

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost:

World Communion Sunday – Neighbors in Need Offering



October 2, 2022

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 become a racial justice church

Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

We request that you are respectful when making decisions about masking. Please inquire to people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.

GATHERING

Prelude

Quiet Air

Norman Warren

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@uccplymouth.org. We are delighted to get to know you! On Communion

Sundays, children spend the entire worship time in Sunday School. Feel free to gather toys, books, and children's bulletins, which can be found in the narthex, for your children to enjoy during their time in worship.

You may contact office@uccplymouth.org to get more information about programming for any age.

Introit

The Word Is the Good News

John Helgen

*Those who are able may stand.

*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Carol Stewart

One: God sees the beauty and possibility within each of us . . .

All: In our hymns and praise, let us find spirit dwelling in our souls.

One: God seeks to offer us the comfort we long for and need. . .

All: In our prayers and reflections, let us find Christ's voice.

One: God challenges us to find a new word for our lives this morning. . .

All: In our presence and as we join at Christ's table, let us find hope that we will carry to the world.

*Hymn

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2. Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Great Is Thy Faithfulness'. It consists of two systems of music. The first system is in 4/4 time and features a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com - stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright'. The second system is in 3/4 time and features a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: '1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no 2. Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear'.

pas-sions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man-i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by
 morn-ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy
 hand hath pro - vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

***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

Holy One, you are great indeed. Intercede in our time this morning. Each day you come to us in a new way – open our hearts to receive your love and peace. Let us be ready to receive the new covenant in the holy meal

we will share. Let us continually find the renewal of our faith journey and let us be ever assured of what promises your grace will bring to our lives and the world. 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: God of new beginnings, let us have a deep sense of your mercy this morning. We often think of ourselves as ill-prepared when indeed our imperfections are leaving room for your grace.

All: May we see ourselves as those filled with mercy and those fulfilling the call to offer mercy. Let us remember that there is nothing – nothing here, nothing anywhere else that will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. We sing with hope for this, our truth:

Response Spirit of Love NCH (black) #58
Spirit of love, you move within creation, drawing the threads to color and design: Life into life, you knit our true salvation, come, work with us, and weave us into one.

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings Lamentations 1:1-5 Luke 17:1-10

One: God of Assurance, let us feel your Spirit during this time and let us be compelled to find and offer mercy. We pray that your voice moves between words and hearing.

All: Amen

Message "The Function of Faith" Rev. Sara M. Holland

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

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing Communion

The Ushers 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 Pastor Sara 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 via the side aisles and the next group of twelve will take your place.

Communion Music

Prayer of Thanks in Unison

Holy One, by coming to your table, we receive from your great abundance. 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 served. Amen.

Offertory Anthem

Shepherd Me, Lord

William M. Schoenfield

Jan Bass, flute

We invite you to remember your support for the ministry of PCUCC. Today's plate offerings will go to support the mission of the UCC Neighbors in Need initiative.

If you are making a pledge contribution, please indicate that on your personal check or indicate so on an envelope if enclosing cash.

*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

African Canticle, adapted

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come – bless these gifts and our lives for Your service. All you big things, bless the Lord: Mount Kilimanjaro and Lake Victoria. The Rift Valley and the Serengeti Plain. All eucalyptus and tamarind trees – Bless the Lord. All you tiny things, bless the Lord: busy black ants, flying locusts and water drops. Pollen dust and flies, millet seeds and dried dagaa, bless the Lord. Praises be to Your name, God – move in our gifts this day and forever. We pray all this 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** All Glory, Laud, and Honor PH (red) #155

***Pastoral Benediction**

Choral Benediction God of Love, Hear Our Prayer John Helgen

Postlude When We All Get to Heaven Emily D. Wilson, arr. James Koerts

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

Keeping in Prayer:

Condolences and prayers for Bekey Boyce,
who lost her home and many pets in a fire
Condolences and prayers for Megan Magrauth and family,
whose father recently passed away
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 an end to gun violence, in the spirit of Isaiah 2:4

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. Sara to include in Sunday Worship, please email her at plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org

This Week and More at PCUCC

Oct 2	World Communion Sunday & Neighbors in Need Offering
Oct 2	1:30 Merrimack Association Annual Meeting
Oct 2	4:30 Blessing of the Animals
Oct 5	9:30 Lectio Divina
Oct 5	11:30 Staff Meeting
Oct 5	6:15 Coffee House
Oct 6	5:00 Meals for Many
Oct 6	7:00 Choir Rehearsal
Oct 9	Guest Preacher: Rev. Richard Slater
Oct 10	10:00 Book Group
Oct 15	NH Conference UCC Annual Meeting
Oct 23	Ukama Sunday
Nov 6	New Member Sunday

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion. One-third of the funds support the Council for American Indian Ministries and two-thirds is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministry to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants in the areas of environmental justice, racial justice, LGBTQ justice, women's justice, immigration justice, and more. Please plan to give to this important cause today.

Welcome to church families! Activity bags are hanging in the Narthex and toys are made available, please ask an usher if you cannot find them. If your child needs more space during worship, please feel free to use the parlor on the sanctuary level or downstairs in our nursery and fellowship area. Please contact Jennifer Byam or Julie Kelsey for more information about Sunday School at faithformation@uccplymouth.org.

AmazonSMILE - By choosing our church as your favorite charity, Amazon will make a donation to the charity you designate at no cost to you. Please let Ann Thurston, Linda LaPrad or the office know if you need help setting PCUCC up as your favorite charity on AmazonSMILE.

PREPAID HANNAFORD CARDS - For every card purchased from the Finance Committee, the church receives 5% without any additional cost to you. Denominations of \$100, \$250 and \$500 are available by contacting Ann Thurston or Linda LaPrad after services on Sunday, by phone or email. 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. 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 Pastor Sara. *There is a need for affordable housing. If you know of anything, please let Pastor Sara know*

Book Group: The book group will meet in person on October 10th and via Zoom on October 11th to discuss Caste by Isabel Wilkerson, and will continue to meet every second and fourth Monday at 10:00am. Any questions please contact Peggy Martin at pmartin03223@yahoo.com or Kathy Henning at henkat52@gmail.com.

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.

She keeps sabbath on Friday.

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.

Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor	plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org
Alison Thatcher, Office Administrator	office@uccplymouth.org
David A. Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
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Celebrating Birthdays in October in our Community

Paul Mason	October 1	Liam Kane	October 16
Paulette Brace	October 2	Donna Castor	October 17
Dawn Marie Jackson	October 14	Alice O’Connor	October 20
Deborah Engelhardt	October 15	Amey Bailey	October 24
John Fallon	October 15	Carol Stewart	October 28
Larry Spencer	October 15	Chase Woodsum	October 30

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