

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

## An Easter Celebration: Visions & Renewal



**April 9, 2023**

**6:10 am, 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 be a 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** Christ the Lord Has Risen Today with *Hallelujah Chorus* arr. Cindy Berry

## 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** Alleluia Aaron David Miller

\*Those who are able may stand.

**\*Call to Worship** Liturgist – Bill Torrey

One: A Light has come to enlighten all; the stone is rolled away, and we bear witness to a miracle, once again!

**All: Christ has risen; Christ has risen, indeed!**

One: No principality can control the Love of Christ and the glorious movement of Holy Spirit. Let us praise and sing this day!

**All: Christ has risen; Christ has risen, indeed!**

One: In celebrating the joy of resurrection, we recall the ways that we are renewed, day by day, breath by breath. Be our center, O Holy God!

**All: Christ has risen; Christ has risen, indeed!**

**\*Hymn** Christ the Lord Is Risen Today NCH (black) #233

## \*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

**Eternal God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit. Let us feel a new beginning: your resurrection; let us become alleluias to the world! Give now the life of**

resurrection to all who are in need; nourish us with hope this hour and let us proclaim your word to all the world. Your heavenly reign is among us and has granted us an abundant life, even amid struggles. Holy God, we know that You live and reign forever. Let us feel a new beginning: your resurrection! Let us become alleluias to the world!

*Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection*

### **God's Promise of New Life**

One: Spirit of Renewal - Jesus: we sing praises even in our brokenness and we know you see our faith; let us become part of your story of new beginnings, once again.

All: Holy God, we name ourselves to be a part of your miracle! Let us proclaim Your good news, for You have risen indeed. No matter where we have been, where we are, or where we are going, you call us to sing of your glory!

### **Response**

Gathered Here

NCH (black) #742

Gathered here, in the mystery of this hour, gathered here in one strong body; gathered here in the struggle and the power, Spirit draw near.

### **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 20: 1 – 18

Colossians 3: 1-4

One: We read and hear that You have risen; let us dwell in Your sanctity. Let us feel Your Spirit as we reflect. Let us find wisdom for today in these ancient words. O Holy Spirit, we pray You move between words and hearing.

All: Amen.

**Message**

“Visions Of & Beyond The Tomb”

Rev. Holland

**\*Hymn**

The Strife is O'er

NCH (black) #242

## **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**

He Is Risen

Cecil Cope

*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: Gracious God, we give you thanks for the springtime of our lives, for the beauty of your mercy, and for the chance to start afresh every day.**

**Receive the gifts we offer as signs of our commitment to become living gifts for the world. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, our power and possibility are yours, God most holy, now, and forever. Amen.**

# SENDING

**\*Hymn**                      Jesus Christ is Risen Today                      NCH (black) #240

**\*Choral Benediction**                      Kyrie Eleison

**\*Pastoral Benediction**

**Postlude**    Easter Postlude on “St. Kevin”    Arthur S. Sullivan & Franklin D. Ashdown

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 and condolences for the family and friends of former  
Holderness police officer, Barry Tanner  
Prayers for Carl Smither, friend of Alice O’Connor, as he recovers from cancer surgery  
Prayers for Frances Carey, friend of Alice O’Connor  
Prayers for Lynn Cote, friend of Alice O’Connor, who is recovering from cancer surgery  
Continued prayers for Jaime Armstrong, niece of Marlin Collingwood,  
who has made it through surgery and will soon undergo radiation  
Prayers for Bill Broadrick and his spouse, Jane  
Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family, granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie  
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 pens and place it in the offering tray, or send an email to [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)*

## This Week and More at PCUCC

Sunday, April 9	During Coffee Hour: Imaging a world without white supremacy
Tuesday, April 10	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, April 12	11:30 am Staff Meeting
Wednesday, April 12	6:15 pm Coffee House: Haley Myers & Angel Ekstrom
Sunday, April 16	Following Worship: Potluck & Ukraine Project Presentation
Sunday, April 16	5:00 pm Concert: The Music of John Rutter
Monday, April 24	6:30 pm Home Energy Workshop at Starr King UU
Saturday, May 6	7:30 pm Concert: NH Gay Men’s Chorus
Thursday, May 11	6:00 pm A Discussion on Climate Issues with Bill McKibben

## CHURCH LIFE

**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 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 pm with a snack to share or just yourself!

**Free Home Energy Workshop:** Grounded in the mission of Creation Justice, PCUCC is partnering with local organizations including Starr King UU and Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative to support NHsave's ½ hour presentation about improving the energy efficiency of our homes. This is a great way to learn how to save money and save the environment.

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays – New Members!** To live more fully into God's call to be inclusive, every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!

## FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

**Mission & Outreach Spotlights The Common Man Ukraine Project.** April's Mission Focus is on Ukraine. We have allocated from our discretionary funds \$750 to the Common Man Ukraine Project. Their website notes: "With your help, the nonprofit Common Man for Ukraine has raised and delivered more than \$2.6 million in relief from 3,000 different donors." You can check out all the good work this local Common Man Ukraine Project has done by visiting the website at commonmanforukraine.org. Steve Rand, who with Alex Ray created the project, will be with us on Sunday April 16. During the church potluck he will talk about the work that's been done and the work still to complete. Plus, that day we will have a special mission offering for the Ukraine Project.

**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. To give to the HOPE Fund, send your check to PCUCC and write HOPE Fund in the memo. Our Little Food Pantry in front of the church is always in great need of being filled.

## FROM FINANCE

**Stewardship Time:** Because of YOU, our church changes lives. Stewardship is the time to reflect on all we've accomplished this past year, and a time to look at the financial support needed to keep the flexibility, creativity, and faithfulness alive and thriving this next fiscal year. You should be receiving our annual pledge request around the middle of April. As you review this information, we hope you'll prayerfully ask God to help you discern your 2023-24 pledge. Please return your commitment by May 2nd to PCUCC Finance by US mail at PO Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264, or by email to treasurer@uccplymouth.org.

**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 the 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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)

Work Cell: 336-485-5618

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Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in April in our Community

Wayne Martin	April 1	Sabrina Tedeschi	April 17
Sue Switaj	April 5	Michael Carrier	April 25

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





## ***Easter Flower Dedications***

### *In Celebration of:*

Our grandchildren: Taylor, Sydney, Max, Charlotte, Lauren, Sam, Maple, Olivia, and Hazel  
by Kathryn V. Henning

Our children, their spouses, and our 7 grandchildren by Butch & Donna Castor

The lives of Pat, Steve, Jean, Lorena, and Opal by Edie Doherty

Our new church family! by Ken Howe & Michele Giggi-Howe

### *In Thanksgiving for:*

Our Family & Our Church Family by Eileen & Bill Torrey

This Church by Wayne & Peggy Martin

### *In Memory of:*

Our parents: Bob & Muriel Pollock, Arthur & Caroline Anderson by Chris & Bob Pollock

Toni Sweedler: mother, grandmother, and friend by Jenny Thibault & Caleb Sweedler

Douglas & Margaret Verdin and Elizabeth Verdin Slocomb by Kathryn V. Henning

Loved Ones in the Pierson, Hahn, Love, and Torres Families by Carol Hahn

The Rev. W. Robert Miller & Mrs. Elizabeth Buckley by Susan Miller

Mary Majeski & Edwine Martz by Ruth Martz & Steve Majeski

Jane Louise Thatcher by Alison Thatcher

Rick Fabian by Georgene Fabian

Elizabeth Cheney by Ann Thurston