

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Easter Sunday



Photo by Mikel Mirjane

**March 31, 2024**

**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 be an Anti-Racism church  
Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

*Please inquire with people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.*

# GATHERING

**Prelude**

Dawn of Triumph

Edward Broughton

**Welcome & Announcements**

Rev. Ruth Martz

*Please sign the red friendship pad and return it to the center aisle noting the name of your neighbor in the pen. You may leave your email if you would like to receive our weekly newsletter. This morning, Sunday school for all ages begins after the Word for All Ages. Before Worship, children are welcome to fill a bag with books and toys, which are in the narthex.*

**Introit**

With High Delight, Let Us Unite

Stephen P. Johnson

\*Those who are able may stand.

**\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist – Steve Majeski

One: We are people of the Word, and today that Word is--

**All: Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!**

One: We are people of the world, and today that world is--

**All: in need of peace and redemption.**

One: We are people of work, and today that work is--

**All: laid aside so that we might find renewal for our souls.**

One: We are people of worship, and today that worship is--

**All: offered in a spirit of awe and thanksgiving.**

**Accept, O God, our words of praise and songs of joy!**

**\*Hymn**

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

NCH(black)#233

**\*Passing of the Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

**Unison Gathering Prayer**

**God of the morning light, God of Easter miracles:**

**Open our hearts to hear once again the story**

**of love overcoming death,**

**of joy drowning out sorrow,**

**of hope emerging from despair.**

**Bring Easter to this moment. Touch us. Fill us.**

**We gather today in the name of the One**

**who makes all things new.**

**Make us new, O God, make us new. Amen.**



**\*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.

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*In Unison*)

We believe in an Easter God,  
who transforms darkness into light,  
hatred into tolerance, despair into hope.  
We believe God is always working for good,  
changing every Good Friday nightmare  
into an Easter dream of new possibility.

We believe in the risen Christ,  
who befriends us on our roads of searching and worry;  
who touches us through word and gesture,  
who challenges us to be transformed,  
who calls us to care for one another as brothers and sisters.

We believe in the Spirit,  
the hidden power behind every resurrection,  
who beckons us to leave tomb-like safety  
and trust the invitation to live joyfully.

We believe the Spirit is always renewing the church  
and making us a people who practice kindness,  
encourage beauty and work for a just peace.  
We believe that we are an Easter people,  
a sign that with God all things are possible. Hallelujah! Amen.

**Anthem**                      O Sons and Daughters of the King                      Jeffrey Blersch

**Prayers of the People**

One: O God, in your grace and mercy . . .  
Response: Hear your people at prayer.

**Pastoral Prayer**

*(Based on a prayer by Ted Loder)*

## Prayer of Our Savior

**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**                    “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”                    NCH(black)#240

**\*Pastoral Benediction**

**Choral Benediction**                    Alleluia!                    Christopher Ahlman

**Postlude**                    Thine is the Glory                    G.F. Handel, arr. Lani Smith

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 coffee, food, and fellowship.

### **Keeping in Prayer:**

Prayers for Eileen Torrey’s brother-in-law Carl, who is being treated for throat cancer

Prayers for Ruth Mosher as she undergoes outpatient dialysis.

Prayers for Rebecca Herr, as she undergoes chemotherapy

Prayers for the people of Ukraine

Prayers for Eleanor Spencer’s brother, Ron Ury

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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)*

## This Week and More at PCUCC

Monday, April 1	10:00 am Book Group
Tuesday, April 2	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, April 3	11:00 am Lectio Divina
Thursday, April 4	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, April 5	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Sunday, April 7	Post-worship gathering downstairs led by our Conference Minister, Rev. Gordon Rankin
Monday, April 8	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Sunday, April 14	2 pm at North Barnstead UCC: Merrimack Assoc. Meeting
Sunday, April 14	4:00 pm Concert: Baker Valley Band

### CHURCH LIFE

#### Preaching Schedule:

March 31, Easter Sunday: Rev. Ruth Martz  
April 7: Rev. Gordon Rankin,  
Conference Minister, NHCUCC

April 14: Rev. Bill Torrey  
April 21: Rev. Ruth Martz  
April 28: Alison Thatcher

**Our Conference Minister, Rev. Gordon Rankin,** will be staying after worship to lead a discussion for all of us to help us navigate our interim period. **Please submit your suggestions in the Suggestions Box outside the office.** These will help direct the discussion in the way that is most helpful to our congregation. And please stay for the gathering!

