

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: Ukama Sunday
Repay the Years



Our faith family & friends in Masvingo, Zimbabwe

October 23, 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.

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

GATHERING

Prelude

Twilight: A Meditation

Nathaniel Irving Hyatt

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! Sunday School runs from mid-September to mid-June. 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, or use the nursery downstairs.

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

Introit

Akuna Zina Kunga Jesu

Shona Hymn

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist – Chris Pollock

One: Open our eyes that they may see the deepest needs of the people; move our hands that they may feed the hungry;

All: Touch our hearts that they may bring warmth to the despairing; teach us generosity that welcomes strangers;

One: Let us share our possessions to clothe the naked; give us the care that strengthens the sick;

All: Make us share in the quest to set the prisoners free.

One: In sharing our anxieties and our love, our poverty and our prosperity, we partake of your divine presence.

(from Zimbabwe, adapted from a *Procession of Prayers*, edited by John Carden, c. 1998 by World Council of Churches Publications)

***Hymn**

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'

NCH (black) #526

***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

From Janet Morley, *Bread of Tomorrow*, Orbis Books (Africa, adapted)

Holy One, enlarge my heart, that it may be big enough to receive the greatness of your love. Holy One, stretch my heart, that it may take into it all those, who with me around the world, believe in Love embodied through Christ. Then stretch my heart again, O God, that it may take into it all those in every community. And stretch hearts to the furthest possible extent, that they may take in all those who do not seem lovely in my eyes and those hands which I do not want to touch. Enlarge our hearts, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Creator God, there seems to be devastation all around us; let us have a sense of the way that your Love may transform our hearts and our communities.

All: May we dream as individuals and collectively this hour, so that peace may prevail. Grant us your vision of hope. May we remember that neither power nor principality will separate us from the love of Christ; it is for this promise of love that we sing:

Response

Spirit of Love

NCH (black) #58

Though we have frayed the fabric of your making, tearing away from all that you intend, yet to be whole, humanity is aching - come, work with us, and weave us into one.

Message for All Ages

Children and youth are welcome to come forward during the message for all ages if they like. The message for all ages will truly be intergenerational this morning so if children want to stay in the pews that is okay too!

NCH (black) #528:

You are the seed that will grow a new sprout,

You're the star that will shine through the day.

You are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a beacon to glow in the night.

Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all:

Messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.

HEARING THE WORD

Remarks on Ukama Partnership

Eileen Torrey

Scripture Readings

Luke 18: 9-14

Joel 2:23-28, adapted

One: Holy Spirit, let the meditations of our hearts and minds be acceptable to you; let us find your comfort and challenge during this time. We pray that your Spirit moves between words and hearing.

All: Amen

Message

Dreams & Visions

Rev. Sara M. Holland

***Hymn**

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

PH (red) #1

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Pastor: O God, in your grace and mercy . . .

Response: Hear your people at prayer.

You will also be 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.*

Offertory

Hymn of Promise

Natalie Sleeth

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 (from Zimbabwe)

All: God of All Good, our gifts we bring to you. May they be multiplied and blessed, as the fish and the loaves were. Little though our offering is, but meaningful in love, may it be. May they be received as tokens of our love. Amen. Maren Tirabassi's *Gifts of Many Cultures*

SENDING

*Hymn Blessed Be the Tie That Binds NCH (black) #393

*Pastoral Benediction

Choral Benediction

Postlude I Want Jesus to Walk With Me Spiritual, arr. James Koerts

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

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for Paulette Brace for a speedy recovery from surgery
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 write on the yellow card in the pews and place it in the offering tray, or email her at plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org

This Week and More at PCUCC

Oct 24	10:00 Book Group
Oct 26	9:30 Lectio Divina
Oct 27	5:00 Meals for Many
Oct 27	5:45 Peace Rally at Plymouth traffic circle
Oct 27	7:00 Choir Rehearsal
Oct 28	8:00 AA Meeting
Oct 30	Remembrance Sunday
Oct 30	Racial Justice Coffee Hour
Oct 30	5:00 Sunday Niters hosted by Eleanor & Larry Spencer
Nov 6	New Member Sunday

Sermon 'talk back' today: Today we will hear a word of challenge from the prophet Joel and reflect on theological interpretations showing reasons for racial reparations in the United States. This is not a simple topic for us to consider and so Rev. Sara will host a sermon 'talk back' and discussion just after church. It will be simple and short and in the fellowship hall. Please join if you wish, and know that we will have other conversations relating to this in the near future.

Looking for paintings, drawings, and photography of Advent, Christmas, and winter by our artists and artists in our communities to grace our sanctuary walls. Please spread the word. Bring to church by Sunday, Nov. 15.

Remembrance Sunday: On October 30 we will be holding vigil and praying for our friends and family members who have passed since last October. If you have

a loved one that you would like to honor, please email Rev. Sara or the church office by October 26.

Support PCUCC with no cost to you! By choosing our church as your favorite charity through **AmazonSMILE**, Amazon will donate to the charity you designate at 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.

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 24th and via Zoom on October 25th 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
Ashley Rose, Organist, Pianist	organist@uccplymouth.org
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
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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
Sarah Lovett Simpson	October 3	Steve Rand	October 17
Bob Curry	October 8	Dawn Shimberg	October 17
Susan Wei	October 8	Alice O'Connor	October 20
Dawn Marie Jackson	October 14	Amey Bailey	October 24
Deborah Engelhardt	October 15	Carol Stewart	October 28
John Fallon	October 15	Chase Woodsum	October 30
Larry Spencer	October 15		

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