

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Seventh Sunday of Easter:  
Music Sunday  
Welcoming of New Members



May 21, 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

Adagio

W. A. Mozart

## 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](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org) to get more information about programming for any age.*

*And today is new member Sunday as it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month; please come forward during the 2<sup>nd</sup> hymn if you feel called to join our beloved faith community!*

Introit

Go and Make Disciples of All the Nations

Aaron David Miller

\*Those who are able may stand.

**\*Call to Worship** *adapted from Psalm 95*

Liturgist – Rev. Holland

One: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**All: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!**

One: For the Lord is a great God, and a great Ruler above all gods. In God's hands are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

**All: The sea is God's, for God created it, and the dry land, which God formed.**

One: O come, let us worship and kneel before our Maker! For we are the people of the pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

**All: Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!**

**\*Hymn**

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

NCH (black) #22

*Verses 1-3*

## **\*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

adapted from Ted Loder

**Holy God, empower us to be bold participants, rather than a timid saint in waiting, in the difficult ordinariness of now. Let us exercise the authority of honesty, rather than to defer to power, or deceive to get it. Let us influence someone for justice, rather than impress anyone for gain. And let us, by grace, find treasures of joy, of friendship, of peace hidden in the fields you give us to plow. Amen.**

**Confessional Anthem**    Come, Ye Sinners    Beach Spring, arr. David Ashley White

## God's Promise of New Life

One: Sometimes we forget the tunes and melodies of the Holy Spirit; may we find the harmonies of Christ's Way in this hour.

**All: 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**                                  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.**

**Music for All Ages**                                  Peace Like a River

*We are so grateful for the volunteers and staff who worked to lead our youngest members in music this morning. Once the children offer their tune, we'll sing them away to church school.*

**NCH (black) #325:**

*Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.  
Back to God we humbly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.*

## HEARING THE WORD

**Scripture Reading**

John 17: 1 – 11

**Reflection Anthem**

Shepherd Me, Lord

William M. Schoenfiled

**Scripture for Resonance**

John 17: 3 - 4

**\*Hymn**                      When in Our Music God Is Glorified                      NCH (black) #561

*Those who wish to join the life and ministry of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ as members may come forward during hymn #561. 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*

**Prayer through Song**      Psalm 30 - I Will Exalt You O My Lord      Aaron David Miller

*As Psalm 30 is offered, congregants are welcome to come forward to light a votive for a joy or concern you may have brought into the sanctuary this morning.*

### **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**                      Lord, Fill My Heart                      Stephen Kramer

*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**                      With Songs and Honors Sounding Loud                      PH (red) #459

## **\*Pastoral Benediction**

**Choral Benediction**                      As You Go On Your Way                      James Engel

**Postlude**                      Amazing Grace                      Traditional, arr. M. W. Swift

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 Megan Magrauth, who is recovering from surgery  
Prayers of joy for Weston Hyde, who has graduated college  
Prayers of joy for Ryan Amtmann, Natalie Boyer, Elizabeth Fallon, 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 Carl, stepson of Ruth Sigvardson

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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)*

### **This Week and More at PCUCC**

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
Tuesday, May 23	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, May 24	9:30 am Lectio Divina
Wednesday, May 24	11:30 am Staff Meeting
Wednesday, May 24	7:00 pm Council Meeting
Thursday, May 25	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Thursday, May 25	7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, May 26	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Sunday, May 28	Strengthen Our Church Offering
Friday, June 2	5:00 pm Plymouth Regional High School Baccalaureate
Sunday, June 18	PCUCC Annual Meeting following Morning Worship

### **CHURCH LIFE**

**Sunday Niters, May 21<sup>st</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss The Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner. If you have questions, contact Peggy Martin: [pmartin03223@yahoo.com](mailto:pmartin03223@yahoo.com)

**Youth Mission Fundraiser:** At the end of this month our youth will be “greening up” local areas by collecting trash and recyclables and bringing them to a transfer station. You can support them by donating \$10 for them to fill a small garbage bag or \$20 to fill a large garbage bag. Your money will go towards their youth trip at Horton Center and towards helping the environment! Make a check out to PCUCC and write “Youth mission trip” in the memo or make a gift at [uccplymouth.org/give](http://uccplymouth.org/give) and select 2023 Missional Service Trip.

**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 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](mailto: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.

**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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Ann Thurston, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org">treasurer@uccplymouth.org</a>

### Guest Musicians:

Sally Jensen, clarinet • Peggy Martin, flute  
Margot W. Swift, piano • The Sunday School Children

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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](mailto: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	Kathy Henning	May 24
Micaela Brand	May 13	Paul Brand	May 29

