

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost:
Reign of Christ Sunday



November 26, 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

Deep River

Spiritual, trans. Bernard Wagness

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.

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

Introit

Blessed Is the One

Carl F. Schalk

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist – Bill Heron

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord! Worship with gladness and singing!

Many: God is Creator, Sustainer, Keeper, and Shepherd. Bless God's name.

One: Enjoy the presence of God! Give thanks and praise!

Many: God is Sovereign and Holy. Bless God's name.

One: Know that God reigns! God's kingdom comes!

Many: God is Healer, Redeemer, Restorer, and Friend. Bless God's name!

***Hymn**

Jesus Shall Reign

NCH (black) #300

***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

Bountiful God, who gathers your church and feeds it through word and sacrament, fill us, we pray, with the joy of your presence. Turn us from

lessons of war to lessons of peace. Turn us from a craving for the things of this world to a hunger for that which satisfies forever. We pray, loving God, that as you have ushered in this Lord's Day so you will usher in that day of your holy realm of peace. Help us to live so that our lives are signs, however small, of its coming. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Moment of Confession including Silence for Personal Reflection

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Sovereign God, transform us in your image. Your reign is just and righteous. We go our own way and live according to our own will. Make us ambassadors of your kingdom. Let us represent you through words and actions. May we release our need for anything that creates a barrier to loving you and our neighbor. May we know and bear witness that we are all neighbors. Amen.

God's Promise of New Life

One: Beloved, you are loved unconditionally by the Everlasting One. The kingdom is yours to embrace and enter with full citizenship. Know that every move toward God transforms you. Every confession of God's sovereignty fortifies. Every moment in the presence of God restores you.

Many: Amen.

Response

Spirit of the Living God

NCH (black) #283

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.**

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

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

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

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

All: Amen.

Message

“The Kindom Surprise”

Rev. Rebecca Larson

*Hymn

All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name

NCH (black) #304

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory

We Praise Thee, O God

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.**

*Unison Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, thank you for the gifts we have and the blessing of sharing. Use our gifts for your glory and to meet the needs and hopes of your kindom. Amen.

Prayers of the People

You will also be invited to offer your personal prayers from the silence of your heart.

Pastor: O God, in your grace and mercy . . .

Response: Hear your people at prayer.

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** Standing at the Future's Threshold NCH (black) #538

***Pastoral Benediction**

Choral Benediction God of Love John Helgen

Postlude Blessed Assurance Phoebe Palmer Knapp, arr. Jeff Benett

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 today is sponsored by Finance and Buildings & Grounds Committees

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers and condolences for the friends and family of Alice Avery, who recently passed away

Prayers for the Deaf Community of Maine,

which lost four members in the Lewiston shooting

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

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

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

Prayers for Claire Pirnie, daughter of Diane Arsenault and Peter Pirnie and her son Micah as she continues through the process of divorce

Prayers for Tony Amodeo, friend of the LaPrads, who is undergoing cancer treatments

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 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.

This Week and More at PCUCC

Today, November 26	Intergenerational Sanctuary Decorating after Worship
Monday, November 27	4:30 pm Music Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 28	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, November 29	11:00 am Lectio Divina
Thursday, November 30	1:00 pm Knitting group
Thursday, November 30	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, December 1	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Sunday, December 3	"Let's Talk" following Fellowship Hour
Monday, December 4	10:00 am Book Group
Sunday, December 10	Advent Workshop after Worship
Wednesday, December 13	7:00 pm Council Meeting

CHURCH LIFE

Help us decorate for Christmas today! Please join us after worship today to decorate the sanctuary balcony and windows and put our Christmas tree up in the narthex. There will be pizza for lunch as well!

Let's Talk: Please join us for our third discussion session held in the chapel after fellowship hour. Rev. Ruth Martz will facilitate.

Star Child Christmas Giving Program: Once again, this year you can help children and youth in need through our Star Child program. Choose a gold star from the Christmas tree in the Narthex and on it find the sex, age, and sizes of a child in need of warm winter clothing. Then use the star as the gift tag for your gift. To be fair to all please value your gift at approximately \$50. We are also collecting cash donations to supply high school youth a gift card. We know that the gift cards and clothing make a real difference in their lives and make their Christmas a little brighter.

Book Group is reading *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston during the month of December. Join the discussion on Monday December 4 and 18 at 10am. Contact Kathy Henning for more information: henkat52@gmail.com.

Advent Workshop: Join us for some Advent fellowship and crafts for all ages after worship on Sunday, December 10! There will be cookie-decorating and many crafts available.

Please contribute to our November Food Drive to replenish our indoor and outdoor Food Pantries. Please place non-perishable food—cans/package items-- in the baskets by the altar. Let us share resources with great thanksgiving to God for the blessings in our lives! Warmest thanks from the M & O Committee.

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 is very much depleted and needs your help!

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	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
Guest Preacher: Rev. Rebecca Larson	
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 and Anniversaries in November in our Community

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

Ivan Bass	November 1	Marian Sawicki	November 28
Leif Magrauth	November 2	Ruth Martz	November 29
Michael Conklin	November 11	Ann Thurston	November 29
Georgene Fabian	November 18	Jane Merrithew	November 30
Cameron Brand	November 21		

Hanna and Peter Starck's wedding anniversary – November 13
Margot W. and Robert Swift's wedding anniversary – November 24

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