

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Third Sunday of Easter:
Earth Day Sunday



April 23, 2023

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 be an Anti-Racism church

Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

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

GATHERING

Prelude I've Got Peace Like a River spiritual – arr. M. Swift
with
 There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place D. Akers

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! We have Sunday School between mid-September & mid-June. There are bags in the narthex which the kids may find to enjoy! You may contact office@uccplymouth.org to get more information about programming for any age.

Introit Our Hearts Burn Within Us Aaron David Miller

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship** Liturgist – Wayne Martin

One: In the beginning God brought forth light and created Heaven

All: The eternal light strengthens us; Heaven gives us hope.

One: God created the sun and the moon and set the seasons in motion

All: We strive to return the seasons to their sacred pattern.

One: God made the sea, air, and land teeming with wondrous creatures.

All: We are tasked with keeping Earth safe for all of God's children.

One: We are called to return Earth to its original pristine health, as clean as the waters with which we were baptized in Jesus's name.

All: We are created in God's nurturing image and called to be stewards of God's creation.

***Hymn** Child of Blessing, Child of Promise NCH (black) #325

***Passing of the Peace**

If you are at home, we invite you to send someone a note of peace today.

One: God be with you

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Unison Gathering Prayer

Eternal God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, we praise you this morning for your beautiful masterpiece. We are grateful for a home that meets all our needs when we care for it as we should. We rejoice in the kinship we share with the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the animals that walk this land with us. We strive to recognize the intrinsic value of all your children and cover the Earth with acts of compassion.

Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: God, too often our fear of scarcity sparks greed and hate within us. We take more than we need and become suspicious of our neighbors, the ones we are called to love and care for.

All: **Gracious Love, you remind us that solidarity and compassion create abundance for all. Every act of kindness and generosity brings us closer to your just and peaceable kingdom. We pray for the guidance of your Spirit as we sing:**

Response

Gathered Here

NCH (black) #742

Gathered here, in the mystery of this hour, gathered here in one strong body; gathered here in the struggle and the power, Spirit draw near.

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 116:1-4

Luke 24:13-35

One: Your word gives us strength and hope. We are reminded that Jesus walks with us every day and leads us to eternal joy. O Holy Spirit, we pray You move between words and hearing.

All: Amen.

Message

“On a Trail”

Rev. Holland

*Hymn

Now the Green Blade Rises

NCH (black) #238

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

Verily, Verily

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: Generous God, we give thanks for the gift of your creation. We understand that this great gift comes with great responsibility. And so, we reciprocate with gifts of our own: our money, time, effort, and love. May our offering this morning be used to spread your care and compassion to all beings, and to realize your kingdom of justice and peace.

SENDING

***Hymn** Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether NCH (black) #337

***Choral Benediction** The Lord Is My Hope

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude Ride on, King Jesus Shackley

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.

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers of comfort and strength for Ruth & Dale Mosher
Prayers for Matt, family member of Ruth Martz & Steve Majeski
Prayers for Megan Magrauth
Prayers for Carl, stepson of Ruth Sigvardson
Prayers of joy for Marlin Collingwood who has spent many years in our community
Prayers and condolences for the family and friends of Eldwin (Ed) Wixson,
who recently passed away
Prayers and condolences for the family and friends of former
Holderness police officer, Barry Tanner
Prayers for Frances Carey, friend of Alice O'Connor

Prayers for Lynn Cote, friend of Alice O'Connor, who is recovering from cancer surgery
 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 Polly Bartlett, who struggles with cancer

If you have a prayer request, you would like Rev. Holland to include in Sunday Worship, please write on the yellow card in the pews and place it in the offering tray, or send an email to plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org

This Week and More at PCUCC

Sunday, April 23	5:30 pm Sunday Niters hosted by Fran & Tink Taylor
Monday, April 24	10:00 am Book Group
Monday, April 24	6:30 pm Home Energy Workshop at Starr King UU
Tuesday, April 25	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, April 26	9:30 am Lectio Divina
Wednesday, April 26	11:30 am Staff Meeting
Thursday, April 27	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Thursday, April 27	5:00 pm Meals for Many
Thursday, April 27	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, April 28	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Saturday, May 6	7:30 pm Concert: NH Gay Men's Chorus
Thursday, May 11	6:00 pm A Discussion on Climate Issues with Bill McKibben
Sunday, May 21	2:00 Merrimack Association Spring Meeting

CHURCH LIFE

Sunday Niters will meet at the home of Tink & Fran Taylor at 1103 NH Rt 113 at 5:30 this evening. Bring something for a potluck. Later we'll have a 60's sing-along. For those new to the area, our home is 5.1 miles after turning onto Rt 113 in the center of Holderness. If the weather is nice you might like to take a walk before the gathering.

Free Home Energy Workshop: Grounded in the mission of Creation Justice, PCUCC is partnering with local organizations including Starr King UU and Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative to support NHsave's 1½ hour presentation about improving the energy efficiency of our homes. This is a great way to learn how to save money and save the environment.

Capital Campaign Update: The dedicatory plaques have been installed on the choir chairs in the sanctuary, parlor, and choir room. Thank you to all who contributed to this exciting initiative. We offer special thanks to Lisa Lovett and Bev Newton for their tireless leadership throughout the capital campaign.

Book Group will meet on April 24th to discuss Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby VanPelt. If you have questions, contact Peggy Martin: pmartin03223@yahoo.com

3rd Sundays – New Members! To live more fully into God’s call to be inclusive, every 3rd Sunday will be New Member Sunday. Whether people join or not, we will be ready to welcome folks every month. As people join, we will ask them faith-related questions including confirmation of their willingness to attend a simple class. We hope these efforts are fruitful – all are welcome to follow the gospel call!

FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

Mission & Outreach Spotlights The Common Man Ukraine Project. April’s Mission Focus is on Ukraine. We have allocated from our discretionary funds \$750 to the Common Man Ukraine Project. Their website notes: “With your help, the nonprofit Common Man for Ukraine has raised and delivered more than \$2.6 million in relief from 3,000 different donors.” You can check out all the good work this local Common Man Ukraine Project has done by visiting the website at commonmanforukraine.org.

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, heating, electricity, and medications. To give to the HOPE Fund, 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.

FROM FINANCE

Stewardship Time: It’s Stewardship time, a 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. Our next fiscal year, 2023-24, will take \$180,000 in pledges to continue supporting the mission and ministry of our congregation. As you review the information that was mailed this past week, we hope you’ll prayerfully ask God to help you discern your 2023-24 pledge. Please return your commitment by May 2nd to PCUCC Finance by US mail to PO Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264, email to treasurer@uccplymouth.org or place your pledge card in the collection plate. Because of YOU, our church changes lives.

Service Fundraiser Update: It’s not too late to participate in this fundraiser but there’s only 1 more week left. The full list will be posted in Fellowship Hall every Sunday and in a link in Constant Contact. Once you sign up for an item, you’ll receive instructions on scheduling the service at your convenience. THANK you for participating. Please note that some of the items listed have already sold out and are no longer available. Hurry to choose the service you want to purchase before it's too late.

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

Pastor’s Office Hours

Monday – Wednesday 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM or by appointment.

Rev. Holland keeps sabbath on Friday.

Email: plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org

Work Cell: 336-485-5618

Rev. Sammy Holland, Pastor	plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org
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Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org
Guest Musician: Margot W. Swift	
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Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in April in our Community

Wayne Martin	April 1	Sabrina Tedeschi	April 17
Sue Switaj	April 5	Michael Carrier	April 25

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

