

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

**Ordinary Time:  
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**



**July 30, 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@ucplymouth.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@ucplymouth.org) to get more information about programming for any age.*

## Prelude

Moment of Truth

Esther Megargel

\*Those who are able may stand.

## \*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Bill Heron

One: God of love, your grace is the mustard seed that grows in us, that gives life and beauty.

**Many: Your love is the net that gathers us in all our diversity.**

One: Christ you are the treasure hidden in the field of our lives.

**Many: You are the fine pearl we seek.**

One: Holy Spirit, you are the yeast that leavens us with love.

**Many: You are new and old, eternal and always coming anew.**

**All: In awe, in gratitude, in joy, we worship you!**

## \*Hymn

I Love to Tell the Story

NCH (black) #522

## \*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

**Lord, you place before us the images of the small—the tiny mustard seed, the grain of yeast, the small treasure—and remind us that we, though we think of ourselves as small, are not insignificant in your kingdom. Open our hearts and our spirits to you in thankful remembrance of the ways in which we can serve you throughout all our lives, in the way of Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection*

**God's Promise of New Life**

One: God, we do not know how to live as we ought, but your Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.

**All: In your mercy forgive our sin, heal our fear, and empower us to change our habits for the sake of love. May your grace leaven our hearts 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) #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 Reading** Genesis 29:15-28 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

One: Holy God, let your word grow in us like the tiny mustard seed that became a mighty shrub. Your Word is our treasure.

**All: Amen.**

**Message** "A Mustard Seed Faith" Rev. Rebecca Larson

**\*Hymn** We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed NCH (black) #540

# 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**      Peace Like a River, Kum Ba Yah      arr. Jean Anne Shaferman

*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

Before you, O God, we offer our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. We lay our gifts before you in praise and thanksgiving for your many blessings. May these offerings continue the transforming work of your Spirit in and through our congregation. Amen.

# SENDING

**\*Hymn**                      My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less                      NCH (black) #403

## **\*Pastoral Benediction**

**Postlude**                      Just a Closer Walk with Thee                      Traditional Spiritual

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 Polly Bartlett,  
who recently passed away  
Prayers for Alice Carey, friend of Alice O'Connor, who will be undergoing chemotherapy  
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 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 our partner church in Zimbabwe, Mosvingo UCCZ

*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**

Tuesday, August 1	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Thursday, August 3	1:00 pm Knitting group
Friday, August 4	8:00 pm AA Meeting
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](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup>, we have received pledges totaling \$146,100 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](mailto: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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)

Work Cell: 336-485-5618

Rev. Sammy Holland, Pastor & Teacher

[plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)

Alison Thatcher, Office Administrator

[office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org)

David A. Williams, Director of Music

[musicdirector@uccplymouth.org](mailto:musicdirector@uccplymouth.org)

Ashley Rose, Organist, Pianist

[organist@uccplymouth.org](mailto:organist@uccplymouth.org)

Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation

[faithformation@uccplymouth.org](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org)

Ann Thurston, Treasurer

[treasurer@uccplymouth.org](mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org)

Guest Preacher: Rev. Rebecca Larson

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264

(603) 536-2626 - [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org) - [www.uccplymouth.org](http://www.uccplymouth.org)

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in July and August in our Community

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

Justice Merrithew-Stone	July 6	Bill Torrey	July 31
Marilyn Wixson	July 6	Jan Bass	August 1
Tammy Lawler	July 7	Arline Bownes	August 11
Sally Jean Jensen	July 8	Dick Brace	August 15
Lorelei Paine	July 8	Angi Francesco	August 15
Johanna Bentwood	July 17	Georgia Merrithew-Stone	August 17
Alfie Kerr	July 18	Natalie Amtmann	August 21
Paul Santonelli	July 18	Jim LaPrad	August 21
John Anderson	July 21	Colton Hyde	August 22
Rose Shimberg	July 24	Maeghan Warburton	August 24
Bev Newton	July 26	Marti Shoemaker	August 29

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