

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

First Sunday of Lent: Abundant Grace



February 26, 2023

9:30 am, 5:30 pm

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 to people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.

Unison Gathering Prayer

Everchanging yet consistent God, your love envelopes us and so we give thanks today in our praise. Embarking on a Lenten journey, our hope is to find meaning in your path, once again. We hope to catch a glimpse of you this day and carry such vision to the world. You are the keeper of the least, the lost, those who have been betrayed. As we worship, let us be reminded that your covenant is for every person. Let us recall the ways you called to our faith ancestors and let us see this call as our own too. Grant that we may find the ways you join us in our struggle: let us know your presence is beside us, providing strength and resilience. Amen.

Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Source of Truth, let us know that as we reflect on your covenant and look inward, we are not alone. Let us know that in the wilderness, we walk alongside you and therefore, we may find courage.

All: Let us find peace even as we struggle in this Lenten season. May our bodies and minds be made aware, once again: There is nothing – nothing here, nothing anywhere else that will separate us from the love of God in Jesus. It is for this promise and Spirit that we sing.

Response Savior, When in Tears and Dust NCH (black) #185
Savior, when in tears and dust, low we bow to you in trust,
When repentant, to the skies scarce we lift our weeping eyes,
Mindful how you suffered pain that God's love in us might reign – Help us
claim what we would be, hear our solemn litany.

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

Matthew 4:1-11

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

One: Spirit of life, let us feel your presence and be comforted and challenged.
We pray that the meditations of our hearts and minds will be acceptable to you.
May your Spirit move between words and hearing.

All: Amen

Message

“What Does it Mean to Be Human?”

Larry Spencer

*Hymn

Forty Days and Forty Nights

PH (red) #148

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

The Holy Lamb of God

K. Lee Scott

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: Gracious God, we thank you for your power of redemption, for your spirit of transformation and for your persistence in love. We thank you, O God, for the saints of all ages; for those who in times of struggle keep faithful; for the souls who saw visions of larger truth and dared to declare it; for the multitude of quiet and gracious souls whose presence has purified and sanctified the world; and for those known and loved by us who have encouraged us to contribute. Take these humble gifts, God, and let them be multiplied. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn** Jesus, Keep Me near the Cross NCH (black) #197

***Choral Benediction** Open Your Doors of Mercy Mark Sedio

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude Wondrous Love arr. Michael Mauldin

The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us into the world where our true service begins. You may sit in the sanctuary during the postlude or you are welcome to begin exiting – either is absolutely okay.

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for Susan Wei, who is recovering from heart failure
Prayers for those affected by the disaster in Turkey & Syria
Continued prayers for Jaime Armstrong, niece of Marlin Collingwood,
who has made it through surgery and will soon undergo radiation
Prayers for Ruth Martz as she continues to recover
Prayers for Bill Broadrick and his spouse, Jane
Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family, granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie

Continued prayers for Eileen Torrey
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
Prayers for Mae Larson, Rebecca Larson's mother-in-law

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

Feb 26	During Coffee Hour: Lenten Anti-Racism Discussion
Feb 26	5:30 pm Sunday Evening Service
Feb 28	7:00 pm Lenten Anti-Racism Discussion via Zoom
Feb 28	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Feb 29	9:30 am Lectio Divina
Feb 29	11:30 am Staff Meeting
Feb 30	5:00 pm Meals for Many
Feb 30	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Feb 31	8:00 pm AA Meeting
March 2	1:00 pm Knitting Group
March 2	5:00 pm Peace Rally
March 6	10:00 Book Group

CHURCH LIFE

Lenten Anti-Racism Study: This Lenten season the PCUCC Anti-Racism Group invites you to join us in fasting from convenience and complacency and feasting on uncomfortable truths and difficult conversations. Every week during Lent a short video and related article will be posted in the weekly email. There will be an opportunity to discuss these resources during coffee hour on Sundays and via Zoom at 7:00 pm on Tuesdays, so you can join the conversation in whatever mode suits you. We hope to see you there, even if you can only make one meeting! For more information contact Alison Thatcher: Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com.

Capital Campaign Update: The dedicatory plaques have been installed on the choir chairs in the sanctuary, parlor, and choir room. Thank you for 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.

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!

Sunday Evening Services: Pastor Holland has launched a Sunday evening service. This service will take place on the lower level at 5:30 pm each week until mid-June (reconvening in September). It will be casual and use some components of the Sunday morning service but be a different setting and atmosphere and will include a substantial snack/light meal. Come one and all – let’s worship together!

Book Group will meet on March 6th and 20th to discuss The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles. If you have questions, contact Peggy Martin: pmartin03223@yahoo.com

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, heating, electricity, and medications. Right now, with rising fuel, electricity, and rent prices, the need is greater than ever. 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 Rev. Holland. 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. Our Little Food Pantry serves many people in need in our community.

FROM FINANCE

Service Exchange Fundraiser to begin March 1. After collecting service items that have been submitted over the past 3 weeks, the much sought after list will FINALLY be posted in Constant Contact on Friday and Fellowship Hall every Sunday starting next week. All you need to do is write your name and contact information next to the item listed in Fellowship Hall, and you will receive instructions on how to collect the service. There are so many awesome items offered – a pony ride; delicious pies, bars, cookies, and bread; handmade artisan crafts and even home cooked dinners for 2 either at the volunteer’s home or delivered straight to your door. These are just a sample of the service items available. A link to the full list will be posted on Constant Contact and in Fellowship Hall weekly. What you’d like to see isn’t on the list, you say? No problem. Just fill out a form next to the posting in Fellowship Hall requesting the service you want and we’ll look for a volunteer to provide that service, Fill out the form below and leave in the collection plate or give to Peggy Martin, Eleanor Spencer, Kathy Henning or Linda LaPrad. We’re also happy to answer any questions or help you fill out a form. THANK you for participating.

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. Holland, Pastor	plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org
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<p>Guest Speaker: Larry Spencer</p> <p>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</p>	

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in February in our Community

Janet Taylor	February 2	Maris Thatcher-Forgues	February 11
Ken Howe	February 11	Beverly Tedeschi	February 26
Chris Pollock	February 11	Robert Pollock Jr.	February 28

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

