

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Seventh Sunday of Eastertide: Memorial Day Weekend



May 29, 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; **AT THIS TIME, WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE MASKS.** 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

“Fantasia on Nettleton”

arr. by Jim Engebretson

With great thanks this morning for the Flute Trio: Jan Bass, Peggy Martin, Ashley Rose

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.

*Those who are able may stand.

*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Bill Heron

One: God has claimed us as beloved, God has called us to move with justice and peace!

All: We make a bold claim of belovedness in community and with strength.

One: This sense of belonging to God is for all; God brings compassion to all on earth and so we consider our role in this story of hope.

All: We have been served by divine purpose and we have benefitted from the sacrifices of others.

One: *Now* we look for our own purpose in this divine story.

All: We are called by Christ to serve, drawn together to find our own healing and to bring hope to captives.

One: We will be the ones to bring good news, to offer of ourselves to heal the world. Let it be so as we sing!

*Hymn

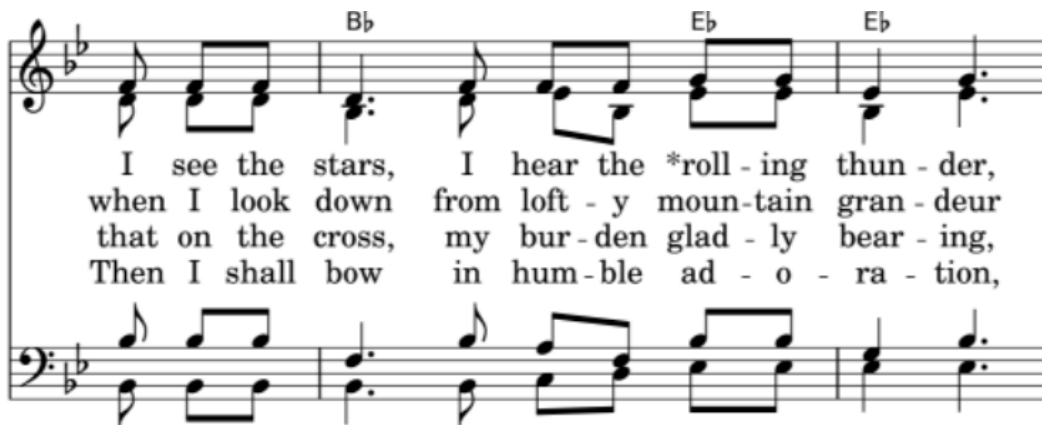
How Great Thou Art

UMH (insert only) #77

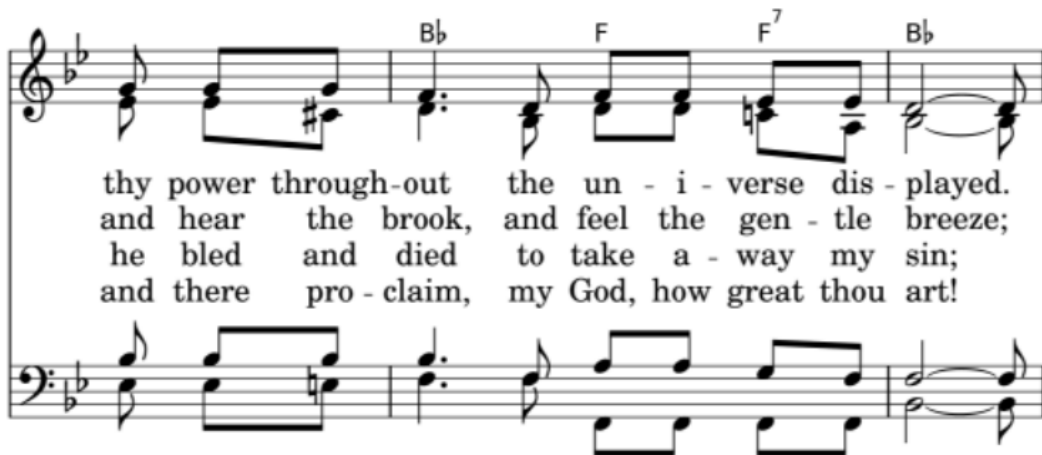
1. O Lord my God! when I in awe-some won-der
2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der,
3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing,
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion



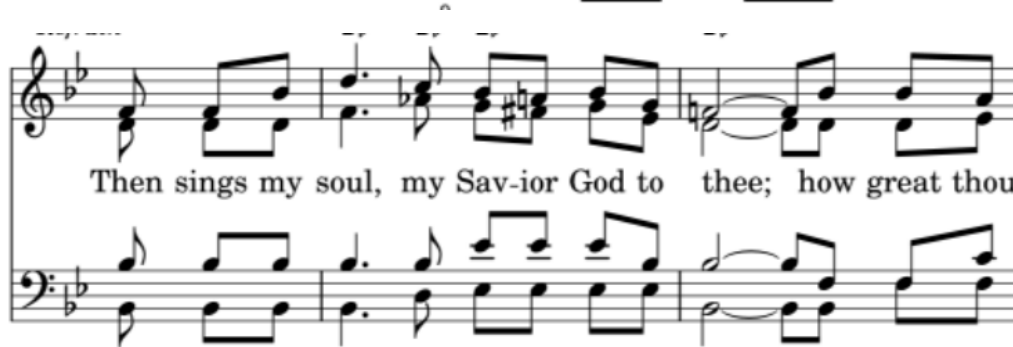
con - sid - er all the *worlds thy hands have made,
and hear the birds sing sweet - ly in the trees;
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.



