

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost:
Communion Sunday – Labor Day



September 4, 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. Please inquire to people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.

GATHERING

Prelude

“Abide with Me”

William Henry Monk

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@ucplymouth.org. Sunday School will resume on September 11. Feel free to gather toys and books, which can be found in the narthex, for your children to enjoy during worship today.

You may contact office@ucplymouth.org to get more information about programming for any age.

*Those who are able may stand.

*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Carol Stewart

One: We come humbly this hour, looking for the comfort of sacred texts.

All: Impart your love, Holy One, we long to feel your spirit.

One: Let us know that God will move in mysterious ways; let us be grounded in faith.

All: Impart your wisdom, God of grace, we seek your guiding light.

One: Gathering at your table we will be reconciled to each other and be enlivened by spiritual nourishment.

All: Impart your peace, Spirit of hope, we want to live the gospel.

*Hymn

Be Now My Vision

NCH (black) #451

Unison

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Be Now My Vision'. It features a treble clef and a bass clef, both in 3/4 time. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written on the treble clef staff, and the bass line is on the bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The score is marked 'Unison'.

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
 ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
 you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
 Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
 You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
 now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
 great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

***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

Giver of all gifts, we come with gratitude for the joys of life – connections with friends and family, space in which to worship, and a holy meal to share. We pray that we will feel your spirit in this time of worship. Let us find your grace that we might serve in the image of Christ; let us become willing, once again, to walk with your holy love. We pray all this to you, our blessed Redeemer. Amen.

Moments for Confession

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Great Sustainer, we each have something to contribute to the world which we sometimes want to withhold; move us this hour so we will be compelled to give your Love in many ways. . .

All: We accept the call to new beginnings, God. We want to receive love and so we sing with a hope for this day

Response Let Justice Flow like Streams NCH (black) #588

**So may God's plumbline, straight, define our measure true,
And justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life
through.**

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Philemon 1:4-21

One: Almighty God, let us feel your Spirit during this time and let us be compelled to love one another radically. We pray that your voice moves between words and hearing.

All: Amen

Message

“Renounce Privilege, Receive Love”

Rev. Sara M. Holland

***Hymn**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

PH (red) #177

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, Sor - row and

Prince of glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and

count but loss, And pour con-tempt on all my pride.
charm me most I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown? A-men.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory Anthem

“Ripple”

Robert Hunter and Jerry Garcia

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**

All: Blessed are you, O God, for your gracious gifts to us. You sent Jesus among us to teach and heal and show us what it means to give of self for love of others. You sent Christ to dwell among us so that we may feel Holy Spirit now; in the teachings and healings of Christ you showed us what was and is possible with love. So, with all of creation, and with the church around the world, we give you thanks. Amen.

Invitation to Holy Communion

One: Jesus said – I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst. The early Christ followers wrote of our Jesus, who at the table with disciples took bread and blessed and broke it, sharing graciously. The disciples saw something special. However, they would not truly understand until later. . .

We come with our whole selves, God – some of us at home, some on the road and many of us grateful to be physically present in worship today. As we join in this historic and holy meal, may we find strength.

All: We are prepared God. A table is set in your honor – no matter how tidy or messy. Make yourself known in this meal, God. These tables are open: God's love is for all. This table is for those who believe a little or a lot. This table is for those who need community, those who need comfort and solace; this meal is for those who need strength. Let us share.

Prayers of the People

You will be invited to offer your silent prayers for others.

Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Cup

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Closing Prayer & Lord's Prayer

All: Loving God, you have made us one in Christ and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink. May we be compelled to share of ourselves so that the gospel may be carried far. Send us forth to be your people in the world. Grant us strength to resist evil and to proclaim in all we say and do the good news in Christ Jesus our Savior, who taught us to pray:

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.

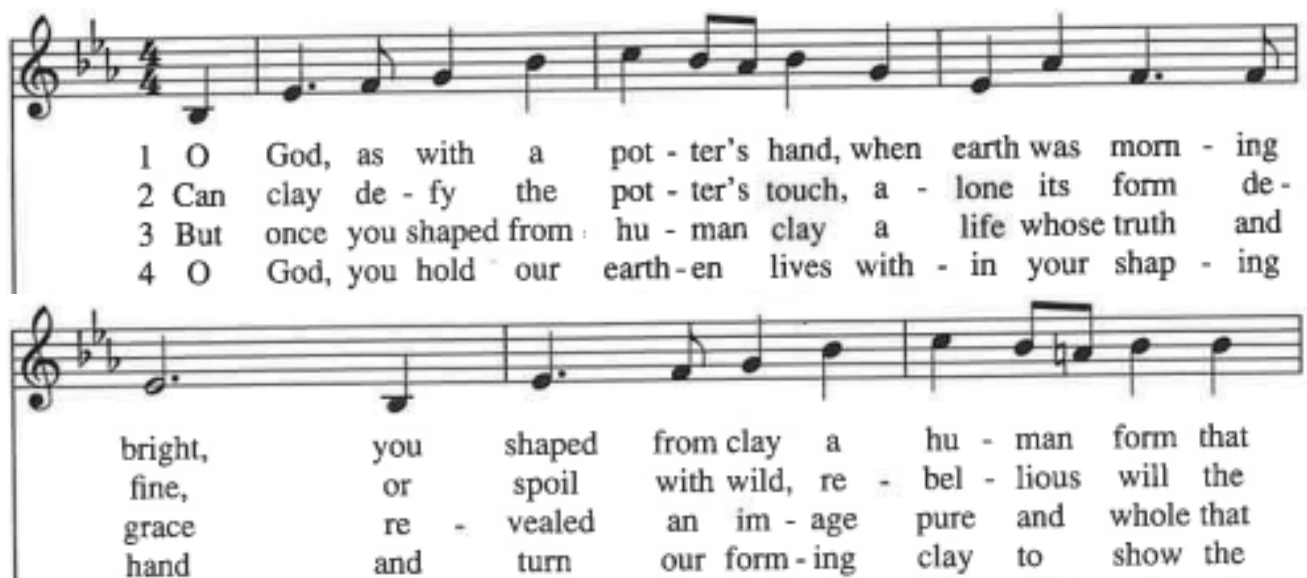
**We believe that God is revealed in persons of all genders and sorts; we also honor tradition.

