

Plymouth Congregational, United Church of Christ

Seventh Sunday of Eastertide, Mental Health Sunday



May 16, 2021

9:30 am

A Just Peace Church
An Open and Affirming Congregation
A God is Still Speaking Congregation
Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

GATHERING

*those who are able and willing may stand

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Wonderful Peace

by W. G. Cooper

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

*Call to Worship

adapted from the Iona Community Worship Book

One: In the beginning, God made the world: made it and mothered it, shaped it and fathered it.

All: The world was filled with seed and signs of fertility. The world was filled with love and its folk with ability. God continues to create.

One: All that is green, blue, deep and growing, God's is the hand that created you. All that is tender, firm, fragrant, and curious, God's is the hand that created you.

All: All that crawls, flies, swims, walks or is motionless, God's is the hand that created you.

One: All that speaks, sings, cries, laughs or keeps silence, God's is the hand that created you. All that suffers, lacks, limps or longs for an end. God's is the hand that created you. The world belongs to God;

All: The earth and its people belong to God.

*Hymn

Bring Many Names

NCH #11 (black)

Verses 1 & 4 – 6

Unison

1 Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good, cel - e - brate, in
2 Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day, plan - ning all the
3 Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - ery child, feel - ing all the
4 Old, ach - ing God, grey with end - less care, calm - ly pierc - ing

The image shows a musical score for a unison hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb), and the time signature is 2/2. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: '1 Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good, cel - e - brate, in; 2 Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day, plan - ning all the; 3 Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - ery child, feel - ing all the; 4 Old, ach - ing God, grey with end - less care, calm - ly pierc - ing'.

par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God.
 won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e - qua - tion, gen - i - us at play:
 strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing and for - giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled:
 e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of good sur - pris - es, wis - er than de - spair:

Hail and Ho - san - na! bring man - y names! great, liv - ing God!
 Hail and Ho - san - na, strong moth - er God!
 Hail and Ho - san - na, warm fa - ther God!
 Hail and Ho - san - na, old, ach - ing God!

5 Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger,
 on the move,
 say - ing no to false - hood and
 un - kind - ness,
 cry - ing out for jus - tice,
 giv - ing all you have:
 Hail and Ho - san - na,
 young, grow - ing God!

6 Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known,
 joy - ful dark - ness far be - yond our see - ing,
 clos - er yet than breath - ing,
 ev - er - last - ing home:
 Hail and Ho - san - na,
 great, liv - ing God!

Passing of the Peace

We invite you to text or email someone a note of peace today. A hand-written note will work too.
 (You could place this on someone's car or in their mailbox later today.)

Unison Gathering Prayer

from Carter Heyward, *Our Passion for Justice*

All: In the beginning was God, In the beginning the source of all that is
In the beginning, God yearning
God moaning, God laboring
God giving birth, God rejoicing
And God loved what she had made and said, "It is good."

And God, knowing that all that is good is shared held the earth tenderly in her arms. God yearned for relationship. God longed to share the good earth. And humanity was born in the yearning of God. We were born to share the earth.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Many parts of life are unsure; today we seek certainty in a God's divine mystery. Faith is necessary to live and so we come before God. No matter the chance we stumble upon, we name God as constant and Christ as our Comforter. We come for healing.

All: **We come for your promise of depth, God. Take our fortunes and misfortunes and let them be a part of Your plan, Your Way. For we know it is written of old: there is nothing – nothing here, nothing anywhere else that will separate us from the love of God in Jesus. It is for this promise and Spirit that we sing.**

Response Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence PH (red) #107
**Rank on rank the host of heaven, spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish as the shadows clear away.**

We invite you to check out the children's message which was pre-recorded and posted on Facebook on Saturday!

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings **John 17: 6-19** **Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26**

One: Let these sacred texts move in our lives today. God join us in considering this text, we come for Your Truth. Let us find wisdom for today in these ancient words. O Holy Spirit, we pray You to move between words and hearing.

All: Amen.

Message "Dodgeball, Luck and Discernment" Rev. Sara M. Holland

***Hymn** Sweet Hour of Prayer NCH (black) #505

1 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,
 2 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share
 3 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear

and bids me at my Ma-ker's throne let all my needs and wants be known.
 of those whose anx-ious spir-its burn with strong de-sires for your re-turn!
 to One whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless.

