

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, Ordinary Time
Communion Sunday



November 5, 2023

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 Poeme, Op. 43, No. 5 Edvard Grieg, arr. Mark L. William

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.

Sunday School for all ages begins after the Message for All Ages on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays.

Children are welcome to fill a bag with books and toys, which are in the narthex, to use during worship.

Introit The Greatest Among You Will Be Your Servant Carl F. Schalk

*Those who are able may stand.

*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Carol Stewart

One: Let all who hunger for God come to God's holy mountain!

**All: Blessed are those whose desire is for God;
let us lift our hearts and voices in thanksgiving.**

One: Let all who thirst for God enter this holy place with grateful hearts.

All: Blessed are those who worship in spirit and in truth.

**Let us commune with God and with one another through song,
prayer, and Word!**

***Hymn** God Reigns o'er All the Earth NCH (black) #21

Passing of the Peace

If you are at home, we invite you to send someone a note of peace today.

One: In the spirit of reconciliation and unity among us and all peoples, let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Unison Gathering Prayer

God who heals, and who asks us to bring healing to others both near and far, you call us to embrace the way of justice, kindness, and humility. Shape us in the image of Christ, who lived compassion, who took risks, who preached possibility. Teach us again what is truly good and right in your eyes. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

Moments of Silence

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of grace, forgive us for the ways in which we fail to follow Jesus' teachings, as individuals, as the church, as a nation. When we lash out in anger, give us patience and understanding. When we refuse to listen, open our hearts and our minds. When we insist that we are right, fill us with humility. When we focus on our own agendas, stir us with love for community. God of grace, bless us with your Spirit of reconciliation.

Words of Assurance

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ! As we pray, God touches us with the power of forgiveness.

May all hearts know God's blessings and be transformed, that we may live in harmony together. Amen.

Response "To You, O God, All Creatures Sing" #17 NCH (black)

Now we who are of tender heart, forgiving others, take our part.

**Sing your praises, alleluia! To you we lift our pain and care,
receive the burdens that we bear,**

Singing praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Psalm 107: 1-9, with Unison Sung Response, p. 693 NCH
Micah 6: 6-8
Matthew 5: 1-12

One: The Word of God for the people of God. May we feel the Spirit stirring our hearts and uniting us as one in Christ.

ALL: Amen.

Message “Blessed are the Place-makers!” Rev. Ruth Martz

***Hymn** Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether NCH (black) #337

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer and Words of Institution

Sharing Communion (by Intinction)

The Usher/s will guide participants forward, pew by pew, to share in Communion. Each person will be offered a piece of bread to dip in the cup as the officiant & assistant say words of blessing, such as: “The bread of life and the cup of blessing.” After you partake in the Communion meal, you are invited to return to your seat.*

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

Communion Music

***Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Generous God, we thank you for the communion that Christ offers at this table. May we share your Spirit of love through our daily words and actions. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for peace and justice, for mercy and healing, in our nation and in our world. God, in your grace, may all people be filled. Amen.

Offertory Anthem

If Ye Love Me

Healey Willan

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;
Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.

Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you, and your heart shall rejoice.

- John 14

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, we pray that you will use these gifts to do wondrous acts of justice and compassion in your name. We give you great thanks for the blessings that we witness every day; may those who are suffering find hope and support in community. 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 (*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**

“O for a World”

NCH (black) #575

***Pastoral Benediction**

Choral Benediction

God of Love

John Helgen

Postlude

O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

arr. Dale Wood

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.