**Get your solar eclipse glasses:** The total solar eclipse will be visible from NH on Monday, April 8. See Sally Jensen to get a pair of solar eclipse glasses.

**Sanctuary Artwork:** Thank you to everyone who shared their winter artwork in our sanctuary. With the changing of the season, we'll be changing our sanctuary art exhibit. Please pick up your artwork in the chapel at your earliest convenience.

**Attention church members and friends.** Nominating Committee is looking for interested individuals to join our church committee teams. If you have a passion and willingness to share your time and talents to contribute to the life our church please consider joining one of the wonderful groups of dedicated committee members. The nominating committee is excited to talk with folks about their interests and involvement. Please reach out to Megan Magrath or Georgene Fabian with questions or interest in joining one our amazing groups. Feel free to catch up with us in person after church or email [meganmagrath@gmail.com](mailto:meganmagrath@gmail.com) or [georgene.fabian@gmail.com](mailto:georgene.fabian@gmail.com). We look forward to talking to you soon!

**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.

**Book Group** is reading The Lacuna by Barbara Kingsolver. Join the discussion on April 1 and 15 at 10am in the parlor. Contact Kathy Henning for more information: henkat52@gmail.com.

**Smores Time! Sign up for an UCC Outdoor Ministries Camp!** Kids & Adults are Welcome! Horton Center is currently accepting registrations for sessions this summer. Come enjoy a transformative week on top of Pine Mountain celebrating the beauty of God's natural wonders and be a part of this incredibly supportive and positive community. Catalogs are available and can also be found online at [www.hortoncenter.org](http://www.hortoncenter.org). Conference scholarships are available. Counselors are also needed- enjoy great food and fun and a week of camp for free! Contact Tivvi Pare at [tpare@nhcucc.org](mailto:tpare@nhcucc.org) or Megan Magrath at [meganmagrath@gmail.com](mailto:meganmagrath@gmail.com) with any questions. Hope to see you on the mountain this summer!

**Spring Plant Sale Upcoming in May:** 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](mailto:ThibeaultJennyR@gmail.com) or 603-254-7824 if you have any questions.

### **UCC New Hampshire Women!**

On Sat. April 20, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., our church will serve as host for the NHCUCC Women's Fellowship Spring Meeting. Please pick up a Registration Form and flyer with details about the day's program, outside the church office. Would you be willing to serve as greeter at 9:30 a.m., read Scripture, and/or help with Communion? Please contact Ruth Martz (603-630-7936).

## **FROM MISSION & OUTREACH**

**Habitat Lunch Update:** 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 at 61 Pleasant St. in Plymouth. Warmest thanks to the church members who have brought lunches.

Suggestions: pasta, chili, chicken pot pie, stews, soups. Additions such as bread/fruit/dessert are optional. Some paper goods and plastic ware are on site; for more details, please contact Ruth Martz: [ruthm.joy@gmail.com](mailto:ruthm.joy@gmail.com).

## **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
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org
<p>Guest Preacher: Rev. Ruth Martz          Guest Accompanist: Dan Perkins</p> <p>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</p>	

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in March and April in our Community

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

Jean Swindell	March 8	Wayne Martin	April 1
Caleb Sweedler	March 26	Sue Switaj	April 5
Julie Kelsey	March 30	Sabrina Tedeschi	April 17
Megan Magrauth	March 30	Michael Carrier	April 25

