

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Fourth Sunday in Lent:
One Great Hour of Sharing
Welcoming of New Members



March 19, 2023

9:30 am

Note: there will be no evening service tonight; please attend the concert at 4 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 with people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.

Unison Gathering Prayer

God of abundant life, we come to worship this day from various walks of life and places of engagement, yet we are drawn together through the connection in this community of faith. We pray that during this time, we would be reminded yet again of the power of doing good and of changing the lives of others. It can be so easy to get caught up in our own lives that we forget the simple acts of kindness which can make a world of difference. We want to seize the day and not miss any opportunities. Show us the paths where we might follow in the footsteps of your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen

Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Sometimes we grow weary in working to do what is right. We can be prone to living shallow lives even though we are called to depth.

All: May we find ourselves with new life on this very day; in this Lenten wilderness, let us see that we can move into the deep waters of God's love. No matter who we are or what we have done, we are being called towards the peace of Christ; with this knowledge, 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

Ephesians 5:8-14

1 Samuel 16:1-13

One: Creator God, we pray that the meditations of our hearts and minds will be acceptable to you, for you are our rock and redeemer. May your Spirit move between words and hearing.

All: Amen

Message

“On The Heart”

Rev. Holland

*Hymn

O Source of All That Is

NCH (black) #513

Those who wish to join the life and ministry of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ as members may come forward during hymn #513. If you come forward, you may sit on the front pew until the hymn concludes. Please know that all questions you will be asked will include prompted answers and that by joining you do commit to 1-2 simple ‘classes’ with Pastor Holland.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Reception of New Members – see insert

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 Anthem Surely He Hath Born Our Griefs 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: Generous God, we offer these gifts in the spirit of gratitude and with an open heart. These offerings are one way of showing our commitment to sharing with those who are in need, neighbors near and far, whom we are unlikely to meet. Let us not grow weary in giving our gifts to others. Bless them, just as you have us, with an extra measure of your grace. In Christ's name, Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn** What Wondrous Love Is This NCH (black) #223

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

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude Minuet from *Water Music* G.F. Handel

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 19	During Coffee Hour: Lenten Anti-Racism Discussion
Sunday, March 19	4:00 pm Concert: Chamber Music of Mozart and Martinu
Monday, March 20	10:00 am Book Group
Monday, March 20	4:00 pm Music Committee Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, March 21	7:00 pm Lenten Anti-Racism Discussion via Zoom
Tuesday, March 21	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, March 22	9:30 am Lectio Divina
Wednesday, March 22	11:30 am Staff Meeting
Wednesday, March 22	7:00 pm Church Council Meeting
Thursday, March 23	5:00 pm Meals for Many
Thursday, March 23	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, March 24	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Sunday, March 26	3:00 pm Mark Charles at Church of Christ in Hanover
Thursday, March 30	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Thursday, March 30	5:00 pm Peace Rally

CHURCH LIFE

Sanctuary Art: We are planning an exhibit of the works of Herb and Bertha Waters who were long-time members of the church. Because Herb's works are in print form, our first request is to send us a description. For example, mine says "Country church" 1955. That way we can be sure there aren't any duplicates. Bertha was a weaver and hopefully some members might have samples of her work. Let us know of those too. Expected date for the opening of the exhibit is Palm Sunday. Send info to Fran Taylor: egglady5@gmail.com.

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! **Note: there will be no evening service on tonight, March 19.**

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

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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

