

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Ordinary Time, Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost: Bold Moves



Aug 20, 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

The Lone, Wild Bird

Robert J. Powell

*Those who are able may stand.

*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Wayne Martin

One: Almighty God, we come before you acknowledging the ways we have veered from your path; we remember your mercy.

All: We come for your grace, we long to hear divine peace.

One: The earth shouts of God's majesty and so we join the oceans, the rains, the forests, the crickets, and all those who praise the Holy One's name:

All: We are grateful for a time to praise your name and seek the best parts of ourselves.

One: Indeed, we will be reminded of the ways that we are beloved – for God has called us this moment, this hour, and throughout all our days!

All: Praise be to God; in our songs, our prayers, our reflections, and our fellowship may the meek be made strong and may the last become the first. This is our prayer!

*Hymn

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

NCH (black) #573

*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

Creator God, we come first giving thanks for all that delights us, all that brings us joy. For the fellowship of friends and family, the love and care surrounding us. As we come with gratitude, we also come with some anxiety on this very day; change in our midst, both in our local church and in the world. Give us the courage to ask the hard questions for our time of transition. May we be ever mindful of the unexpected ways your love was revealed. Open our hearts to your word, this hour and let us remember more than anything the deep call to bring Love to all the world. We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Too often we have believed that God's sacred path may not be revealed in this mundane world. We return to the truth of the gospel today.

All: Let us know deep in our hearts – there is nothing here, nothing anywhere else that can separate us from the love of God in Christ. It is for this truth that we sing:

Response Nearer, My God, to You NCH (black) #606

Nearer, my God, to you, nearer to you. I'll bear the cross as Christ calls me to do
and pray each day anew: Nearer my God, to you,
nearer my God, to you, nearer to you.

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! This morning we will present a bible to a young friend; if ever you have a child in your family who wants a new bible, please let our office know.

Responses from the community; all stated with one voice as officiant calls upon the gathered body:

All - one: Taste and see that the Lord is good! (Psalm 34:8)

All - two: I have hidden your word in my heart. (Psalm 119:11)

All - three: Do not merely listen to the Word. Do what it says. (James 1:22)

Final collective response: Amen and Amen!

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings Ruth 1:16-17 Psalm 67:1-3, 7b Matthew 28:18-20

One: Gracious and loving God, move like the rush of mighty yet calming words
this morning in the scripture.

All: Amen.

Message “We’ve Got It” Rev. Holland

***Hymn** Savior When in Tears and Dust NCH (black) #185
verses 1, 2 and 1 again without instrumentation

Time of Passage: Farewell

Our church leadership, lay and ordained, is extremely grateful to the Merrimack Association and the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ for all its support. Today we offer a special welcome to our beloved Conference Minister, Rev. Gordon Rankin.

Congregational response to pastor’s words of departure:

We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Congregational response for repetition: We do, with the help of God.

Ministerial response for repetition: I do, with the help of God.

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 Jacob's Ladder Spiritual, arr. Norman Goldberg

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**

O Holy One, in times of transition, we pray that your institutions offer us peace and respite. We present our offerings to you, grateful for safe places to worship, pray and sing. May these humble offerings build up your church so that God's word may be taken to those most in need – the lonely, the lost, the forgotten, and the hungry. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn** Let Justice Flow like Streams NCH (black) #588

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude The Lord Is My Shepherd Thomas Koschat

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.

If you have a family emergency and want to talk with a pastor, please call Rev. Ruth Martz at 603-630-7936 or you may call Eileen Torrey at 603-252-7513

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for the family and friends of Al Mather who recently passed away
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 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 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 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

Sunday, August 20	Following Morning Worship: A potluck celebrating shared ministry with Pastor Sammy
Monday, August 21	4:30 Music Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 22	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Friday, August 25	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Tuesday, August 29	Seminar (10am to 4pm) & Lecture (6:30pm) with author, Carter Heward, at UU Church in Concord
Thursday, August 31	1:00 pm Knitting group
Sunday, September 10	Rally Sunday!

CHURCH LIFE

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!

Sunday School begins September 10th! Rally Sunday marks the beginning of the Sunday School year and the return of our adult choir.

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!

FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

VEGETABLES TO SHARE! The Mission and Outreach Committee invites you to bring any garden vegetables that you would like to share with people within and beyond our church. Please put the veggies in the crate on the front steps of the church. The produce will remain outside The Little Food Pantry until Monday morning, when anything left will be taken to a local senior center. **Thank you!**

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

If you have a family emergency and want to talk with a pastor, please call Rev. Ruth Martz at 603-630-7936 or you may call Eileen Torrey at 603-252-7513

Rev. Sammy Holland, Pastor & Teacher	plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org
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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

