

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Second Sunday of Lent: Bold Blessing
Communion Sunday



March 5, 2023

9:30 am, 5:30 pm

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 to people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.

GATHERING

Prelude Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley Traditional Spiritual

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. We are delighted to get to know you! We have Sunday School between mid-September & mid-June; children may find adult leaders on the first floor. There are cute bags in the narthex which the kids may find to enjoy if they decide to stay in the service, which is also okay! You may contact office@ucplymouth.org to get more information about programming for any age.

Introit The Son of Man Must Be Lifted Up Aaron David Miller

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship** - Teresa of Avila, 16th century Liturgist – Carol Stewart

One: Your hand of love is always outstretched towards me, towards us, even when we stubbornly look the other way.

All: We pray that we will be centered around our faith.

One: Your gentle voice constantly calls me, calls us, even when we obstinately refuse to listen.

All: We pray that we will be centered around our faith.

One: You showed us righteous anger, God; let us be challenged by this and find comfort in our deep call on this day.

All: We pray that we will be centered around our faith. We gather at Christ's table seeking a divine path.

***Hymn** As Moses Raised the Serpent Up NCH (black) #605

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

based on Psalm 139

Gracious and loving God, you have searched us and you know us. You know when we sit and when we rise. You are acquainted with all our ways. We praise you – for you have wonderfully made us. Your works are wonderful, we know that full well. If we take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there you shall lead us. In your book were written all the days that were formed for us, when none of them yet existed. Hear our praise of your holiness and let us be empowered by our faithful practices of prayer, singing, silence, and reflection. Amen.

Moments for Confession and Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: You have called us to let our blessings and gratitude change the world.

God's path offers us a chance to expand the divine realm.

All: We want to move more fully with the blessings of your name. We come seeking meaning in your mercy and healing, seeking your resurrection word, once again. Hear our prayers in humble singing:

Response Savior, When in Tears and Dust NCH (black) #185

Savior, when in tears and dust, low we bow to you in trust,
When repentant, to the skies scarce we lift our weeping eyes,
Mindful how you suffered pain that God's love in us might reign – Help us
claim what we would be, hear our solemn litany.

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings

John 3:1-17

Genesis 12:1-4a

One: Spirit of Truth, we pray that the meditations of our hearts and minds will be acceptable to you, for you are our rock and redeemer. We pray that your voice moves between words and hearing.

All: Amen

Message

“The Impermanence & Challenge of Blessings”

Rev. Holland

*Hymn

My Song is Love Unknown

PH (red) #169

Verses 1-2 & 5

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing Communion

The Usher/s will guide twelve participants at a time to the front to share Communion. Each person will be given a simple bread and juice cup as the officiant offers simple words of blessing: "This is the bread of heaven and the cup of the new covenant."

After each participant receives the elements, the group of 12 will take and eat. You will then be invited to return to your seats and the next group of twelve will take your place.

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

Communion Music

Prayer of Thanks in Unison

Holy One, by coming to your table, we receive the sustenance of your Spirit. Let us feel your peace in our hearts. We give thanks for Jesus Christ, through whom we receive life and in whom we are bound in covenant. Renew us, we pray, so that we may serve as Christ's Way shows us we should. Amen.

Offertory Anthem Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs 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**

All: God, whose holy word holds the promise of life, we give thanks for the law of love written on our hearts, for love shared through the prophets, for love's presence in this community, and for the love revealed in sacred friendship.

Accept our gifts of love and bless our service in the world in Your name. We pray all this in the unity of Spirit and for Love's sake. Amen.

Prayers of the People

You are 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.

SENDING

***Hymn** In the Midst of New Dimensions NCH (black) #391
Verses 1-3 & 5

***Choral Benediction** Open Your Doors of Mercy Mark Sedio

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude Thou Shalt Bring Them In G. F. Handel

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.

