

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

## Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Mental Health Sunday



September 25, 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. Please inquire to people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.*

# GATHERING

Prelude

Prelude on Penitentia

Austin C. Lovelace

## 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](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org). We are delighted to get to know you! Children will be invited down to Sunday School following the Message For All Ages. Feel free to gather toys, books, and children's bulletins, which can be found in the narthex, for your children to enjoy during their time in worship. You may contact [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org) to get more information about programming for any age.*

Introit

Lift your voice in praise

\*Those who are able may stand.

**\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist – Marlin Collingwood

One: We gather in the presence of the One who abandons no one.

**All: Come Holy Spirit, our advocate and comforter.**

One: All are welcome in this sacred place, made holy through your presence with us.

**All: Open our hearts and minds this day, guide us into a loving relationship with all your children.**

One: We gather as God's beloved people, leaving no one outside.

**All: Spark us with a word of life and radical belonging—a message that we share with others as we seek to live out Christ's love.**

One: We call on the name of God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us.

**All: Amen.**

*(Rev. Amy Petré Hill)*

**\*Hymn**

Fairest Lord Jesus

1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, rul - er of all na - ture,  
2. Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the wood - lands,  
3. Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light,  
4. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! Lord of all the na - tions!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Fairest Lord Jesus". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff, with four different versions of the hymn provided. The first version is "Fair - est Lord Je - sus, rul - er of all na - ture,". The second is "Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the wood - lands,". The third is "Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light,". The fourth is "Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! Lord of all the na - tions!".

O thou of God and man the Son, thee will I cher-ish,  
 robed in the bloom-ing garb of spring: Je-sus is fair-er,  
 and all the twink-ling star-ry host: Je-sus shines bright-er,  
 Son of God and Son of Man! Glo-ry and hon-or,

thee will I hon-or, thou, my soul's glo-ry, joy, and crown.  
 Je-sus is pur-er, who makes the woe-ful heart to sing.  
 Je-sus shines pur-er than all the an-gels heaven can boast.  
 praise, ad-o-ra-tion, now and for-ev-er-more be thine.

### **\*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**

All: Holy One, be with us in this sacred space. Stir your Spirit in and among us as we offer our prayers and praises. We long to hear more than the groaning of Creation around us, more than our own fearful groaning. From the places deep within us, that we mistakenly believe are hidden from you, may your Spirit intercede for us. Draw us into your presence. May we recognize you in ourselves and in our neighbors. Let us see you through all brokenness that we may find wholeness in being your body here and now. In the name of the One who fills the world with Hope.

Amen.

*(Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe, based on Romans 8)*

*Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection*

## God's Promise of New Life

One: Continue to watch over us. Don't allow us to destroy ourselves and our people with our brokenness. Bless us in mighty marvelous ways as we all work towards healing and wholeness.

**All: Lord anoint us for the days ahead and help us to radiate the love and light of Christ.** *(Bishop Allyson Abrams, PhD)*

**Response**                      Let Justice Flow like Streams                      NCH (black) #588

**So may God's plumbline, straight, define our measure true,  
And justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.**

## 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

**Readings**      "The Guest House" by Rumi      Psalm 91:1-6      John 13:31-35

One: Great Redeemer, may your glory reign in our reflections. We pray that the meditations of our hearts and minds be acceptable to you, for you are our rock. Move in the space between words and hearing that we will move with peace, prayer, and faith.

**All: Amen**

**Message**                      "Compassion for the Journey"                      Rev. Sara M. Holland

**\*Hymn**                      We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness                      NCH (black) #179

# 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**          Psalm: I Will Exalt You, O My Lord          Aaron David Miller

*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: To be a community that supports flourishing life for all people, we must create new ways of being together that honour and celebrate the neuro-diverse gifts that each of us bring. We must create new economies that do not attempt to quantify, judge or label what we bring into the community, but that gives thanks for generous hearts willing to share.**

