

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

**Ordinary Time:  
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost  
Ukama Sunday**



“Show me the coin used for the tax.” Matthew 22:19

**October 22, 2023**

**9:30 am**

We Practice Just Peace: doing justice, seeking peace  
We are Open and Affirming: welcoming LGBTQ+ people  
We are an Anti-Racism church  
☪ We Listen for the Still Speaking God  
Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

*Please inquire with people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.*

# GATHERING

**Prelude**      Offertory on “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”      William H. Doane

## Welcome & Announcements

*Please sign the red friendship pad as it is passed to you and return it to the center aisle noting your neighbor in the pew. You may leave your email if you would like to receive our weekly newsletter.*

*If you want to know more, email the office at [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org).*

*Sunday School for all ages begins after the Message for All Ages on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. Children are welcome to fill a bag with books and toys, which are in the narthex, to use during worship.*

**Introit**      Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos’      South African Hymn

\*Those who are able may stand.

**\*Call to Worship** *by Thom Shuman*      Liturgist – Chris Pollock

One: From the corners of worry and fear, from the shadows where we huddle with our doubts,

**Many: God calls us to this place of sanctuary where we can draw from Love's deep wells.**

One: In every moment where we look for strength to continue, in every time wonder if faith is worth it,

**Many: Jesus calls us to this time where we can welcome the peace given to us.**

One: In every person who embraces us with acceptance, in every touch that offers healing and hope,

**Many: the Spirit calls us to see those around us as God's beloved, our sisters and brothers of grace.**

**\*Hymn**      Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers      NCH (black) #397

**Unison Gathering Prayer**      *by Steve Garnass-Holmes*

**Gracious God, the trees bear gold, and the color of sun. Each day we pass through the gates of heaven. You are with us, and we rejoice. You speak to us, and so we listen. Re-create us by your Presence; shape us by your Word; make us into your glory, by your grace; mint us as your coins that**

you may spend for the world as boldly and with as deep joy as the trees of the field. Amen.

### *Moments for Confession including Silence for Personal Reflection*

#### **Prayer for Forgiveness (Responsive)**

*by Thom Shuman*

One: We know, despite our sincere efforts to live in God's way, that all too easily we slip off the path to the kingdom. Trusting that God will answer our prayers and forgive us, let us confess our sins, as we pray together,

**Many: Great Lover of Justice, hear our prayers: called to treat all people equally, we take sides and pick favorites; chosen to be your children, we arrogantly assume others are not so honored; challenged to be examples of faith, we reveal our worst natures to our families and friends.**

**Forgive us, Giver of Rest. Enable us to stop putting you to the test, so we can open our hypocritical hearts to your healing touch of compassion and hope. As Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, has given all for us, may we give ourselves to you — confidently, completely, faithfully.**

*Silence is kept*

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

One: Hear the good news: the One who created goodness and beauty is also the One who shows no partiality but offers grace and peace to all.

**Many: God has heard our prayers and done the very thing we asked — forgiven us, healed us, restored us. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

#### **Response**

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

NCH (black) #292

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew**

**That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.**

#### **Message For All Ages**

Jennifer Byam

*Children and youth are welcome to come forward during the message for all ages if they like.*

NCH (black) #325

**Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation, loved indeed!**

**Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.**

# HEARING THE WORD

## Scripture

Psalm 96

Matthew 22:15-22

One: Dear God, bless our reading of your word. May it give us comfort, strength, and guidance.

**All: Amen.**

## Message

“Is It Lawful?”

Rev. Rebecca Larson

## \*Hymn

O God of Earth and Altar

NCH (black) #582

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## Offertory

Wonder of Wonders

Mark Sedio

*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

**As we offer our gifts and lives in this moment, may we become imitators of you, Gracious God, who holds nothing back from us, but is generous and gracious with all that is yours. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

## 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** (*debts/debtors*)

**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.

## **SENDING**

**\*Hymn**                      In the Midst of New Dimensions                      NCH (black) #391

**\*Pastoral Benediction**

**\*Choral Benediction**                      The Lord is My Hope                      Aaron David Miller

**Postlude**                      Prelude in Classic Style                      Gordon Young, arr. by Lani Smith

The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us into the world where our true service begins.  
Feel free to let the music lead you out, or stay to listen, however the Spirit moves you.

Please join us downstairs after worship for refreshments and fellowship!  
Coffee Hour is sponsored by Finance and Buildings & Grounds Committees.