BLESSED ARE (source unknown)

*Blessed are those who have daily dialogue with God. Their faces will shine like the sea.
Blessed are those who depend upon God-with-us. They shall reject false security.*

*Blessed are those whose faith moves them to compassion.
They will warm our hearts and teach us to love ourselves.*

*Blessed are those who persevere. Their courage will give us hope;
their patience will calm our fears.*

*Blessed are those who trust in the Spirit to guide them. Their serenity will light our path.
Blessed are those whose love of the church reveals deep faith.
Their joy in Worship will lift up every heart.*

*Blessed are those whose faith inspires them to reach out to those in need.
Their witness will show us the power of God. Amen.*

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers of healing for Beverly McClain, longtime friend of Eleanor Spencer

Prayers of healing for Bob Dion, friend of Alice O'Connor

Prayers for Paulette Brace's son, Shawn Cassington, for ongoing medical issues

Prayers for Claire Pirnie, daughter of Diane Arsenault and Peter Pirnie and her son Micah as
she continues through the process of divorce

Prayers for Marissa and Seth, Diane Arsenault's family members,
as they embark on the journey of adoptive parenthood. Their son was born 10/17/23 and
they are forever grateful to his birth mother for her gift.

Prayers for Paul Santonelli

Prayers for Tony Amodeo, friend of the LaPrads, who is undergoing cancer treatments

Prayers for Sherry Weymouth Morison, who is recuperating from cancer surgery

Prayers of comfort and strength for Ruth & Dale Mosher

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 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

Today, November 5	“Let’s Talk” following coffee hour
Monday, November 6	10:00 am Book Group, in person
Monday, November 6	7:00 pm Book Group, via Zoom
Tuesday, November 7	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, November 8	11:00 am Lectio Divina
Thursday, November 9	1:00 pm Knitting group
Thursday, November 9	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, November 10	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Tuesday, November 14	7:00 pm IRSG presentation, via Zoom

CHURCH LIFE

Please join us for a “Let’s Talk” gathering in the Chapel after Coffee Hour (11/11:15 a.m.). In response to a few questions about our church, we will have short “one-on-one conversations” followed by sharing as a group. Facilitator: Ruth Martz. About one hour in length.

Sanctuary Artwork: We are looking for artwork with a winter and/or faith theme from our community. If you have a piece that you would like to go up in the sanctuary for the late fall and winter months, please bring them to church by Sunday, November 12.

Book Group and Antiracism Taskforce is reading How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi in November. Everyone is welcome to read the book and join the discussion either in person at 10 am or via zoom at 7 pm. Discussions will be held on Monday, Nov. 6 and Monday, Nov. 20. Contact Alison Thatcher for more information: Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com.

Please contribute to our November Food Drive to replenish our indoor and outdoor Food Pantries. Please place non-perishable food—cans/packaged items-- in the baskets by the altar. Let us share resources with great thanksgiving to God for the blessings in our lives! Warmest thanks from the M & O Committee.

The Immigrant & Refugee Support Group (IRSG) invites you to a 75 minutes Zoom presentation – *Dignity and Freedom for Asylum Seekers in an Inhumane Immigration System: The Role of the NH Conference UCC* – on Tuesday, November 14: 7-8:15 p.m. There is a role, large or small, for everyone! Register at nhcucc.info/event.

Lectio Divina: All are invited to gather Wednesday mornings from 11 a.m. to noon for a Bible study modeled on Lectio Divina, the sacred reading of scripture. We’ll begin with the Gospel of Mark, the first gospel written, and read through it listening for God’s Still Speaking voice. Please join us. Rebecca Larson will lead us.

Sunday School focuses on Bible lessons, outreach projects, and family activities. The children will learn how to use the gifts God gave them to positively impact their community. Volunteers are always welcome! Please contact Jennifer for more details at faithformation@uccplymouth.org.

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, electricity, and medications. Send your check to PCUCC and write HOPE Fund in the memo.

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.

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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Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Guest Preacher: Rev. Ruth Martz

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
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Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in November in our Community

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

Ivan Bass	November 1	Marian Sawicki	November 28
Leif Magrauth	November 2	Ruth Martz	November 29
Michael Conklin	November 11	Ann Thurston	November 29
Georgene Fabian	November 18	Jane Merrithew	November 30
Cameron Brand	November 21		

Margot W. and Robert Swift's wedding anniversary – November 24

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