

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany:
Racial Justice Sunday



February 12, 2023

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 striving to be 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

Poème

Edvard Grieg

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. We are delighted to get to know you! We have Sunday School between mid-September & mid-June. There are bags in the narthex which the kids may find to enjoy! You may contact 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

One: We come with hearts of gratitude this morning; your divine mystery has given us hope.

All: Let our foundation be filled with faith and peace.

One: Some of us need deep comfort this morning and some of us need to be challenged.

All: Let our foundation prepare us for the world.

One: We all come with a need for belonging; we all seek purpose and meaning.

All: Let our foundation be made known throughout the world in shared prayer, historic scriptures, and sacred song.

*Hymn

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

NCH (black) #403

*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

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Divine good and gracious God, who loves and delights in all people, we stand in awe before You knowing that the spark of life within each person on earth is the spark of your divine life. Differences among cultures and races are multicolored manifestations of your light. May our hearts and minds be open to celebrate similarities and differences among our sisters and brothers. We place our hopes for racial harmony in our committed action and in your presence in our neighbor. May all peoples live in peace and let our worship be a place where we may experience such peace. Amen.

Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: It can be easy for us to want an authoritative word from scripture. But you have called us to wade in the waters of nuance and complexity of our ancient tradition.

All: Holy One – let us know that your word can transform our hearts and minds; for your word gives us a path to Christ. And there is nothing – nothing here or anywhere else that can separate us from the love of God in Jesus. It is for this promise and Spirit that we sing.

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.

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

Scripture Readings

Psalm 146:2-9 (Wilda C. Gafney, Year W) Matthew 5:21-30 & 37

One: Spirit of life, let us feel your presence and be comforted and challenged.
We pray that the meditations of our hearts and minds will be acceptable to you.
May your Spirit move between words and hearing.

All: Amen

Message Claimed and Connected Rev. Holland

***Hymn** Every Time I Feel the Spirit NCH (black) #282

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 Christ Is the World's True Light Walter Kendall Stanton

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**

Loving God, we are blessed each day with your generous gifts. There is no scarcity when we bring our offerings together in a spirit of love and compassion. We pray that our offerings today will be used to joyfully gather all your children together in understanding and reconciliation, and to bring us ever closer to your kingdom of peace and justice. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling NCH (black) #43

***Pastoral Benediction**

Choral Benediction God of Love, Hear Our Prayer John Helgen

Postlude It Is Well with My Soul arr. Bob Walters

The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us into the world where our true service begins. You may sit in the sanctuary during the postlude, or you are welcome to begin exiting – either is absolutely okay.

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for those affected by the disaster in Turkey & Syria
Condolences and prayers for the extended Coley-Holland family
as ‘Papa’ (Kenneth Coley) has passed

Prayers for Jaime Armstrong, niece of Marlin Collingwood, who is recovering from surgery
Prayers for Ruth Martz as she continues to recover
Prayers for Susan Wei

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 Sage Pirnie and her family,
granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie

Continued prayers for Eileen Torrey

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 Polly Bartlett, who struggles with cancer

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

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

This Week and More at PCUCC

Feb 12	5:30 pm Sunday Evening Service
Feb 13	4:00 pm Music Committee Meeting via Zoom
Feb 14	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Feb 15	9:30 am Lectio Divina
Feb 15	10:30 am Mission & Outreach Meeting
Feb 15	11:30 am Staff Meeting
Feb 15	7:00 pm Church Council Meeting
Feb 16	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Feb 16	5:00 pm Meals for Many
Feb 16	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Feb 17	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Feb 19	9:30 Jazz Sunday followed by Shrove potluck lunch

CHURCH LIFE

Capital Campaign Update: The dedicatory plaques have been installed on the choir chairs in the sanctuary, parlor, and choir room. Please take a moment to look at them at your convenience and see who our community members have honored and memorialized through this initiative.

Jazz Sunday and Shrove Potluck: On Sunday, February 19th, 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! The potluck will be organized and hosted by the Sunday School crew.

3rd Sundays – New Members! To live more fully into God’s call to be inclusive, every 3rd 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!

Book Group will meet on February 20th to further discuss To Speak for the Trees by Diana Beresford-Kroeger. We will meet on March 6th and 20th to discuss The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles. If you have questions, contact Peggy Martin: pmartin03223@yahoo.com

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, a handmade article, or a home-cooked meal for 2. The minimum cost is \$50, and when and where details are to be worked out by the two parties involved. Although we ask that the church receive the money by May 1st, the service can be provided anytime in the year. Bottom line is you get a great service, and the church receives the money. Truly a win/win for all around. Right now we’re asking for volunteers to provide a service and/or for you to request a service like stacking wood, handy work done, or anything else you’d like to see made available. Request forms will be on the table outside the office and in a link in Constant Contact. Please contact Peggy Martin, Eleanor Spencer, Kathy Henning or Linda LaPrad if you'd like to volunteer, request a service or have any questions.

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

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

