

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Ordinary Time, Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost:
When All Seems Lost



Aug 13, 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 In the Garden C. Austin Miles, arr. Margaret Goldston

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship** Liturgist – Donna Castor

One: Let us hear what God the Lord will speak

All: For God will speak peace to the people,

One: God will speak to the faithful, those who listen and turn to Love in their hearts.

All: God's path is before us today and God's glory may come into our lives.

One: Steadfast love and faithfulness will come together. Righteousness and peace will dwell as one.

All: We seek God's path humbly this morning. May God hear our prayers, hopes, and songs!

***Hymn** Give Up Your Anxious Pains NCH (black) #404

***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

God of grace, we gather this morning seeking a deeper faith. Like a loving parent you bend toward us, smile, and take our hand. We come to walk your path of righteousness as a loving community of faith. You lead us

with the steady light of hope and inspire our feet to dance to your joyful song. May we listen to your call this morning and hear your voice in our sacred stories. Bless our prayers, songs, celebrations, and meditations this morning. Amen.

Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: God, we admit that we cannot know your will. Rather than live and trust in these blessed questions, we too often turn to follow our own path.

All: May we let go of our expectations and embrace your mysterious way, trusting that it will lead to your loving realm. For this 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

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

Psalm 85:8-13

Matthew 14:22-33

One: May we hear deeply the meanings of our faith ancestors' stories this morning. May we bring our understanding of them into the world.

All: Amen.

Message

"God's Terms"

Rev. Holland

***Hymn**

Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

NCH (black) #172

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

In the Name of Jesus

Katy Nichole

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 bounty, everything we have is by your good grace. In this earthly season of plenty we give back a portion of our bounty. We faithfully offer monetary and spiritual gifts according to our abilities. We pray this offering may clear a path towards your kingdom for all who seek it and fuel a guiding light for those who are lost. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn** Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me NCH (black) #596

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude Variations on St. Thomas David Lasky & Aaron Williams

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 the people of Maui, Hawaii as they recover from a devastating wildfire

Prayers for Jeff Foster, cousin of Diane Arsenault, who is in hospice

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 will be undergoing surgery

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 of gratitude that Megan Magrath 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

This Week and More at PCUCC

Tuesday, August 15	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Thursday, August 17	1:00 pm Knitting group
Friday, August 18	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Sunday, August 20	Following Morning Worship: A potluck celebrating shared ministry with Pastor Sammy
Tuesday, August 29	Seminar (10am to 4pm) & Lecture (6:30pm) with author, Carter Heward, at UU Church in Concord
Sunday, September 10	Rally Sunday!

CHURCH LIFE

Volunteer Driver Needed: 603 Equality, a statewide LGBTQ+ advocacy group, is looking for a volunteer to drive a prospective patient from Plymouth to the Queer Care Fund at Equality Health Center in Concord on **Wednesday, August 16**. If you are interested in this opportunity to live into our Open & Affirming Mission, please contact the church office: office@uccplymouth.org.

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 25th, 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. 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 Musician: Jennifer Hairston

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Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in August in our Community

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

Jan Bass	August 1	Natalie Amtmann	August 21
Arline Bownes	August 11	Jim LaPrad	August 21
Dick Brace	August 15	Colton Hyde	August 22
Angi Francesco	August 15	Maeghan Warburton	August 24
Georgia Merrithew-Stone	August 17	Marti Shoemaker	August 29