In sea-sons of dis-tress and grief, my soul has of - ten found re - lief,
 With them I has-ten to the place where I would know my Sav-ior's face,
 And since I'm bid to seek God's face, be-lieve God's word, and trust God's grace,

and oft es-caped the tempt-er's snare by your re - turn, sweet hour of prayer!
 And glad - ly take my sta - tion there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!
 I'll cast a - way my ev - ery care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

You will be invited to offer your personal prayers from the silence of your heart.

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.

Offertory **Blest Be The Tie That Binds** **Hans G. Naegeli**
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

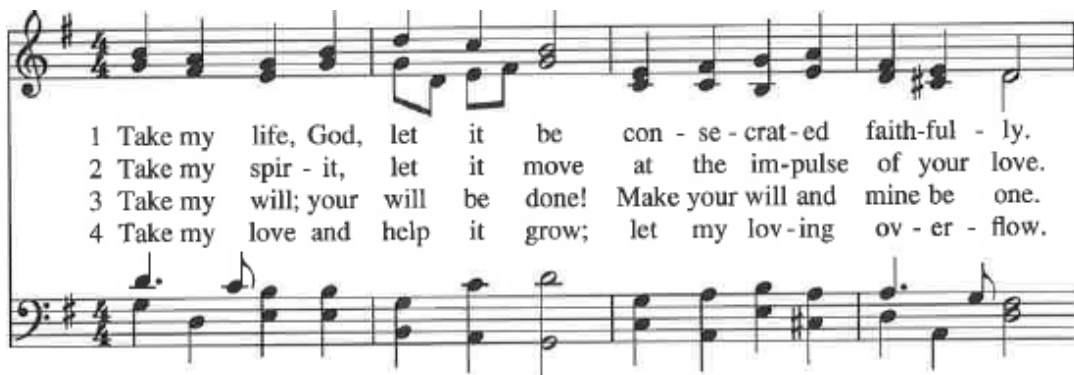
All: Of our fortune, we contribute to the whole. God let us see the ways we are blessed and let this propel our giving. In our giving, let us see Your realm being made manifest. Bless these humble gifts, God; keep our hearts humble and let us know how to be with those most in need – the lonely, forgotten, hurt, and destitute. We go forth to share with the world and give because we have been given so much. Amen.

SENDING

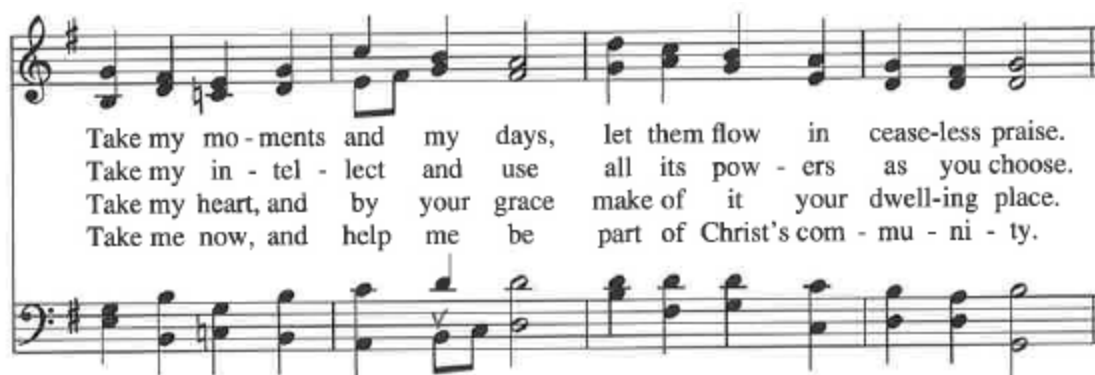
*Hymn

NCH (black) #448

Take My Life, God, Let It Be



1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.
2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.
3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.



Benediction

Postlude Festive Postlude on “How Firm a Foundation” Franklin D. Ashdown
The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us into the world where our true service begins.