### **Keeping in Prayer:**

Prayers of healing for Beverly McClain, longtime friend of Eleanor Spencer

Prayers of healing for Bob Dion, friend of Alice O'Connor

Prayers and condolences for the family and friends of Jeff Foster, cousin of Diane Arsenault,  
who recently passed away

Prayers and condolences for the family and friends of William Broadrick,  
who recently passed away

Prayers for Paulette Brace's son, Shawn Cassington, for ongoing medical issues

Prayers for Claire Campbell, daughter of Diane Arsenault & Peter Pirnie,  
as she makes her way through the tumult of divorce

Prayers for Marissa and Seth, family members of Diane Arsenault & Peter Pirnie,  
 who have been chosen to adopt a baby  
 Prayers for Paul Santonelli  
 Prayers for Tony Amodeo, friend of the LaPrads, who is undergoing cancer treatments  
 Prayers for the family of Timothy Ward and for Timothy's spirit  
 Prayers for Sherry Weymouth Morison, who is recuperating from cancer surgery  
 Prayers of comfort and strength for Ruth & Dale Mosher  
 Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family, granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie  
 Prayers for Ellen who struggles with cancer, family member of Ruth & Dale Mosher  
 Prayers of healing for Sue Switaj  
 Prayers for Alice Avery  
 Prayers for our partner church in Zimbabwe, Masvingo UCCZ

*If you have a prayer request please write on the yellow card in the pews and place it in the offering tray,  
 or send an email to [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org).*

### **This Week and More at PCUCC**

Monday, October 23	10:00 am Book Group
Monday, October 23	4:30 pm Music Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 24	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, October 25	11:00 am Lectio Divina
Wednesday, October 25	7:00 pm Council Meeting
Thursday, October 26	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, October 26	1:00 pm Knitting group
Friday, October 27	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Sunday, October 29	Remembrance Sunday
Monday, November 6	10:00 am Book Group, in person
Monday, November 6	7:00 pm Book Group, via zoom

### **CHURCH LIFE**

**Remembrance Sunday:** On October 29 we will be holding vigil and praying for our friends and family members who have passed since last October. If you have a loved one that you would like to honor, please email the church office by October 24.

**Remembrance Sunday Coffee Hour:** On Sunday, October 29th, we invite everyone to a Coffee Hour that celebrates our memories. Many of us have a favorite dish that has been passed down and is often made when the family gets together. Grandma made this at Christmas! Or Grandpa always fixed this on St. Pat's Day! Maybe it was an aunt, a family friend, or a famous person -- like a First Lady. Bring a food/dish and we will label it with the name of the dish and the person who you remember.

**Book Group and Antiracism Taskforce** is reading How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi in November. Everyone is welcome to read the book and join the discussion either in person at 10 am or via zoom at 7 pm. Discussions will be held on Monday, Nov. 6 and Monday, Nov. 20. Contact Alison Thatcher for more information: Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com.

**Lectio Divina:** All are invited to gather Wednesday mornings from 11 a.m. to noon for a Bible study modeled on Lectio Divina, the sacred reading of scripture. We'll begin with the Gospel of Mark, the first gospel written, and read through it listening for God's Still Speaking voice. Please join us. Rebecca Larson will lead us.

**Sunday School** focuses on Bible lessons, outreach projects, and family activities. The children will learn how to use the gifts God gave them to positively impact their community. Volunteers are always welcome! Please contact Jennifer for more details at faithformation@uccplymouth.org.

### **FROM MISSION & OUTREACH**

**Our HOPE Fund and Little Food Pantry are always in need of your support!**

The HOPE Fund supports families at risk who need assistance paying for rent, electricity, and medications. Send your check to PCUCC and write HOPE Fund in the memo.

**Our Little Food Pantry** in front of the church is always in great need of being filled. You can put items right in the pantry or bring them to the church office.

### **FROM FINANCE**

**Support PCUCC with no cost to you!** Purchase a **Hannaford Gift Card** in the amount of \$100, \$250, or \$500 by contacting Linda LaPrad or Ann Thurston. For every card purchased from the Finance Committee, the church receives 5% with no additional cost to you.

**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 – Friday 9:00-2:00

If you have a family emergency and want to talk with a pastor, please call Rev. Ruth Martz at 603-630-7936 or you may call Eileen Torrey at 603-252-7513.

Alison Thatcher, Office Administrator	<a href="mailto:office@uccplymouth.org">office@uccplymouth.org</a>
David A. Williams, Director of Music	<a href="mailto:musicdirector@uccplymouth.org">musicdirector@uccplymouth.org</a>
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Ann Thurston, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org">treasurer@uccplymouth.org</a>

Guest Preacher: Rev. Rebecca Larson

Guest Musician: Margot W. Swift

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### Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in October in our Community

If you have a birthday or anniversary this month or next,  
please email to: [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org)

Paulette Brace	October 2	Donna Castor	October 17
Sarah Simpson	October 3	Steve Rand	October 17
Bob Curry	October 8	Dawn Shimberg	October 17
Susan Wei	October 8	Alice O'Connor	October 20
Dawn Marie Jackson	October 14	Michele Giggi-Howe	October 21
John Fallon	October 15	Carol Stewart	October 28
Larry Spencer	October 15		

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