

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Fifth Sunday of Eastertide

Pledge Sunday: Sharing Abundance at the Table



May 7, 2023

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 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

adapted from St. Augustine

When I found truth, there I found my God who is the truth. And there since the time I learned you, you abide in my memory. Let us recall the ways that we are with you, each moment. Here we find you. You are throughout the world. Let us sing of the ways that your Spirit is made manifest in our lives. We are grateful, God; we delight in your presence even during struggle. Grant that we may be centered this hour and find strength in your holy meal. Let us listen for your still small voice; let us proclaim the sufficiency of your grace. Settling in this hour, we uplift the name of Jesus, the one who came for Love's sake. Amen.

Moments for Confession and Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: God of new beginnings, draw us into your deep reconciliation so that we may be healed and so that we may heal. Let us be assured of the new life that has been promised us, this day, and every day.

All: We proclaim that new life is ours, Holy One. As we return to your table, let us be so assured of how we are your beloved children. We sing for your great Spirit:

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.

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings

John 14: 1-14

Micah 4: 3-4

One: Here end the readings from our tradition. May Holy Spirit join us as our souls move towards Christ's Love. Let us find wisdom for today in these ancient words. O Holy Spirit, we pray You move between words and hearing.

All: Amen

Message

"Sufficiency Over Perfection"

Rev. Holland

*Hymn

God's Eye Is on the Sparrow

NCH (black) #475

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing Communion

The Usher/s will guide twelve participants at a time to the front to share Communion. Each person will be given a simple bread and juice cup as the officiant offers simple words of blessing: "This is the bread of heaven and the cup of the new covenant."

After each participant receives the elements, the group of 12 will take and eat. You will then be invited to return to your seats and the next group of twelve will take your place.

****The bread is gluten & nut free and the juice is non-alcoholic.****

Communion Music

Prayer of Thanks in Unison

Gracious and loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink. Now send us forth to be your people in the world and to proclaim peace and hope in your word. Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil, and to proclaim in all we say and do your Good News in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Offertory Anthem

Peace Between Nations

Christopher Wiggins

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, who lives and moves among us in our neighbors, we give thanks for the ways you are revealed in the breaking of bread. We are grateful for how our faith helps keep our minds and hearts open and for the ways that we may share the holy food of compassion. We pray that these gifts will bless those most in need – those who are lonely, hungry, and hurting. We pray all this, for Love’s sake. Amen.

Prayers of the People

You are invited to offer your personal prayers from the silence of your heart.

Litany for Pledges

One: Almighty and Everlasting God, we give you thanks this day as we gather the pledges of support for your Church in the coming year. We bring them before you with eager anticipation and hope.

All: Hear us, O God, as we give You our thanks and praise.

One: For those whose lives have been touched by your Spirit, who have increased their commitment,

All: We give you thanks and praise.

One: For those who are responding to your creative grace by pledging for the first time,

All: We give you thanks and praise. We ask for your continuing guidance and care.

One: That these pledges may emerge as real gifts, thereby enabling the mission and ministry of Jesus to move forward through this congregation and the Church Universal,

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to this action. Amen and Amen.

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.

SENDING

***Hymn** Come, O Fount of Every Blessing NCH (black) #459

***Choral Benediction** The Lord Is My Hope

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove arr. Michel Corrette

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 Paula, cousin of Butch Castor

Prayers for PSU students as they begin finals week

Prayers for Sherry Weymouth Morison, who is recuperating from cancer surgery

Prayers for Martha Richards, friend of Alice O'Connor

Prayers of comfort and strength for Ruth & Dale Mosher

Prayers for Matt, family member of Ruth Martz & Steve Majeski

Prayers for Megan Magrauth

Prayers for Carl, stepson of Ruth Sigvardson

Prayers of joy for Marlin Collingwood who has spent many years in our community

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 pews and place it in the offering tray, or send an email to plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org

This Week and More at PCUCC

Today, May 7	5:30 pm Sunday Niters
Monday, May 8	10:00 am Book Group
Tuesday, May 9	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, May 10	9:30 am Lectio Divina
Wednesday, May 10	11:30 am Staff Meeting
Thursday, May 11	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Thursday, May 11	6:00 pm A Discussion on Climate Issues with Bill McKibben
Friday, May 12	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Sunday, May 21	2:00 pm Merrimack Association Spring Meeting

CHURCH LIFE

Sunday Niters, May 7th at 5:30 - You're invited to the home of Jim and Linda LaPrad at 297 Will Colburn Rd, Rumney. Take a left off Rte 25 onto Old Rte 25. Will Colburn Rd is about a mile on the left. Drive straight up the hill, bear right and drive through the woods to the last house.

Attention Committee Chairs and Lay Leaders: Annual Meeting is Sunday, June 18th following morning worship. Annual Reports are due no later than May 18th.

Book Group will meet on May 8th and 22nd to discuss The Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner. 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!

FROM FINANCE

Stewardship Time: It's a 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. Our next fiscal year, 2023-24, will take \$180,000 in pledges to continue supporting the mission and ministry of our congregation. As you review the information that was mailed recently, we hope you'll prayerfully ask God to help you discern your 2023-24 pledge. Because of YOU, our church changes lives.

Service Fundraiser Update: THANK YOU to all who generously volunteered, requested, or purchased a service. Because of your participation, a total of \$2,430 was raised. Not only was this a lot of fun, the amount raised greatly contributed to the goal of meeting a balanced budget for this 2022-23 fiscal year. Thank you for helping to make this fundraiser such a huge success. Peggy Martin, Eleanor Spencer, Kathy Henning, and Linda LaPrad

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
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	

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in May in our Community

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

James Preston	May 2	Robbin Adams	May 20
Alison Thatcher	May 8	Tessa Nicole Kelsey	May 22
Troy Tedeschi	May 9	Elizabeth Fallon	May 23
Eric Kelsey	May 12	Jenny Thibeault	May 23
Micaela Brand	May 13	Paul Brand	May 29

