

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Sixth Sunday in Easter



May 14, 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.

GATHERING

Prelude Great Is Their Faithfulness William M. Runyan, arr. Bob Walters

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

Introit Those Who Love Me Will Keep My Word Aaron David Miller

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship** Liturgist – Wayne Martin

One: Come and take refuge.

All: From the storms and struggles of life, we come.

One: Come and rejoice in the Lord, for God will provide peace.

All: From fear and anxiety, we come to find peace.

One: Come and open your hearts and you will be blest. Amen

***Hymn** Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good NCH (black) #6

*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 God, distant yet near, we gather as witnesses to your promise that if we seek you with all our hearts, we will find you. Be among us this day and help us change narrowness of vision in our living. Make us new again by your grace. Grant to us your Holy Spirit so that our worship may ever be a witness to your presence in our lives. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection

Unison Prayer of contemplation, confession, and compassion

Almighty God, we confess that we have failed in our calling to be holy people. We live more in apathy born of fatalism than passion born of hope. We are moved more by private ambition than by social justice. Help us make room in our hearts for you. Forgive us, revive us, and shape us in your image. Amen.

Lyndia Martinez, Hispanic

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.

Time for the young and young at heart

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

Psalm 23:1-6, 46:1-7

Mark 4:35-41

One: Here ends the readings from our tradition. Let us find wisdom for today in these ancient words. O Holy Spirit, we pray that your grace would move between words and hearing.

All: Amen.

Message

“Coping with Fear as Christians”

Rev. Bill Torrey

***Hymn**

“Be Still My Soul”

PH (red) #77

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, Sing unto the Lord a New Song

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

Accept these offerings of your people, O God, the giver of every good and perfect gift. Grant that they may be symbols of our love and of ourselves offered to you. Use these gifts to the end that your kingdom and your will be done on earth through Jesus Christ who gave his life and all for us upon the cross. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn** Our God, Our Help in Ages Past PH (red) #1

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

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude Just a Closer Walk with Thee arr. James V. Marchionda & Mar Rachelski

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 of joy for Natalie Boyer and Rohan Magrauth, who will be graduating high school

Prayers and condolences for the family and friends of Butch Castor's cousin Paula,
who recently passed away

Prayers for the family and friends of Cheryl Bernier

Prayers of joy for Sabrina Tedeschi,

who is graduating with a master's degree in education from SNHU

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

Tuesday, May 16	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, May 17	9:30 am Lectio Divina
Wednesday, May 17	11:30 am Staff Meeting
Friday, May 19	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Sunday, May 21	2:00 pm Merrimack Association Spring Meeting
Sunday, May 21	5:30 pm Sunday Niters
Monday, May 22	10:00 am Book Group
Wednesday, May 24	7:00 pm Council Meeting
Thursday, May 25	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Sunday, May 28	Strengthen Our Church Offering

CHURCH LIFE

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

Sunday Niters, May 21st at 5:30 - You're invited to the home of Peggy and Wayne Martin at 2196 Rte. 3 in Campton, 7 miles north of Plymouth.

Book Group will meet on May 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 Update: As of May 7th, Stewardship Sunday, we have received 33 pledges totaling \$134,380. That's a HUGE step towards our goal of \$180,000. If you have already submitted your 2023-24 pledge, we thank you. Your financial gifts and stewardship support make a difference in helping our church reach people with the Good News of Jesus Christ. If you have not yet pledged, we ask that you prayerfully consider your financial support and send your pledge to PCUCC Finance by US mail at PO Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264, or by email to treasurer@uccplymouth.org. Extra pledge cards have even been placed in the pews for your convenience; or you can go online to get the link in Constant Contact. With your support, we will continue to maintain our important ministry and mission. Because of you, our church changes lives.

Final Service Fundraiser Update: THANK YOU to all who generously volunteered, requested, or purchased a service. A total of \$2,505 was raised. Not only was this a lot of fun, but 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.

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

Guest Preacher: Rev. Bill Torrey

Guest Musician: Sally Jensen, clarinet

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(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
Dana Merrithew	May 10	Jenny Thibeault	May 23
Eric Kelsey	May 12	Paul Brand	May 29
Micaela Brand	May 13		