Keeping in Prayer

Sympathy & Prayers for the family of Carol Hahn’s Sister
Hedwig Pocius, aunt of Starck family Maryam Pasha and her family
Continued prayers for Masvingo UCCZ in Zimbabwe
Sympathy & Prayers to the family of Jamie McDougall
Fran Lewis Bob, brother of Georgene Fabian
Prayers for Sam Lovett as Spirit calls him to ministry!
Sarah Thorne Marjorie Glidden and family
Dick & Paulette Brace Alice & Margaret Avery
Annie Rice, Bev Tedeschi’s mother Sue Switaj
Terry Cote & David Cote, close friends of Alice O’Connor
Jean Nilson, Susan Wei’s sister
Judy Detzel, friend of Hanna Starck

Prayers for those administering and receiving the first COVID-19 vaccines.
All those who are sick or have family member/s who have passed during the pandemic.
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

Sunday	9:30 AM	Worship Service on Facebook Live
	10:00 AM	Church School via Zoom
	10:45 AM	Coffee Hour via Zoom
	4:30 PM	Confirmation
	6:30 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv (this week's TV view will be from May 16, 2021)
Tuesday	2:00 PM	Human Resources via Zoom
	7:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday	11:30 AM	Staff meeting
	3:00 PM	Prayer time and devotion via Zoom
	4:00 PM	Mission & Social Outreach

We want to encourage all community members (who are able) to get a COVID-19 vaccine. We hope that this will ensure the health and well-being of our most vulnerable community members.

A message from the Finance Committee: It's stewardship time.

May 25th Deadline for Board Reports. Please submit these to the office.

This is the time we look back at all we've accomplished and look forward at the financial support needed to meet the challenges of our next fiscal year.

We've been blessed with exceptional lay and pastoral leadership and your financial support is needed to keep our programs and mission thriving.

Our TOGETHER FOR JOY stewardship information is being mailed out this week. We ask that you prayerfully consider your financial support and return your pledge as soon as you are able.

If you have any questions, please contact the treasurer, Larry Spencer or Linda LaPrad, Finance chair. They'll be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

For all we accomplish TOGETHER FOR JOY, we thank you.

-PLEASE TURN IN YOUR PLEDGE CARD ASAP-

We will be returning SOME for in person worship beginning on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd! Our max capacity will be 20 people in addition to those ushering and leading worship. Masks will be required and all in attendance will practice care for neighbor by practicing physical distancing in faithful covenant for one another. Priority the first few Sundays will go to those who do not have web access at home. People registering ARE

welcome to bring a friend who is in their 'pod;' you just have to register! We hope you will register online if you are able by using this link: <https://forms.gle/G6JkSx2k1NEKY1zT8>

You may also call the church office to register! 603-536-2626

Important note: we will continue to stream our service online via Facebook and also have our service on PBTv.

Our Human Resource team **welcomes Courtney Crosato** to our team as office admin!

News From the Racial Justice Team

In our Racial Justice work we have been challenged to examine the unconscious racial messages our church sends. We are asked to look at our church with the eyes of a visitor who is a Person of Color.

That question made us uncomfortable, as it should. Would a Person of Color feel welcome in our midst? What images do they see on our walls, or in our bulletins? Or hear in our prayers?

It made us realize that we need to make a public witness to the diversity that we so aspire to and that Jesus calls us to. One simple and inexpensive way to do that would be to create a display area close to our Peace Pole in front of the church for different signs promoting social justice issues. We will begin with a Black Lives Matter yard sign and plan to change it up every month to keep it fresh and interesting. Council approved placement of this sign. We are also contacting the Town Office to find out the Town's requirements for larger signs.

There is much work still to be done, but we hope this one small step will help us make a difference. We welcome your ideas for creating a more welcoming environment in our church.

Our Director/s of Faith Formation positions are opening! We are seeking someone who is interested in faithfully leading our children and youth; we begin our search in house because theological fit is important. If you might be interested in helping us choose curriculum and plan faith formation efforts, especially for Sunday mornings, please reach out to Jan Bass, the chair of Human Resources. This position is critically important to the life and ministry of our entire church, is paid, and is part time. It would pair well with another M-F job. Consider becoming a part of our team! Jan's email is: jbass8150@gmail.com

Capital Campaign update: Lisa and Bev are standing by to answer any questions you may have via phone or email. Our campaign is focusing on the ramp on the north side of the building, a modest A/C installation, audio / visual upgrade and an organ console replacement. Email inquiries should be directed to Lisa Lovett at lilylovet@gmail.com and phone inquiries to Bev Newton at 603-254-9991.

Deacon's Corner – The updates in this area are general so as to protect the privacy of families and individuals.

Sympathy & Prayers for the family of Carol Hahn's Sister

Finance Committee - CHOOSE OUR CHURCH as your favorite charity on AMAZON SMILE and support our ministries and mission. We can be found by entering Plymouth Congregational Church or Plymouth* under Faith and Spiritual list only.

