

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

**Ordinary Time:
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**



Photo Credit: Franco Caldararo

July 23, 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 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

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.

Prelude Shall We Gather at the River arr. Timothy Shaw

*Those who are able may stand.

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

One: As we harvest our growing abundance in this time of mid-summer, may we relish in the fruit of our labor,

Many: As we harvest the fruitful seeds of nature and God's Garden, let us share in the bounty with our neighbors.

One: While we channel resources – water, light, fertile ground to the produce we desire in our gardens,

Many: May we also recognize that the weed, the rabbit, the caterpillar also has needs for sustenance.

One: We have enough, and an attitude of plentifulness increases through sharing.

Many: For what our land grows with our tending, is only ours for a moment in time, filling a short term and immediate need.

All: May we share the harvest by tithing back to nature, feeding the hungry among us, storing for the future without hoarding, and setting enough seed aside for the next season of planting.

***Hymn** Nearer My God to You NCH (black) #606

***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

Gracious God, in our lives we hear so much chatter, so many voices. Help us to winnow out the good wheat from the weeds, the truth from the noise. Grant us your spirit, so that as the scriptures are read, your good news proclaimed, we may hear with gladness what you are saying to us today. We come from you. We rest in you. We listen for you. Open our hearts to your presence. Open our ears to your Word. Open our arms to your children. Open our future to your grace. Amen.

Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: God of grace, gather in your harvest, separate out what is good in us and what is not, that our lives may bear fruit for you and for the world.

All: In the grace we know in Christ, receive us, forgive us, heal us, and renew your Spirit in us as your beloved children as we sing:

Response Spirit of the Living God NCH (black) #283

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

Message For All Ages

Alison Thatcher

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) #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

Genesis 28:10-19a

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

One: God, surely you are in this place. Open the eyes and ears of our hearts that your Word will take root in us.

All: Amen.

Message

“Living with Weeds”

Rev. Rebecca Larson

***Hymn**

Christ Will Come Again

NCH (black) #608

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

Special Music provided by Maggie Demler

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**

God of abundant generosity, we dedicate these resources to doing your work among your people. May these gifts plant seeds of justice for God’s children who seek it. May they remind us to love more mercifully. May all walk humbly as we learn to trod gently upon this earth. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn**

You Are the Seed

NCH (black) #528

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude

Voluntary on *America*

Robert Lind

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 strength and healing for Donna Coulter, friend of Paulette Brace

Prayers for Paulette Brace's son, Shawn Cassington, who has been hospitalized

Prayers for Claire Campbell, daughter of Diane Arsenault & Peter Pirnie,
as she makes her way through the tumult of divorce

Prayers for Marissa and Seth who, family members of Diane Arsenault & Peter Pirnie,
have been chosen to adopt a baby

Prayers and condolences for Diane Verhoest & Judy Johnson and family
upon the death of Diane's father

Prayers for Paul Santonelli

Prayers and condolences for the family of former PCUCC member, Elva Piehn,
who recently passed away at age 106

Prayers and condolences for Peter and Evangeline Jack of Zimbabwe. Peter lost his sister in-
law and Evangeline lost 2 brothers recently.

Prayers for Tony Amodeo, friend of Jim and Linda LaPrad,
on his upcoming surgery and cancer treatments

Prayers for the family of Timothy Ward and for Timothy's spirit

Prayers for Lucy, cousin of Georgene

Prayers of gratitude that Megan Magrauth is recovering well

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

Prayers of comfort and strength for Ruth & Dale Mosher

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

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, July 25	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Friday, July 28	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Thursday, August 3	1:00 pm Knitting group
Sunday, August 20	Following Morning Worship: A potluck celebrating shared ministry with Pastor Sammy

CHURCH LIFE

Have you always wanted to serve as liturgist, and I haven't asked you yet? Please contact me, Eileen Torrey, and I will be glad to sign you up!

A Final Moment for Shared Ministry, August 20: Please join us for a potluck gathering for fellowship and to reflect on shared ministry with Rev. Sammy. We will say goodbye and celebrate! Tell the church office what dish you will be bringing by emailing office@uccplymouth.org.

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, electricity, and medications. 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. You can put items right in the pantry or bring them to the church office.

FROM FINANCE

Stewardship Update: As of July 4th, we have received pledges totaling \$141,100 towards our goal of \$180,000. If you have already submitted your 2023-24 pledge, we thank you. 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 can be found in the pews, on the table by the office or on the Constant Contact link. 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

Work Cell: 336-485-5618

Rev. Sammy Holland, Pastor & Teacher

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. Rebecca Larson

Guest Musician: Maggie Demler

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(603) 536-2626 - office@uccplymouth.org - www.uccplymouth.org

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in June and July in our Community

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

Justice Merrithew-Stone	July 6	Alfie Kerr	July 18
Marilyn Wixson	July 6	Paul Santonelli	July 18
Tammy Lawler	July 7	John Anderson	July 21
Sally Jean Jensen	July 8	Rose Shimberg	July 24
Lorelei Paine	July 8	Bev Newton	July 26
Johanna Bentwood	July 17	Bill Torrey	July 31

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