

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany: Restoring Beauty**  
Communion Sunday



**February 5, 2022**

**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 working to become a Racial Justice 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

Hiding in Thee

Anna Laura Page

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:office@ucplymouth.org) to get more information about programming for any age.*

Introit

In Thy Temple

\*Those who are able may stand.

**\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist – Carol Stewart

One: The Holy One names us as the salt, but we need to be restored.

**All: We return to Christ's table looking for the beauty of the divine.**

One: This beauty is in no way of convention and while it has grace, it can make us uncomfortable.

**All: We return to Christ's table longing for a simple path of meaning.**

One: Through word, song, meal, and prayer, let our hearts be filled.

**All: Let our hearts be filled, indeed; we do not aim to be perfect but we seek to know the perfection of Christ.**

**\*Hymn**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

PH (red) #7

*Verses 1-3*

## 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

Almighty God, Great Creator – you are goodness and love to us. We come before you lifting up thanks for an opportunity to feast and for an opportunity to seek unity, once again. We have not come perfect, but we are here, nonetheless. We pray that in this time we will find the capacity to accept your divine comfort and also the ability to be compelled by the ancient words given to us by our faith ancestors and your Holy Spirit. We pray all this for Love’s sake and in Jesus’ name. Amen.

### *Moments for Confession and Silence for Personal Reflection*

#### God’s Promise of New Life

One: We often forget that you have come to enliven and enrich our spirits, bring us hope and peace beyond imagination . . .

**All: We come seeking meaning in your mercy and healing, hoping to be made whole, once again. Hear our prayers in humble singing:**

**Response**                      As With Gladness Those of Old                      NCH (black) #159  
As with gladness those of old did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward beaming bright;  
So, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.

## HEARING THE WORD

#### Scripture Readings

Isaiah 58:1-9

Matthew 5:13-20

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

“Simmer With Salt”

Rev. Holland

#### \*Hymn

As We Gather at Your Table

NCH (black) #332

# 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

At the Name of Jesus

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: Gracious God, your gospel clearly shows us the commandment to love without condition and go far with hope. We present these offerings to you, sure that they will be multiplied. For as much as we commit our lives to your way, we want to give of our earthly belongings and abundance. Let these gifts be carried to those most in need – to the hungry, the hurting and the lonely. With Christ, in Christ, and through Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all power and possibility are Yours, God most Holy. 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**                      Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation                      NCH (black) #400

## **\*Pastoral Benediction**

**Choral Benediction**                      God of Love, Hear Our Prayer                      John Helgen

**Postlude**                      Brightest and Best of the Stars                      G. Winston Cassler

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

## **Keeping in Prayer:**

Prayers for Ruth Martz as she continues to recover

Prayers for Susan Wei

Prayers for the Coley family as Ken Coley ('Papa') is in ICU in Bridgeport, CT

Condolences and prayers for the family and friends of John Shaw, who recently passed away

Condolences and prayers for the family of Mary Conroy Payne, sister of Fran Taylor,  
who recently passed away

Prayers for Bill Broadrick and his spouse, Jane

Prayers for Eileen Torrey

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 Mae Larson, Rebecca Larson's mother-in-law

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. 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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)*

## **This Week and More at PCUCC**

Feb 5	5:30 pm Sunday Evening Service
Feb 7	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Feb 8	9:30 am Lectio Divina
Feb 8	11:30 am Staff Meeting
Feb 9	5:00 pm Meals for Many
Feb 9	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Feb 10	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Feb 15	7:00 pm Church Council Meeting
Feb 16	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Feb 19	9:30 Jazz Sunday followed by Shrove potluck lunch

## CHURCH LIFE

**Jazz Sunday and Shrove Potluck:** On Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, come to church ready to hear music from the Jazz Sanctuary House Band featuring Emilia Halstead from First Church in Concord, which will be integrated into the service. Bring a dish to share and stay for a potluck after church to celebrate fellowship before entering the weeks of Lent!

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays – New Members!** To live more fully into God's call to be inclusive, every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!

## FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

**Our HOPE Fund and Little Food Pantry are in desperate 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 Exchange Fundraiser to begin March 1.** This fun fundraiser is to help our church budget continue to support the many wonderful ministries and missions we provide. What's a Service Fundraiser you ask? It's where members volunteer to provide a service like running errands, providing fabulous baked goods or a handmade article that another can purchase for a minimum of \$50. You get a great service, and the church receives the money. Truly a win/win for all around. We did this in 2019 and it was a huge success. The 2023 Fund Raiser will begin March 1st and more information will follow in the coming weeks. Please contact Peggy Martin, Eleanor Spencer, Kathy Henning or Linda LaPrad if you'd like to volunteer, request a service or have any questions. Stay tuned.

**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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)

Work Cell: 336-485-5618

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**Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in February in our Community**

Ken Howe	February 11	Beverly Tedeschi	February 26
Chris Pollock	February 11	Robert Pollock Jr.	February 28
Maris Thatcher-Forgues	February 11		

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