Once on AmazonSmile click on "Accounts and Lists" under your name, scroll down to "AmazonSmile Charity Lists" select "Faith and Spiritual" then either type Plymouth Congregational Church or Ply* to find all listings starting with Ply then select our church.

HANNAFORD prepaid grocery cards are available during this "stay-at-home" time of practicing safe distancing. Denominations of \$100, \$250 and \$500 are available. Finance orders cards regularly. Please let Linda or Larry know via phone or email what you would like to purchase. We will let you know when to mail your check to the church. If you shop at HANNAFORD for your essentials, please purchase a prepaid card. The church receives 5% of each card purchased. 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. Send to Plymouth Congregational UCC, P.O. Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264. If you know of someone who is in need, please put them in touch with the church office or Pastor Sara.

Consider attending a Listening Session on May 23rd via zoom. A Listening Session is an event designed to engage congregations in discerning the issues that affect their members deeply and personally. They are 60-90 minutes long and discussion-based. All members of the congregation are invited, and some congregations choose to invite other local groups, such as schools, neighboring congregations, or non-profits. Participants share responses to questions such as, *"think about what is your deepest concern for your community or town. Why is this a concern for you and how has it affected you personally?"* This will be led by Rev. Sara, Rebecca Larson and Christ Potter of Granite State Organizing project; register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUsd-ysrTgvHteMNg3TOjS7N9Yev3efj5om>

Racial Justice Exploration: We are continuing these explorations this spring and summer, on an every other week basis. For now, we will shift to reflections of readings and education. We welcome new attendees and we pray you'll reach out to Pastor Sara if you are considering ways to get involved in these important efforts.

This group encourages examination of any of the following books:

Ibram X. Kendi's *How to be An Antiracist*

Rebecca Carroll's *Surviving the White Gaze*

If you are interested in taking a trip to the **Black Heritage Trail** (which is in **Portsmouth**) on **June 5th**, we hope you will let **Peggy Martin** know, her email is: pmartin03223@yahoo.com

Book Group - Here is our intended order of Book Group readings so that you can purchase or otherwise obtain them in advance: Our next selections will be:

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah (discussed on May 24th)

Leading from the Outside by Stacey Abrams (discussed on June 7th)

Consider attending the UCC national gathering this year! General Synod will take place between July 11 & 18 and will explore the theme Rooted in Love. We encourage attendance, especially because it is virtual this year. You are able to attend just a day or two if you like! Visit generalsynod.org for more information.

Our church has moved to digital platforms for all events until May 23rd. The Worship Services will continue to be live streamed on our Facebook page and are available on Sunday nights on PBTv at 6:30 pm. (Local channel 1302.)

Please check for Constant Contact and the Facebook page for information about upcoming Worship Services.

Meetings will continue to be held remotely until further notice.

Pastor's Office Hours

During this time of “physical distancing” and working remotely, Pastor Sara will be at the church for office hours Monday 10:00 AM-3:00 PM, Tuesday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM, Wednesday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM and Thursday by appointment. Keep in mind all church doors are locked.

Small meetings may be possible in person with masks.

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.

The Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor	plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org
Courtney Crosato, Office Administrator	office@uccplymouth.org
David Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist	organist@uccplymouth.org
Gale Adams-Davis, Co-Director of Faith Formation	windygla2@yahoo.com
Julie Kelsey, Co-Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Larry Spencer, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Liturgist: John Anderson

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
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(603) 536-2626 - office@uccplymouth.org - www.uccplymouth.org

Celebrating Birthdays in May and June in our Community:

May 1 Weston Hyde
May 1 Sidney Lovett
May 1 Kristi Zwald
May 2 Jim Preston
May 4 Jessica Berman
May 5 Richard Caron
May 9 Troy Tedeschi
May 10 Dana Merrithew
May 12 Eric Kelsey
May 13 Micaela Brand
May 20 Robbin Adams
May 22 Tessa Nicole Kelsey
May 23 Elizabeth Fallon
May 23 Jenny Thibeault
May 24 Kevan Steiner
May 29 Paul Brand

June 6 Anna Boyer
June 8 Alice Avery
June 10 Kimberly Berman
June 22 Murray Swindell
June 23 Jay Buckley
June 25 Mary Bohn Reynolds
June 25 David Castor
June 29 Mona Hoefs
June 30 Rebecca Larson

If you have a birthday or anniversary in either of these two months that you would like listed please email us at office@uccplymouth.org