

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Third Sunday of Lent:
Sunday After International Women's Day



March 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 an Anti-Racism 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

Lead, Kindly Light

Franklin D. Ashdown

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! 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@uccplymouth.org to get more information about programming for any age.

Introit

I Am the Light of the World

Aaron David Miller

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist – Bill Heron

adapted parts from Psalm 96 edited by *Year W* by Wilda C. Gafney

One: Sing to the exalted a new song; sing to the Creator, all the earth.

All: Sing to the highest, bless her name; proclaim from day to day her salvation.

One: Declare among the nations her glory, among all the peoples, her marvelous works.

All: For great is the ageless God, and greatly to be praised; revered is she above all gods.

One: For all the gods of the peoples are idols, yet the womb of life made the heavens.

All: Splendor and majesty are before her; strength and beauty are in her sanctuary.

***Hymn**

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

PH (red) #225

***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, we thank you. You brought an embodiment of love and holy life to our mundane realm. Your steadfast love has endured and we are so grateful. You have known and held our troubles. We are here seeking a deeper sense of your truth. In our moments of distress, your eternal love has held us well. Indeed, the hope and peace of your word is steadfast. In continuing our Lenten journey and delving into your word, let us stay centered on your ancient and holy way. Hear our prayers, our praise, our songs, and our reflections; may each align with your will. Amen.

Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Holy One, the paths of our lives have left us weary too many times and we need your mercy. We understand that we are imperfect and so we look to the perfection of your grace on this very day.

All: In this Lenten wilderness, we look for the well of hope laid out in the sacred text. We return to the promise of Christ – no matter who we are or what we have done, mercy is for us. We seek this mercy as we sing:

Response Savior, When in Tears and Dust NCH (black) #185

Savior, when in tears and dust, low we bow to you in trust,
When repentant, to the skies scarce we lift our weeping eyes,
Mindful how you suffered pain that God's love in us might reign – Help us
claim what we would be, hear our solemn litany.

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

John 4:7-42

Psalm 96:9-10 (year W)

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

“Everything We’ve Done”

Rev. Holland

*Hymn

Yigdal Elohim Chai (The God of Abraham Praise)

NCH (black) #24

Verses 2-4

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

Oh Send Out They Light

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: We give You thanks, gracious God, for Your holy gifts and ways, which turn us ever outward to share. We give you thanks for faith community which teaches us to love and empowers us to walk the sacred path. We give You thanks for the presence of Christ in our midst, which changes our brokenness to beauty. Receive these gifts and symbols we return to you now and make our lives your work of compassion. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit all power and radiance are yours, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn** God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending NCH (black) #565

***Choral Benediction** Open Your Doors of Mercy Mark Sedio

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle 14th Century Plainsong

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.

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for Sherrill Babler, friend of Alice O'Connor, who is recovering from an accident
Condolences and prayers for the family and friends of Rebecca Larson's mother-in-law,

Mae Larson, who recently passed away

Prayers for Martha R, friend of Alice O'Connor, who will be undergoing surgery

Prayers for Lynn Cote, friend of Alice O'Connor, who was recently diagnosed with cancer

Prayers for Brianna G, friend of Alice O'Connor, who is facing health issues

Continued prayers for Jaime Armstrong, niece of Marlin Collingwood,
who has made it through surgery and will soon undergo radiation

Prayers for Ruth Martz as she continues to recover

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

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

Sunday, March 12	During Coffee Hour: Lenten Anti-Racism Discussion
Sunday, March 12	5:30 pm Sunday Evening Service
Tuesday, March 14	7:00 pm Lenten Anti-Racism Discussion via Zoom
Tuesday, March 14	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, March 15	9:30 am Lectio Divina
Wednesday, March 15	11:30 am Staff Meeting
Thursday, March 16	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Thursday, March 16	5:00 pm Peace Rally
Thursday, March 16	5:00 pm Meals for Many
Thursday, March 16	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, March 17	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Sunday, March 19	4:00 pm Concert: Chamber Music of Mozart and Martinu
Monday, March 20	10:00 am Book Group
Sunday, March 26	3:00 pm Mark Charles at Church of Christ in Hanover

CHURCH LIFE

Lenten Anti-Racism Study: This Lenten season the PCUCC Anti-Racism Group invites you to join us in fasting from convenience and complacency and feasting on uncomfortable truths and difficult conversations. Every week during Lent a short video and related article will be posted in the weekly email. There will be an opportunity to discuss these resources during coffee hour on Sundays and via Zoom at 7:00 pm on Tuesdays, so you can join the conversation in whatever mode suits you. We hope to see you there, even if you can only make one meeting! For information contact Alison Thatcher: Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com.

Capital Campaign Update: The dedicatory plaques have been installed on the choir chairs in the sanctuary, parlor, and choir room. Thank you to all who contributed to this exciting initiative. We offer special thanks to Lisa Lovett and Bev Newton for their tireless leadership throughout the capital campaign.

Book Group will meet on March 20th to discuss The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles. We will meet on April 10th and 24th to discuss Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby VanPelt. If you have questions, contact Peggy Martin: pmartin03223@yahoo.com

An Afternoon with Mark Charles: Indigenous justice activist and author of Unsettling Truths, Mark Charles, will be speaking at Church of Christ at Dartmouth College on Sunday, March 26th at 3:00 pm. We have watched his TED Talk, “We the People – the three most misunderstood words in the constitution”, for our Lenten Anti-Racism study. Pick up a leaflet in the narthex or outside the church office to scan to register or contact the church office and we can register you. Please let the church office know if you would like to carpool or can help carpool.

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!

FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

Our HOPE Fund and Little Food Pantry are always in 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 Fundraiser Update: There are over 20 great services being offered. Amazing baked goods, house sitting, a pony ride, hand crafted items, and even a beginner rock climbing lesson just to mention a few. The full list will be posted in Fellowship Hall every Sunday and in a link in Constant Contact. What you’d like to see isn’t on the list, you say? No problem. Just let one of us know and we’ll look for a volunteer to provide that service. Please contact Linda LaPrad, Kathy Henning, Peggy Martin, or Eleanor Spencer and let them know what service you are interested in. Once you sign up for an item, you’ll receive instructions on scheduling the service at your convenience. THANK you for participating.

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 March in our Community

Jean Swindell	March 8	Julie Kelsey	March 30
Caleb Sweedler	March 26	Megan Magrauth	March 30

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