*(Rev. Dr. Alydia Smith)*

# SENDING

**\*Hymn**                      Amazing Grace                      NCH (black) #547

**\*Pastoral Benediction**

**Choral Benediction**                      Go in Peace

**Postlude**                      Praise to the Lord, the Almighty                      arr. by Roger House

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

## Keeping in Prayer:

Condolences and prayers for Bekey Boyce,  
who lost her home and many pets in a fire  
Condolences and prayers for Megan Magrauth and family,  
whose father recently passed away  
Condolences and prayers for the family of Brian Hanson,  
who recently passed away  
Condolences and prayers for PSU students, faculty, and staff  
Condolences and prayers for Al Mather whose daughter-in-law,  
wife of his son Jeff, recently passed away  
Prayers for Jaime Armstrong, niece of Marlin Collingwood,  
who will be undergoing surgery for breast cancer  
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 Sage Pirnie and her family,  
granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie  
Prayers for Polly Bartlett, who struggles with cancer  
Prayers for Mae Larson, Rebecca Larson's mother-in-law  
Prayers for an end to gun violence, in the spirit of Isaiah 2:4  
Prayers for communities affected by war and for all immigrants  
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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)

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

Sept 26	10:00 Book Group
Sept 28	9:30 Lectio Divina
Sept 28	11:30 Staff Meeting
Sept 29	5:00 Meals for Many
Sept 29	7:00 Choir Rehearsal
Oct 2	World Communion Sunday & Neighbors in Need Offering
Oct 2	1:30 Merrimack Association Annual Meeting
Oct 2	4:30 Blessing of the Animals
Oct 5	6:15 Coffee House
Oct 9	Guest Preacher: Rev. Richard Slater
Oct 15	NH Conference UCC Annual Meeting
Oct 23	Ukama Sunday
Nov 6	New Member Sunday

**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. Please contact Jennifer Byam or Julie Kelsey for more information about Sunday School at [faithformation@uccplymouth.org](mailto: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. To give to the HOPE Fund, 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. \*There is a need for affordable housing. If you know of anything, please let Pastor Sara know\*

**Book Group:** The book group will meet on September 26<sup>th</sup> and will continue to meet every second and fourth Monday at 10:00am. The group is currently reading The One-In-A Million Boy by Monica Wood. Any questions please contact Peggy Martin at [pmartin03223@yahoo.com](mailto:pmartin03223@yahoo.com) or Kathy Henning at [henkat52@gmail.com](mailto:henkat52@gmail.com).

**Please continue to be aware of COVID-related concerns when on site. We 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 – Friday 9:00-2:00

**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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org) or on her work cell phone number at 336-485-5618 to set up a meeting.

Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor	<a href="mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org">plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org</a>
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>
Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist	<a href="mailto:organist@uccplymouth.org">organist@uccplymouth.org</a>
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	<a href="mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org">faithformation@uccplymouth.org</a>
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org">treasurer@uccplymouth.org</a>
<p>Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ          4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264          (603) 536-2626 - <a href="mailto:office@uccplymouth.org">office@uccplymouth.org</a> - <a href="http://www.uccplymouth.org">www.uccplymouth.org</a></p>	

**Celebrating Birthdays in September in our Community**

Judy Floyd	September 8 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Mason	October 1
Diane Arsenault	September 12 <sup>th</sup>	Paulette Brace	October 2
Philip Wei	September 16 <sup>th</sup>	John Fallon	October 5
Molly McCahan	September 20 <sup>th</sup>	Dawn Marie Jackson	October 14
Cameron Woodsum	September 20 <sup>th</sup>	Deborah Engelhardt	October 15
Caeleigh Stevens	September 24 <sup>th</sup>	Larry Spencer	October 15
Anna Switaj	September 25 <sup>th</sup>	Liam Kane	October 16
Andrew Hedberg	September 27 <sup>th</sup>	Donna Castor	October 17
Madelyn Kelsey	September 29 <sup>th</sup>	Alice O’Connor	October 20
		Amey Bailey	October 24
		Carol Stewart	October 28
		Chase Woodsum	October 30

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