

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Fifth Sunday of Lent: Breath of Hope, Dreams & Realities



March 26, 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

Pie Jesu

Gabriel Faure

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 Resurrection and the Life

Aaron David Miller

*Those who are able may stand.

*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Donna Castor

One: God grants healing of heart and the fullness of grace.

All: You are the breath of hope, O Holy One.

One: God grants courage in the struggle for justice and peace.

All: You are a dream we can hardly imagine, Great Redeemer.

One: God is the empowering presence of Holy Spirit made known in Christ.

All: You are larger than life and you move with the rush of mighty winds.

Let us find peace even as we are swept up by your strength.

*Hymn

My Shepherd Is the Living God

NCH (black) #247

*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

O Holy God, much like the prophet Ezekiel, we too have been placed in our own valley of dry bones. The center of such valleys can be lonely and overwhelming; and so, we are here this morning. We search in feeble but sure prayers, songs, in scripture, and reflection. Hear our longings, especially those which are too difficult to name. Let us find the breath of your hope, the dreams of your gospel and the reality of our call. We pray all this for Love's sake and in Jesus' name. Amen.

Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Creator God, we often believe that the barriers to your love are far greater than they are. Some parts of us believe that we are unworthy and maybe not ready to be held in the comfort of your care.

All: Let us see the expansiveness of your love. Let us 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

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

John 11: 1-17 & 38 – 45

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

“An Unbound Life”

Rev. Holland

*Hymn

The Day of Resurrection

NCH (black) #245

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

All in the April Evening

Hugh S. Robertson

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: Redeeming God, accept these offerings and let our hands and feet move with them. You have granted us a safe space in which to worship, friends which are our family, and songs to sing so that we may dwell in hope. Carry this portion of what has been our own to those who have needs far greater than ours: to the lonely, the desolate, the hungry children, and the widow who suffers. 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** Our God, Our Help in Ages Past PH (red) #583

***Choral Benediction** Out of the Depths Mark Sedio

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude Grand Choeur Craig A. Penfield

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 Frances Carey, friend of Alice O'Connor
Prayers for Sherrill Babler, friend of Alice O'Connor, who is recovering from an accident
Prayers for Lynn Cote, friend of Alice O'Connor, who was recently diagnosed with cancer
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 26	During Coffee Hour: Lenten Anti-Racism Discussion
Sunday, March 26	3:00 pm Mark Charles at Church of Christ in Hanover
Tuesday, March 28	7:00 pm Lenten Anti-Racism Discussion via Zoom
Tuesday, March 28	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, March 29	9:30 am Lectio Divina
Wednesday, March 30	11:30 am Staff Meeting
Thursday, March 30	5:00 pm Meals for Many
Thursday, March 30	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 30	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Thursday, March 30	5:00 pm Peace Rally
Friday, March 31	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Saturday, April 1	State Games for Special Olympics 5 on 5 at Plymouth Elementary 9:30 am and 12:30 or 2:00 pm
Wednesday, April 12	6:15 pm Coffee House: Haley Myers & Angel Ekstrom

CHURCH LIFE

Sanctuary Art: Many thanks to the artists who have had your beautiful artwork gracing our sanctuary walls for the last 5 months. So many folks have admired the artwork. Soon we will be changing the artwork from winter scenes to the Herb Waters Exhibition of his woodworking prints that folks are sharing with us. On March 29th, John Anderson will be putting up the Herb Water Exhibition. Please pick up your winter artwork before the 29th of March if possible. After the 29th your artwork may be picked up from the chapel. Again, our heartfelt thanks to all of you!! Many thanks to Fran Taylor for organizing the Herb Water Exhibition and to all of you who are loaning us your Herb Water copies. Our deep appreciation to John Anderson for being so willing to put up the next exhibition.

An Afternoon with Mark Charles Today! 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.

Coffee House: Haley Myers serves with the Central NH Medical Reserve Corps and Community Emergency Response Team (MRC/CERT). Angel Ekstrom is the direct of the Medical Reserve

Corps. They will be telling us about the role of the MRC/CERT in our community and how people can join in their work. Join us on April 12th at 6:15 pm with a snack to share or just yourself!

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 April 10th and 24th to discuss Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby VanPelt. If you have questions, contact Peggy Martin: pmartin03223@yahoo.com

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: We have launched a Sunday evening service. This service takes place on the lower level at 5:30 pm each week until Easter. It is casual and uses some components of the Sunday morning service but has a different setting and atmosphere and will include a substantial snack/light meal. Come one and all – let’s worship together! We have been advertising this heavily at PSU and so far we have had little interest from students; we will go back to the drawing board after Easter if we do not see any young adult turnout by that time.

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. Please note that some of items listed have already sold out and are no longer available. Hurry to choose the service you want to purchase before it's too late.

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

Rev. Sammy 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
<p>Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ 4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264 (603) 536-2626 - office@uccplymouth.org - www.uccplymouth.org</p>	

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