I see the stars, I hear the *roll - ing thun - der,
when I look down from loft - y moun - tain gran - deur
that on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly bear - ing,
Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o - ra - tion,



thy power through - out the un - i - verse dis - played.
and hear the brook, and feel the gen - tle breeze;
he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
and there pro - claim, my God, how great thou art!



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God to thee; how great thou

1
art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God to

4
thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

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

Watch over us, Holy God, as we take time to pray and to meditate on the continuing impact Your Spirit has in our lives. Jesus offered us a path of service, of giving; Jesus showed us a way. Christ represents to us Your gift of love and eternal life. We are resurrection people no longer bound by fear of death but freed to become witnesses to justice and Love. Let us be nourished to become like trees, planted beside streams of water which flourish and bear much fruit, sensing your Spirit always in our midst. Let us be aware of your presence in this hour; let us feel your deep comfort and be challenged. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: There is so much we do not understand; in this hour, we seek depth more so than knowledge. We seek wisdom. We pray that we might move into a mysterious sort of understanding this hour; we pray Holy Spirit moves in our thoughts.

All: Let your promise liberate us to care for those who are most in need. Let us lean into and feel your spirit and aim for your righteousness. Our challenges will be great, but your peace will abound. 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

John 14: 23-29

Deut. 16: 17-21

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

*Hymn

I Come to the Garden Alone

NCH (black) #237

1 I come to the gar-den a-lone, while the dew is still on the
 2 He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their
 3 I'd stay in the gar-den with him, though the night a-round me be

ros-es; And the voice I hear, fall-ing on my ear, the
 sing-ing; And the mel-o-ody that he gave to me with-
 fall-ing; But he bids me go; through the voice of woe his

Refrain
 Son of God dis-clos-es.
 in my heart is ring-ing. And he walks with me, and he
 voice to me is call-ing.

talks with me, and he tells me I am his own, And the

joy we share as we tar-ry there, none oth-er has ev-er known.

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.*

Remembering Those Passed While Serving

Offertory *we invite you to reference our Facebook page for title and composer*
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: Here, O God, is some of the abundance you have allowed us to manage for you while we are here on your earth. May it be enough to draw us closer to you and to all whom we seek to help, driven by your love. May our hearts follow our treasure into growing devotion to your truth and expanded commitment to the unity in love that Jesus sought for all your children. Bless this offering and increase our joy in giving. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

PH (red) #440

Samuel A. Ward, 1848-1903

1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, For am - ber waves of grain,
2 O beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, Whose stern, im - pas - sioned stress
3 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved In lib - er - at - ing strife,
4 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream That sees be - yond the years

For pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties A - bove the fruit - ed plain!
A thor - ough - fare for free - dom beat A - cross the wil - der - ness!
Who more than self their coun - try loved, And mer - cy more than life!
Thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, Un - dimmed by hu - man tears!

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,

And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea.
Con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, Thy lib - er - ty in law.
Till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, And ev - ery gain di - vine.
And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea. A - men.

*Pastoral Benediction

Postlude

America, the Beautiful

arr. by Marilyn Ham

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

Prayers of healing for Sue Switaj

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 Polly Bartlett, who struggles with cancer

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 29 th | 9:30 AM | Seventh Sunday of Eastertide, Service remembrance |
| May 30 th | | <u>Office closed</u> |
| June 1 st | 9:30 AM | Lectio Divina Bible Study on site with Rev. Holland (open to all) First day of Pride Month! |
| June 2 nd | | Meals for Many starts back up on site |
| June 3 rd | 5:00 PM | PRHS baccalaureate service |
| 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 | 9:30 AM | New Member Sunday |
| | 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.

Please join us in welcoming Alison Thatcher to our staff as Office Administrator!

We are very excited that Alison will start in the coming week and we hope you will continue to be patient with us as our office has been in transition for a number of months now. Thank you Alison!

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 24th, we have received 40 pledges totaling \$115,442. 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.

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.

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.

Graduation Congratulations to Julie Kelsey for receiving her Master's Degree, Troy Tedeschi and Kurt Maiser (John Anderson's son) for receiving their Bachelor's degree.

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 *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 |

Special Musicians: Jan Bass and Peggy Martin

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 |

Celebrating Birthdays in June in our Community

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Anna Boyer | June 6 th |
| Alice Avery | June 8 th |
| Kimberly Berman | June 10 th |
| Abigail Ball | June 13 th |
| Murry Swindell | June 22 nd |
| Jay Buckley | June 23 rd |
| Mary Bohn Reynolds | June 25 th |
| Wesley Ball | June 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