Keeping in Prayer:

Condolences and prayers for the family and friends of Rebecca Larson's mother-in-law,
Mae Larson, who recently passed away

Prayers for Martha R, friend of Alice O'Connor, who will be undergoing surgery

Prayers for Lynn Cote, friend of Alice O'Connor, who was recently diagnosed with cancer

Prayers for Brianna G, friend of Alice O'Connor, who is facing health issues

Continued prayers for Jaime Armstrong, niece of Marlin Collingwood,
who has made it through surgery and will soon undergo radiation
Prayers for Ruth Martz as she continues to recover
Prayers for Bill Broadrick and his spouse, Jane
Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family, granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie
Continued prayers for Eileen Torrey
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

This Week and More at PCUCC

March 5	During Coffee Hour: Lenten Anti-Racism Discussion
March 5	5:30 pm Sunday Evening Service
March 6	10:00 Book Group
March 7	7:00 pm Lenten Anti-Racism Discussion via Zoom
March 7	7:00 pm AA Meeting
March 8	9:30 am Lectio Divina
March 8	11:30 am Staff Meeting
March 9	5:00 pm Meals for Many
March 9	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
March 10	8:00 pm AA Meeting
March 16	1:00 pm Knitting Group
March 16	5:00 pm Peace Rally

CHURCH LIFE

Lenten Anti-Racism Study: This Lenten season the PCUCC Anti-Racism Group invites you to join us in fasting from convenience and complacency and feasting on uncomfortable truths and difficult conversations. Every week during Lent a short video and related article will be posted in the weekly email. There will be an opportunity to discuss these resources during coffee hour on Sundays and via Zoom at 7:00 pm on Tuesdays, so you can join the conversation in whatever mode suits you. We hope to see you there, even if you can only make one meeting! For information contact Alison Thatcher: Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com.

3rd Sundays – New Members! To live more fully into God’s call to be inclusive, every 3rd 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!

Sunday Evening Services: Pastor Holland has launched a Sunday evening service. This service will take place on the lower level at 5:30 pm each week until mid-June (reconvening in September). It will be casual and use some components of the Sunday morning service but be a different setting and atmosphere and will include a substantial snack/light meal. Come one and all – let’s worship together!

Book Group will meet on March 6th and 20th to discuss The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles. If you have questions, contact Peggy Martin: pmartin03223@yahoo.com

FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

Our HOPE Fund and Little Food Pantry are always in need of your support!

The HOPE Fund supports families at risk who need assistance paying for rent, heating, electricity, and medications. Right now, with rising fuel, electricity, and rent prices, the need is greater than ever. To give to the HOPE Fund, 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 Rev. Holland. Our Little Food Pantry in front of the church is always in great need of being filled. You can put items right in the pantry or bring them to the church office. Our Little Food Pantry serves many people in need in our community.

FROM FINANCE

Service Fundraiser Update Begins This Week

We are excited to announce that there are 20 terrific services for you to choose from. Even better, most of the volunteers are willing to provide their service item more than once. There is a link to the list in Constant Contact as well as a full listing of items posted in Fellowship Hall Sundays during the fundraiser. What you’d like to see isn’t on the list? No problem. Just fill out a form next to the posting in Fellowship Hall requesting the service you want, and we’ll look for a volunteer to provide that service. All donations must be received by May 1, 2023, but the service can be completed anytime during the year. Please make checks payable to PCUCC with “Service Fundraiser” and the volunteer’s name and service on the check’s Memo Line. Please place in an envelope with your name, the volunteer’s name and the service and placed in the collection plate on Sundays. Check payments can be dropped in the collection plate or mailed to the office attn: Finance’s Attention at PO Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264. Please do not mail cash. Peggy Martin, Eleanor Spencer, Kathy Henning and Linda LaPrad are happy to answer any questions. 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

Work Cell: 336-485-5618

Rev. Sammy 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
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 March in our Community

Jean Swindell	March 8	Julie Kelsey	March 30
Caleb Sweedler	March 26	Megan Magrauth	March 30

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

