

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



Christ Healing Peter's Mother-in-Law, Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn

February 4, 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

Morning Prayer

Richard Blake

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

The Servant of God

John Ferguson

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist – Carol Stewart

One: Good people of the church,
Lift up your eyes and see.

**All: Have you not seen? Have you not heard?
Our God greets us here.**

One: Good servants of God in Christ,
Open your ears to hear.

**All: Have you not seen? Have you not heard?
Our God meets us here.**

One: Good children of the light
Open your hearts; know what it means to trust in God.

**All: For we have seen, heard and known
From the beginning to the end,
Our God IS with us.**

***Hymn**

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

NCH(black) #22

Passing of the Peace

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(In this season of colds and Covid, please bump elbows or share the peace sign.)

***Unison Gathering Prayer**

Wondrous God, Creator of the universe,
we give you thanks for gathering us here.
As you greet us, so we greet one another.
Renew our strength, in heart, mind and body,
that we might follow in the footsteps of Jesus
who keeps moving among us and ahead of us
to bring healing and hope. Amen.

Moments of Confession, including silence for personal reflection

Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from: United Church of Canada, 1980

One: We are not alone, we live in God's world.

All: **We believe in God:**

who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen, our healer and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Sung Response

On Eagle's Wings (verse 1)

Michael Joncas, 1979

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in God's shadow for life,

say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

"And I will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand."

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture

Isaiah 40: 21-31

Mark 1:29-39

One: The Word of God for the people of God. The Word of God for the people of God. May the Spirit inspire us to embody gratitude and love in all that we say and do.

All: Amen.

Message

“On the Move to Serve”

Rev. Ruth Martz

*Hymn

O Christ the Healer, We Have Come

NCH(black) #175

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Holy Communion

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**

Gracious God, what a feast!

**A simple taste of bread and juice, for which we give great thanks,
for at your table we come together as Christ's body.**

**As we walk in his footsteps, we voice one same hope;
the radical sharing of life and love among us. Amen.**

Offertory Anthem May God Bestow on Us His Grace Kenneth T. Kosche
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**

**God of abundance,
you give strength to the powerless and power to the faint;
you raise up the sick and cast out demons.
Make us agents of healing and wholeness
that your good news may be made known
through our offerings and our ministries,
both near and far, for the good of all creation. Amen.**

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** Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ NCH(black) #347

***Pastoral Benediction**

Choral Benediction Alleluia John Ferguson

Postlude It Is Well Bliss, arr. Krug

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!
Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by the Mission & Social Outreach Committee.

Keeping in Prayer:

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

Monday, February 5	10:00 am Book Group
Tuesday, February 6	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, February 7	11:00 am Lectio Divina
Thursday, February 8	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, February 9	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Monday, February 12	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Wednesday, February 14	7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
Saturday, February 24	Prepared to Serve Event Register Now!

CHURCH LIFE

Preaching Schedule:

February 4	Rev. Ruth Martz	February 18	Larry Spencer
February 11	Alison Thatcher	February 25	Rev. Ruth Martz
Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14)	Rev. Rebecca Larson	March 10	Alison Thatcher

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 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.

Spring 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

Thank you on behalf of the Habitat Board of Directors for providing three meals this week! 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@uccplymouth.org
David A. Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
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Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org
Guest Preacher: Rev. Ruth Martz Guest Accompanist: Margot W. Swift	
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 February in our Community

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

Janet Taylor	February 2	Maris Thatcher-Forgues	February 11
Ken Howe	February 11	Beverly Tedeschi	February 26
Chris Pollock	February 11	Robert Pollock Jr.	February 28

