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 snap up tops preferred. Many thanks!

Stewardship Update: As we look to A Future with Hope, we are pleased to update that we are more than halfway to our 2022-23 Stewardship Campaign goal of \$180,000. As of May 17th, we have received 35 pledges totaling \$104,452. Thank you

to all who have pledged their financial support. If you have not yet pledged, please prayerfully consider doing so by returning a pledge card to PCUCC at PO Box 86, Plymouth, dropping it in the collection plate on Sunday, or emailing your commitment to the treasurer at treasurer@uccplymouth.org. If you have any questions, please contact Linda LaPrad or Ann Thurston. THANK 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 email Eileen Torrey. Many Thanks!

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 almost every Sunday! 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. The last meeting before the summer break will be on June 13th 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
Linda LaPrad, 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 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

