

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

## Fourth Sunday in Easter: Divine Abundance



**April 30, 2023**

**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 with people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.*

# GATHERING

**Prelude** I've Been in the Storm So Long African American Spiritual arr. David Kidwell

## 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! We have Sunday School between mid-September & mid-June. There are bags in the narthex which the kids may find to enjoy! You may contact [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org) to get more information about programming for any age.*

**Introit** I Am the Good Shepherd Aaron David Miller

\*Those who are able may stand.

**\*Call to Worship** based on Psalm 23 Liturgist – Steve Majeski

One: We who believe in freedom cannot rest. The Lord is my shepherd, let there be rest in our faithful work for justice.

**All: We come together in song, prayer, and scripture; we seek Your green pastures.**

One: We who believe in freedom cannot rest. You have led us beside still waters during chaos; because You have restored our souls, we seek to restore Your world.

**All: Indeed, we walk through valleys and shadows; we aim to fear no evil.**

One: We who believe in freedom cannot rest. We have been anointed with oil of love and peace, let us share this in community for this hour and throughout our lives.

**All: We do believe in freedom; we seek freedom in Christ's love and care.**

**\*Hymn** Standing on the Promises UMH #374

1. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ my King,  
2. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es that can - not fail,  
3. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ the Lord,  
4. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es I can - not fall,  
through e - ter - nal a - ges let his prais - es ring;  
when the howl - ing storms of doubt and fear as - sail,  
bound to him e - ter - nal - ly by love's strong cord,  
lis - tening ev - ery mo - ment to the Spir - it's call,

glo - ry in the high - est, I will shout and sing,  
 by the liv - ing Word of God I shall pre - vail,  
 o - ver - com - ing dai - ly with the Spir - it's sword,  
 rest - ing in my Sav - ior as my all in all,

stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.  
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.  
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.  
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.

*Refrain*

Stand - ing, stand - ing,  
 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God my Sav - ior;

stand - ing, stand - ing,  
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

I'm stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.

## **\*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**

**We arise today through the strength of heaven: light of sun, radiance of moon, splendor of fire, speed of lightning. We dwell in wonder and awe of Your creation God; hold and compel us in this hour. We celebrate Your creation, God. The swiftness of wind, depth of sea, stability of earth, and the firmness of rock. We dwell in wonder and awe of Your creation God; hold and compel us in this hour. We arise today through Your piloting strength, God; let us know that we are not alone in our journey. We dwell in wonder and awe of Your creation God; hold and compel us in this hour, Holy One. Amen.**

## ***Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection***

### **God's Promise of New Life**

One: Spirit of resurrection, we seek Your peace this morning and pray we will be moved. Acknowledging new beginnings, let us offer healing to the world as we ourselves are healed.

**All: In coming before God, our Shepherd, we find ourselves as beloved even when we wander. We call out the good news, for Christ has risen indeed. 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**

Gathered Here

NCH (black) #742

**Gathered here, in the mystery of this hour, gathered here in one strong body; gathered here in the struggle and the power, Spirit draw near.**

### **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** John 10: 1 – 10

Adaptations from gospel (R. Benson's *Venite*, page 223)

One: Here ends the readings from our tradition. May the Holy Spirit join us on this Eastertide journey. Let us find wisdom for today in these ancient words. O Holy Spirit, we pray that your grace would move between words and hearing.

**All: Amen.**

**Message**

“Abundantly”

Rev. Holland

**\*Hymn**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian  
*Verses 2-4*

PH (red) #353

## **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.



### **Keeping in Prayer:**

Prayers for Sherry Weymouth Morison, who is recuperating from cancer surgery  
Prayers for Martha Richards, friend of Alice O'Connor  
Prayers of comfort and strength for Ruth & Dale Mosher  
Prayers for Matt, family member of Ruth Martz & Steve Majeski  
Prayers for Megan Magrauth  
Prayers for Carl, stepson of Ruth Sigvardson  
Prayers of joy for Marlin Collingwood who has spent many years in our community  
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 Alice Avery  
Prayers for Polly Bartlett, who struggles with cancer

*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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)*

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

Tuesday, May 2	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, May 3	9:30 am Lectio Divina
Wednesday, May 3	11:30 am Staff Meeting
Thursday, May 4	5:00 pm Meals for Many
Thursday, May 4	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, May 5	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Saturday, May 6	7:30 pm Concert: NH Gay Men's Chorus
Monday, May 8	10:00 am Book Group
Thursday, May 11	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Thursday, May 11	6:00 pm A Discussion on Climate Issues with Bill McKibben
Sunday, May 21	2:00 pm Merrimack Association Spring Meeting

### **CHURCH LIFE**

**Please take your Herb Waters artwork home today.** Thank you to all who lent your prints that have been beautifying our sanctuary. Our next exhibit will be the photographs of Becky Field whose work celebrates people from other countries and cultures who have resettled in New Hampshire.

**Attention Committee Chairs and Lay Leaders:** Annual Meeting is Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup> following morning worship. Annual Reports are due no later than May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Book Group** will meet on May 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss The Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner. If you have questions, contact Peggy Martin: [pmartin03223@yahoo.com](mailto:pmartin03223@yahoo.com)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays – New Members!** To live more fully into God's call to be inclusive, every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!

### **FROM FINANCE**

**Stewardship Time:** It's Stewardship time, a time to reflect on all we've accomplished this past year, and a time to look at the financial support needed to keep the flexibility, creativity, and faithfulness alive and thriving. Our next fiscal year, 2023-24, will take \$180,000 in pledges to continue supporting the mission and ministry of our congregation. As you review the information that was mailed this past week, we hope you'll prayerfully ask God to help you discern your 2023-24 pledge. Please return your commitment by May 2nd to PCUCC Finance by US mail to PO Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264, email to [treasurer@uccplymouth.org](mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org) or place your pledge card in the collection plate. Because of YOU, our church changes lives.

**Service Fundraiser Update:** This is the last Sunday to purchase a service from this fun fundraiser. Be sure to COME ON DOWN to Fellowship Hall Sunday morning after the service or click on the Constant Contact link for a listing of available services. Please contact Linda LaPrad, Kathy Henning, Peggy Martin, or Eleanor Spencer and let them know what service you are interested in. Once you sign up for an item, you'll receive instructions on scheduling the service at your convenience. 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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)

Work Cell: 336-485-5618

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**Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in May in our Community**

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

James Preston	May 1	Robbin Adams	May 20
Alison Thatcher	May 8	Tessa Nicole Kelsey	May 22
Troy Tedeschi	May 9	Elizabeth Fallon	May 23
Eric Kelsey	May 12	Jenny Thibeault	May 23
Micaela Brand	May 13	Paul Brand	May 29

