

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

## Earth Day Sunday



April 24, 2022

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 become a racial justice church

Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

*We request that you are respectful when making decisions about masking; for example, **mask while singing and when you are near small children.** If you have a tickle in your throat or you feel a bit under the weather, please wear a mask. Please inquire to people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.*

# GATHERING

## Prelude

## Welcome & Announcements

*Please, if you are new to our community and want to be more involved, leave your email address or address on an attendance pad or on our sign in sheet in the narthex / entrance of the building. You may also email us at office@uccplymouth.org. We are delighted to get to know you! On 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays we have Church School. You may contact faithformation@uccplymouth.org to get more information about programming for children and families.*

## Introit

Aaron David Miller

Blessed are those who have not seen yet have come to believe. Alleluia

\*Those who are able may stand.

### \*The Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

Liturgist – Stephen Majeski

One: All creation sings a song of praise!

**People: The birds chirp gladness,**

One: The daffodils dance joy,

**People: All creation praises God!**

One: The lakes sparkle,

**People: Fish leap,**

One All creation joins in praise!

**People: The mountains clap their hands,**

One: The trees wave,

**All: God's choir is singing:**

**“Christ is risen, thanks be to God!”**

**\*Hymn:**

**“O How Glorious, Full of Wonder”**

NCH (black) #558

1 O how glo-rious, full of won-der is your name o'er all the earth,  
2 When we see your lights of heav-en, moon and stars, your power dis-played,  
3 You have set us in com-mu-nion with the won-ders of your hand,  
4 O how won-drous, O how glo-rious is your name in ev-ery land,

God, who wrought cre-a-tion's splen-dor, bring-ing suns and stars to birth!  
Who are we that you should love us, crea-tures that your hand has made?  
Made us fly with ea-gle pin-ion, pil-grims o-ver sea and land.  
God, whose pur-pose shines be-fore us toward the goal that you have planned!

Rapt in rev-erence we a-dore you, mar-veling at your mys-tic ways.  
Born of earth, yet full of yearn-ing, mix-ture strange of good and ill,  
Soar-ing spire and ru-ined cit-y, these our hopes and fail-ures show.  
Yours the will our hearts are seek-ing, con-sci-ous of our hu-man need.

Hum-bly now we bow be-fore you, lift-ing up our hearts in praise.  
From your ways so of-ten turn-ing, yet your love does seek us still.  
Teach us more of hu-man pit-y, that we in your im-age grow.  
Spir-it in our spir-it speak-ing, make us yours, O God, in-deed.

**Passing of the Peace**

*We invite you to text or email someone a note of peace today. A hand-written note will work too!*

**Leader:** God be with you

**All:** And also with you.

**Leader:** Lift up your hearts

**All:** We lift them up to the Lord.

## **Unison Gathering Prayer**

**O God, on this second Sunday of Easter,  
we gather together to celebrate the Risen Christ  
and the gift of resurrection in our lives.**

**We come in celebration of Earth Day, to give thanks  
for the crocus and warmth of spring,  
for the beauty and abundance of your creation.**

**Today, we renew our commitment to live out our faith  
by caring for the precious resources of this earth,  
so that all creation may come to know  
the joy of restoration and resurrection. Amen**

## *Silence for Personal Reflection*

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

One: *The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers,  
the heavens languish together with the earth.  
The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants;  
for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes,  
broken the everlasting covenant. (Isaiah 24:4-5)*

**ALL: God, as creatures privileged with the care and keeping of your  
creation, we confess that we have abused your gifts through  
arrogance, ignorance, and greed.**

One: Our abuse of creation has also been an abuse of ourselves,  
of all life that depends on healthy water, air and soil.

**ALL: God, you are the God of forgiveness and new beginnings.  
We proclaim our call as disciples of the risen Christ  
to restore, renew, and refresh this Earth with all its creatures.**

*(Silence). Amen.*

Scripture Readings

Psalm 104: selected verses

Luke 12:22-31

One: The Word of God for the people of God. May we hear the One who is still speaking to us through the glory of creation and all beings.

Message “Consider the Ravens, the Lilies, and the Geese” Rev. Ruth Martz

\*Hymn

“We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky”

NCH (black) #563

1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers  
 2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for  
 3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -

grow - ing, for we are part of all that is with -  
 morn - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and  
 a - ting a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's

in life's riv - er flow - ing. With o - pen hands re -  
 war - horns sound their warn - ing, God calls hu - man - i -  
 good - ness cel - e - brat - ing. That new world beck - ons

ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that  
 ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that  
 from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that

# 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 Anthem**                    “Rejoice in the lord always”                    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.**

**\*Offertory Prayer**

One: Thank you for the things of the earth that give us means of life:  
animals, plants and herbs that we use for food and medicine.

**ALL: Thank you for the natural world,  
in which we find the means to be clothed and housed.**

One: Thank you, O God, for these gifts of nature that make life abundant.

**ALL: Help us to find our place among these gifts,  
that we may embody humility and reverence.**

One: May we respect the life of all you have made.

**ALL: May we partner with others in ways that bring new life  
to this precious planet and to all who are struggling to live. Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*Hymn**                    “Now The Green Blade Rises”                    NCH (black) #238

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Now The Green Blade Rises". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. Below the treble staff is a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written between the two staves. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the next four lines. The lyrics are: 1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain; 2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain, 3 Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain, 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain, Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain; Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain, Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain, Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain.

Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:  
 Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:  
 Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:  
 Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

*Refrain*  
 Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

**\*Pastoral Benediction**

**Postlude**

The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us into the world where our true service begins.



