

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Third Sunday in Lent



March 3, 2024

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

Berceuse (Op. 68, No. 5)

Edvard Grieg

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.

On Communion Sunday the children begin downstairs in Sunday School and come up for Communion.

Introit

May God Bestow on Us His Grace

Mark Bender

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship** by Stephen Garnaas-Holmes

Liturgist – Carol Stewart

One: We stand in the temple of the universe, the holy place where God dwells.

All: We worship in awe and gratitude.

One: We gather in the temple of the Body of Christ, where God is lovingly present for us.

All: We worship in love and peace.

One: Our own bodies are temples of God, where the Spirit works miracles.

All: We worship in humility, with open hearts.

Grant us forgiveness and life, and receive our gifts.

***Hymn**

God of Grace and God of Glory

NCH(black) #436

Passing of the Peace

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

***Unison Gathering Prayer** by Stephen Garnaas-Holmes

Holy One, we come into your presence to offer that most precious of gifts to you: our open, listening hearts. We lay aside our pride and certainty, and come humbly seeking your grace. Speak to us and let your Word transform us into your offering for the sake of your will for the blessing of all people, for healing and justice, for the completion of Creation. Amen.

Prayer of Confession *by Stephen Garnaas-Holmes*

One: Trusting in God's tender mercy, let us confess our sin to God with one another.

All: God of love, we confess our need for your grace.

In the temple of our hearts,

receive our gifts,

forgive our sin, and set us free.

We offer up to you all in us that you would transform by your grace.

Sung Response What Wondrous Love Is This NCH(black) #223

What wondrous love is this, O my soul! O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this! That Christ should come in bliss

to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,

to bear the heavy cross for my soul!

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Exodus 20:1-17 John 2:13-22

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

All: Amen

Message Marcia Morris

***Hymn** As We Gather at Your Table NCH(black) #332

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Holy Communion Rev. Michael Carrier

Invitation and Welcome to the Table

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Prayer of Consecration and Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup (By Intinction)

This morning Communion will be by Intinction, which simply means “dipping in.” Please come forward in a single line down the center aisle and receive the elements then return to your seat by the side aisles.

**The bread is gluten free and nut free: the grape juice is non-alcoholic.*

Communion Music

***Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving** *by Stephen Garnaas-Holmes*

Gracious God, we thank you for the mystery that you give yourself to us. You have not given us worldly riches or power; you have given us your priceless love and your mighty grace. Send us into the world as your humble, confident servants, for the sake of the good news of your Realm of grace, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Offertory Anthem Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart Mark Bender
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 Dedication** *by Stephen Garnaas-Holmes*

Pour out your Spirit on us, that we may be for the world the Body of Christ, transformed by your grace and forgiveness.

May our love be our sacrifice.

**May our offering be our service for healing and justice,
that we may bring your love to all Creation in the name of Christ.**

Prayers of the People

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** Part in Peace NCH(black) #78

***Pastoral Benediction**

Choral Benediction Lord of Our Life Henry V. Gerike

Postlude When Morning Gilds the Skies Arr. Bergquist

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.

Many thanks to Marcia Morris, the coordinator for the Caring Campus Coalition at Plymouth State University, for joining us today and sharing her work!

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for Carol Hahn's cousin Linda

Prayers for Edie Doherty

Prayers for the family and friends of William Yeats, close friend of Rob and Carol Stewart, who left this life on February 18th, 2024. Bill was the Music Director of Swarthmore Presbyterian Church for over 40 years.