SENDING

***Hymn**

O God, as with a Potter's Hand

NCH (black) #550



1 O God, as with a pot - ter's hand, when earth was morn - ing
2 Can clay de - fy the pot - ter's touch, a - lone its form de -
3 But once you shaped from hu - man clay a life whose truth and
4 O God, you hold our earth-en lives with - in your shap - ing

bright, you shaped from clay a hu - man form that
fine, or spoil with wild, re - bel - lious will the
grace re - vealed an im - age pure and whole that
hand and turn our form - ing clay to show the

gave your eye de - light; You breathed in love your
 art - ist's true de - sign? Yet we, in whom your
 sin could not de - face. And when we seized your
 im - age you have planned. For - give the sin that

Spir - it's breath: a liv - ing crea - ture stirred and
 hand has formed an im - age good and fair, dis -
 choic - est work and broke its frag - ile clay, your
 mars your work and strives a - gainst your will. Con -

stood with-in the gar - den green, a - wake to hear your Word.
 fig - ure what you meant to be a work be - yond com - pare.
 hands re - stored the shat - tered shards on earth's first Eas - ter day.
 form our lives to Je - sus Christ with wis - dom, love, and skill.

*Pastoral Benediction

Postlude

“Blessed Assurance”

arr. by Cindy Berry

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

Keeping in Prayer:

All students returning to school in the next couple weeks
 Bob Feeny as he transitions his ministry to Spokane, WA
 Condolences and prayers for Al Mather whose daughter-in-law,
 wife of his son Jeff, recently passed away
 Condolences and prayers for Sally Jensen whose brother, Herb Jensen,
 recently passed away
 Condolences and prayers for the family and friends of Julian “Shoe” Shoemaker,
 who recently passed away
 Prayers for Jaime Armstrong, niece of Marlin Collingwood,
 who will be undergoing surgery for breast cancer

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 Sage Pirnie and her family,
granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie
Prayers for Polly Bartlett, who struggles with cancer
Prayers for healing for Andrew Munroe
Prayers for Mae Larson, Rebecca Larson's mother-in-law
Prayers for an end to gun violence, in the spirit of Isaiah 2:4
Prayers for communities affected by war and for all immigrants
Prayers for the Masvingo UCCZ, our partner church in Zimbabwe

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

This Week and More at PCUCC

Sept 8	7:00 Choir Rehearsal
Sept 11	Rally Sunday and Missional Service Trip Presentation
Sept 12	Book Group
Sept 25	Mental Health Sunday
Oct 2	Merrimack Association Annual Meeting
Oct 9	Guest Preacher: Rev. Richard Slater, Associate Conference Minister
Oct 15	NH Conference UCC Annual Meeting
Nov 6	New Member Sunday

Rally Sunday and Missional Service Trip Presentation: We are so excited that Sunday School is starting up again! Rally Sunday and the first day of Sunday School is during Morning Worship on September 11th. There is a carnival theme this year; so please come to enjoy some bubbles, popcorn, bean bag toss, piñatas, and face painting. Please stay afterwards for coffee hour and the Missional Service Trip Presentation.

Narcan Available: If you or someone you know is in need of Narcan, please contact Rev. Sara or our church office.

Vegetables and Fruit Harvest Sharing and Caring: Do you have an abundance of vegetables and/or fruit in your garden that you would like to share with your church friends? Please bring your extra veggies and fruit to church on Sundays and place on the shelves in the Fellowship Hall. Members and friends will be encouraged to pick them up and then leave a money donation in the jar to help stock our food pantries for our Plymouth area neighbors in need. This will run through August and September until the harvest is over for this year. Many thanks!!!

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. Sunday School will resume on Rally Sunday, September 11th. Please contact Jennifer Byam or Julie Kelsey for more information at 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. We have recently 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.*

Book Group: The book group will resume on September 12th and will continue to meet every second and fourth Monday at 10:00am. The group will begin by reading The One-In-A-Million Boy by Monica Wood. Any questions please contact Peggy Martin at pmartin03223@yahoo.com or Kathy Henning at henkat52@gmail.com.

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.

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
or on her work cell phone number at 336-485-5618 to set up a meeting.

Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor	plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org
Alison Thatcher, Office Administrator	office@uccplymouth.org
David A. Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist	organist@uccplymouth.org
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org
Special Music: Alison Thatcher	
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 in September in our Community

Judy Floyd	September 8 th
Diane Arsenault	September 12 th
Philip Wei	September 16 th
Molly McCahan	September 20 th
Cameron Woodsum	September 20 th
Caeleigh Stevens	September 24 th
Anna Switaj	September 25 th
Andrew Hedberg	September 27 th
Madelyn Kelsey	September 29 th

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

