

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



January 28, 2024

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 to people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.

GATHERING

Prelude

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

The People Who Sat in Darkness

John Ferguson

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship** *Based on Psalm 111*

Liturgist – Bill Heron

One: Praise God! Let us give thanks to God with our whole heart.

All: Great are the works of God – full of honor and majesty. God’s righteousness endures forever.

One: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

All: The works of God’s hands are faithful and just. May God’s praise endure forever!

*Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

NCH (black) #160

*Passing of the Peace

People are invited to greet one another with expressions of Christ’s peace “Peace be with you!” and responding, “And also with you.” Bows, “bumps,” peace signs or a hand over the heart all work!

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Unison Gathering Prayer *From the Presbyterian Church of Canada*

God of life, we rejoice in your love which has filled creation from the beginning and which calls all life into being. We praise you for Jesus Christ who reveals most fully your loving purpose for all people. We bless you for your Spirit who draws all humanity into the circle of your tender

love. Gracious God, bless us with your presence so that our worship and our lives may be a true celebration of your love in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Word for All Ages “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

Response You Are the Seed 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

Mark 1:14-28 *In calling, teaching, and cleansing, Jesus speaks with authority.*

One: May God bless to our understanding these words of Holy Scripture.

All: Amen

Message “Not Without Peril” Rev. Campbell Lovett

***Hymn** We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness NCH (black) #179
verses 1 and 3

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory O How Beautiful the Sky Danish Folk Melody

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 Prayer of Thanksgiving** *by Jerry W. Paul*

God, we present these offerings that they may be used to extend your liberating reign. With them, we offer our varied ministries in the days ahead, that each of us may be part of your answer to the cries of the world. 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

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** Sent Forth by God's Blessing NCH (black) #76

***Choral Benediction** Alleluia John Ferguson

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude

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 coffee, food, and fellowship.
Coffee Hour today is hosted by Finance and Building & Grounds Committees.

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for Hanna and Peter Starck

Prayers for Bill Torrey as he recovers from a fall

Prayers for Alice Carey, friend of Alice O'Connor, who will be undergoing radiation therapy

Prayers for Kristin, friend of Alice O'Connor, who has recently been diagnosed with cancer

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

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, January 28	“Let’s Talk” following coffee hour
Monday, January 29	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Tuesday, January 30	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, January 31	11:00 am Lectio Divina
Thursday, February 1	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, February 2	6:00 pm Coffee House: Faith Communities and Racial Justice with Rev. Renee Rouse
Friday, February 2	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Friday, February 5	10:00 am Book Group
Saturday, February 24	Prepared to Serve Event Register Now!

CHURCH LIFE

Let’s Talk Gathering: All are welcome! Today, January 28, following Coffee Hour, in the Chapel. We will continue some one-on-one conversations along with group sharing, in response to such questions as:

- How are you feeling about the past 4 months at church? How are things going?
- What ministry or aspect of our church life needs support or a new direction?
- Which activities (on poster board in chapel) are you willing to attend or help organize?

Please join us, especially if it is for the first time!

Coffee House, February 2: Join us in the fellowship hall at 6pm for an interactive and informative talk with Renee Rouse about why faith communities should care about racial justice and what we can do. Bring a snack to share if you can, or just bring yourself and a friend!

Preaching Schedule:

January 28 – Rev. Campbell Lovett

February 4 – Rev. Ruth Martz

February 11 – Alison Thatcher

February 18 – Larry Spencer

February 25 – Rev. Ruth Martz

Book Group is reading Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus in February. Join the discussion on February 5 and 19 at 10am in the parlor. Contact Kathy Henning for more information: henkat52@gmail.com.

Prepared to Serve: Saturday, February 24, 8am to 4pm. This day of workshops and panel discussions for all UCC Congregations will be held at Pembroke Academy, 209 Academy Rd in Pembroke, NH. Register online and view the amazing workshop schedule at www.nhcucc.org (Under “Caring for Congregations,” Prepared to Serve 2024). See more details in our weekly newsletter.

PRING PLANT SALE planned for May 5th: Calling all green thumbs! We're looking for donations of a variety of indoor and outdoor plants AND veggies plus pots to use for the sale. More information coming soon! Please reach out to Jenny Thibeault at ThibeaultJennyR@gmail.com or 603-254-7824 if you have any questions.

FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

Warmest thanks for your generous donations to our Christmas Star Program, the UCC Christmas Fund, and Habitat for Humanity.

- Star Program: 9 wrapped gifts and 4 gift cards for Head Start children; 19 gift cards for Plymouth High School students. Our Mission and Outreach Committee contributed \$250.
- UCC Christmas Fund: \$585
- Habitat for Humanity (local and national): \$1,133

You have helped to make a big difference in people’s lives. Thank you!

Please sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall to bring a hot lunch to the 6-10 workers at the Habitat for Humanity House on Pleasant St. in Plymouth. So far, Holderness students signed up for Saturdays in January, and Ruth Martz brought chili on January 12. These young men, along with Dale Mosher, REALLY appreciate these lunches (and they love second helpings)! Suggestions: pasta, chili, chicken pot pie, stews, soups. Additions such as bread/muffins/fruit/ dessert are optional. Some paper goods and plastic ware are on site, but please check in with Ruth for details: ruthm.joy@gmail.com/603-630-7936

January and February Mission Focus: Masvingo congregation, Zimbabwe

The Mission and Outreach Committee invites everyone to join us in writing cards, drawing/painting pictures, and gathering photos that our congregation will send to the good people of our partner church in Masvingo, Zimbabwe. Deadline: Sunday, February 25. Children, youth and adults are also encouraged to sign up for a personal pen pal. Please let Ruth Martz know or sign up on the sheet next to the collection box. THANK YOU!

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@ucplymouth.org
David A. Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@ucplymouth.org
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@ucplymouth.org
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@ucplymouth.org

Guest Preacher: Rev. Campbell Lovett

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(603) 536-2626 - office@ucplymouth.org - www.ucplymouth.org

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in January and February in our Community

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

Rohan Magrauth	January 1	Janet Taylor	February 2
Hanna Starack	January 15	Ken Howe	February 11
Ashley Rose	January 16	Chris Pollock	February 11
Butch Castor	January 18	Maris Thatcher-Forgues	February 11
Steve Majeski	January 22	Beverly Tedeschi	February 26
Sophie Kelsey	January 26	Robert Pollock Jr.	February 28
Peggy Martin	January 27		