*The “lily of the field” in Jesus’ day has traditionally been identified as the fiery red Crown Anemone (kalanit, in Hebrew). Crown Anemones bloom in several colors.*

### Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for the people of Ukraine  
Condolences and prayers for family members and friends Fran Lewis  
Prayers for healing for Valerie, a dear friend of Sally Jensen  
Prayers for Alice Avery  
Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family, granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie  
Prayers for Healing for Brian Paine  
Prayers & Healing for Ruth Munroe and her son Andrew  
Mae Larson, Rebecca Larson's mother-in-law  
Annie Rice, Bev Tedeschi's mother  
Prayers for the Masvingo UCCZ, our partner church in Zimbabwe  
Prayers for Rev. Sam Lovett

If you have a prayer request, you would like Rev. Sara to include in Sunday Worship,  
please email her at [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)

### This Week and More at PCUCC

April 25 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	Music Committee
April 27 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	Church Council
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 AM	Stewardship Sunday
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:30 AM	Rev. Renee' Rouse pulpit exchange with Rev. Holland Merrimack Association meeting
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 PM	Church 'Spiffy' Day
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	10:45 AM	Special musical offering by TJ Wheeler
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	afternoon	Merrimack Association confirmation ritual

**SIGN UP TO SERVE AS USHER OR LITURGIST:** Now that we are back to in person worship we need more ushers to greet folks, hand out bulletins and do the offering. We also need liturgist! Please sign up on the bulletin near the parlor or see Eileen Torrey!!

**OUR FOOD PANTRY:** Our pantry needs restocking. Please bring donations of food and place in basket at sanctuary door. Needed: Meals in a can like beef stew, tuna fish, canned fruit, cereal, snack bars. Cans with snapup tops preferred. Many thanks!

### **From the Finance Committee**

The time is approaching to reflect on what 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 for the next fiscal year. You will soon receive our annual pledge request. As you review this information, we hope you'll prayerfully ask God to help you discern your 2022-23 pledge. Please return your commitment by Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> to PCUCC by US mail to PO Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264, or by email to [treasurer@uccplymouth.org](mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org). THANK YOU

**FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR:** Please sign up to bring flowers on Sunday for the altar! The sign up list is posted near the kitchen window in the Fellowship Hall or see Eileen Torrey. Many Thanks!

We will have another new member Sunday in May or June – if you are interested in becoming a part of our church family, please email Pastor Sara at [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org).

Be in touch with Rev Sara if you would want to help with fellowship hour. Many hands make light work!

**Welcome to church families!** Activity bags are hanging in the Narthex and toys are made available, please ask an usher if you cannot find them. If your child needs more space during worship, please feel free to use the parlor on the sanctuary level or downstairs in our nursery and fellowship area. We have Sunday school in person, with masks on, the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month. Volunteers are always welcome, please contact Jennifer Byam or Julie Kelsey for more information at [faithformation@uccplymouth.org](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org).

**AmazonSMILE** - By choosing our church as your favorite charity, Amazon will make a donation to the charity you designate at no cost to you. Please let Ann Thurston, Linda LaPrad or the office know if you need help setting PCUCC up as your favorite charity on AmazonSMILE.

**PREPAID HANNAFORD CARDS** - For every card purchased from the Finance Committee, the church receives 5% without any additional cost to you. Denominations of \$100, \$250 and \$500 are available by contacting Ann Thurston or Linda LaPrad after services on Sunday, by phone or email. Thank you for your continued support!

**HOPE Fund:** The HOPE Fund supports families at risk who need assistance paying for rent, heating, electricity, and medications. Please consider giving to the HOPE Fund. You can 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 Pastor Sara.

*The Hope Fund of our church continues to touch the lives of people in the Lakes Region. This winter, we have supported a number of people who were in need of housing support or assistance with utility bills. This is a part of our Christian witness; we have deep gratitude for all of those who have contributed money and time related to the Hope Fund.*

**Racial Justice Exploration:** We welcome new attendees, and we pray you'll reach out to Alison Thatcher at Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com or Pastor Sara if you are considering ways to get involved in these important efforts. Next meeting is on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

**Book Group:** The group is currently reading Always a Guest: Speaking of Faith Far from Home! Any questions please contact Peggy Martin at pmartin03223@yahoo.com or Kathy Henning at henkat52@gmail.com. Next meeting is May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 AM

**Please continue to be aware of COVID-related concerns when on site. We want to encourage all community members (who are able) to get a COVID-19 vaccine and boosters. We hope that this will ensure the health and well-being of our most vulnerable community members.**

**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 - 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Wednesday - 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Thursday – 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Friday - 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

## Pastor's Office Hours

Pastor Sara is generally at the church for office hours Monday – Wednesday 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM; please reach out to make an appointment. She keeps sabbath on Friday. Please feel free to contact her by email at [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org) or on her work cell phone number at 336-485-5618 to set up a meeting.

Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor	<a href="mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org">plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org</a>
Aidan Boisvert, Interim Office Administrator	<a href="mailto:office@uccplymouth.org">office@uccplymouth.org</a>
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Ann Thurston, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org">treasurer@uccplymouth.org</a>
Zi Liang, Guest Pianist	

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## Celebrating Birthdays in March and April in our Community:

Wayne Martin	April 1 <sup>st</sup>
Sue Switaj	April 5 <sup>th</sup>
Benjamin Adams	April 12 <sup>th</sup>
Sabrina Tedeschi	April 17 <sup>th</sup>
Michael Carrier	April 25 <sup>th</sup>
Kurt Maiser Anderson	April 28 <sup>th</sup>

If you have a birthday or anniversary this month or next month that you would like listed, please email to:



[office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org)