Prayers for Georgene Fabian as she recovers from a fall

Prayers for the people of Ukraine

Prayers for Eleanor Spencer's brother, Ron Ury

Prayers for Rebecca Herr

Prayers for Ruth Mosher as she awaits a kidney transplant

Prayers for Hanna and Peter Starck

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 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, March 3	11:30 am Potluck and Presentation from the Immigrant & Refugee Support Group
Monday, March 4	10:00 am Book Group
Tuesday, March 5	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, March 6	11:00 am Lectio Divina (Lenten Book Study)
Thursday, March 7	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, March 8	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Sunday, March 10	Coffee Hour Board Games! Following worship
Monday, March 11	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Sunday, April 7	Speaker: Rev. Gordon Rankin, following worship

CHURCH LIFE

Preaching Schedule:

March 3	Marcia Morris & Rev. Michael Carrier	March 28 (Maundy Thursday)	Rev. Ruth Martz
March 10	Alison Thatcher	March 31 (Easter)	Rev. Ruth Martz
March 17	Rev. Ruth Martz	April 7	Rev. Gordon Rankin
March 24	Rev. Rebecca Larson		(NHCUCC Minister)

Potluck and Presentation from the Immigrant & Refugee Support Group Today:
 Please bring a dish to share and join us for a presentation by members from the IRSG of the NH Conference UCC. They will tell us about how they help folks here in New Hampshire and we can help their efforts.

Coffee Hour and Board Games, Sunday, March 10 Faith Formation is hosting a coffee hour and board game event during coffee hour on Sunday March 10th. During the next few weeks, please sign up to bring a board game for March 10th. We hope this will be a fun-filled intergenerational event. Please join us!

Lenten Book Study Wednesdays at 11am: The Wednesday Morning Bible study group will be reading “The Last Week: What the gospels Really Teach About Jesus’s Final Days in Jerusalem” by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. We’ll read a chapter a week during Lent beginning Feb. 14th. All are welcome to join in, or you might consider reading this book as your own Lenten devotional.

Book Group is reading The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel by Kati Marton. Join the discussion on March 4 and March 18 at 10am in the parlor. Contact Kathy Henning for more information: henkat52@gmail.com.

Join us on April 7th when the Rev. Gordon Rankin, our NH Conference Minister, will be with us to lead the service and facilitate a congregational discussion about its role in selecting an interim pastor to move us forward to finding a settled pastor.

Parish Care Team: Plans are underway to form a Parish Care Team to provide basic visitation and caring contact services for members of our church family. Please assist by contacting us if you would be willing to visit, provide phone contact or write caring notes on behalf of our congregation. We would also welcome suggestions of individuals who might appreciate a visit, a call or contact from Parish Care Team members. An initial meeting of the Parish Care Team will be scheduled in the coming month. Please volunteer or offer names of those who would appreciate contact to Lynn Morrison: 603-536-5950 call or text; llynnraej@protonmail.com, Ruth Martz: 603-630-7936; ruthm.joy@gmail.com, or the church office.

Get your solar eclipse glasses: The total solar eclipse will be visible from NH on Monday, April 8. See Sally Jensen to get a pair of solar eclipse glasses.

Spring Plant Sale Upcoming in May: 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.

UCC New Hampshire Women! Please save the date of Sat. April 20, when our church will serve as host for the NHCUCC Women's Fellowship Spring Meeting. Ruth Martz will lead Opening Worship, Becky Field will be the morning speaker about NH Immigrants, our Kitchen Team will generously provide abundant food (breakfast/lunch)—and the afternoon program is still in the works. Stay tuned for more details and registration. If anyone is willing to serve as greeter at 9:30 a.m., read Scripture and/or help with Communion, please contact Ruth.

FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

Habitat Lunch Update: 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 at 61 Pleasant St. in Plymouth. These workers, along with Dale Mosher, REALLY appreciate the home-made food! Warmest thanks to the church members who have brought lunches. Suggestions: pasta, chili, chicken pot pie, stews, soups. Additions such as bread/fruit/ dessert are optional. Some paper goods and plastic ware are on site; please check in with Ruth for details: ruthm.joy@gmail.com or 603-630-7936.

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

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Officiating: Rev. Michael Carrier

Speaking: Marcia Morris

Guest Accompanist: Margot W. Swift

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

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Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in March in our Community

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

Jean Swindell March 8

Julie Kelsey March 30

Caleb Sweedler March 26

Megan Magrauth March 30

