

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

**Ordinary Time:
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**



Panel of Shiphrah and Puah from All Hallows Church in Leeds, UK

August 27, 2023

9:30 am

We Practice Just Peace: doing justice, seeking peace
We are Open and Affirming: welcoming LGBTQ+ people
We are an Anti-Racism church

🎵 We Listen for the Still Speaking God
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

If you are new to our community and want to know more, email us at office@uccplymouth.org.

Sunday School for all ages will begin on September 10.

Children can fill a bag with books and toys from the narthex that they can use during the worship service.

Prelude

Remembrances

Edvard Grieg

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist – Bill Heron

One: We come before our Beloved, the one who delivers us from our troubles.

All: We seek an emboldened hope that springs from the peace and reassurance of God's promise.

One: We come this morning holding liminal spaces within our hearts.

All: May we lean deeply into God's mysterious way and rejoice in the potential of the unknown.

One: It is a courageous act to listen patiently for God's call, even as we hold questions unanswered.

All: We strive this hour to open our hearts and minds, to listen without judgement, and to look upon ourselves and our neighbors with love.

***Hymn**

God Our Author and Creator

NCH (black) #530

***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

Divine Teacher, we gather this morning to hear our sacred stories, sing of your wondrous works, and prayerfully meditate on your purpose for each of us. We ask for your blessing on this gathered body and on all its integral, unique parts. May we feel the Holy Spirit move among us this

hour, granting us peace and inspiring us to action. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: When fear and doubt reign in our hearts, when our resentment and pride hold our spirits captive, God shows us a way toward liberation.

All: We pray for God's mercy to flow through us like living water and wash away all that separates us from God's love. 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 Romans 12:3-8 Exodus 1:8-22

One: Holy God, may we listen for your voice calling each of us in unique ways this morning. Bless our reading, hearing, and practicing of your word.

All: Amen.

Message "Unlikely Heroes" Alison Thatcher

***Hymn** The Church of Christ, in Every Age NCH (black) #306

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

Warum, Op. 12 No. 3

R. Schumann

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, we offer myriad gifts this morning and every day. We ask for your blessing on this offering that it may feed those who are hungry, shelter those who are homeless, and release those who are held captive. Bless also the intentions we offer and give us the strength and energy to fulfill our acts of love. And turn our gaze from ourselves that we may lift up the unique gifts of all your children, that our giving together may bring about your realm of love and communal liberation. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn** Take My Life, God, Let It Be NCH (black) #448

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude His Eye Is on the Sparrow C. Gabriel

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 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 is 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, family members of Diane Arsenault & Peter Pirnie,
who have been chosen to adopt a baby
Prayers for Paul Santonelli
Prayers for Tony Amodeo, friend of Jim and Linda LaPrad,
who is undergoing 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 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 29	Seminar (10am to 4pm) & Lecture (6:30pm) with author, Carter Heward, at UU Church in Concord
Tuesday, August 29	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Thursday, August 31	1:00 pm Knitting group
Friday, September 1	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Sunday, September 10	Rally Sunday!

CHURCH LIFE

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

Fellowship Coffee Hour resumes Rally Sunday, September 10th. Our church committees will be providing snacks, coffee, tea, etc. following Sunday worship throughout the school year. AND you don't have to be on a committee to bring a dish. If you're in the mood to cook, bake or arrange a platter, your dish will be a welcome addition to the table. We love to talk and share food, so please join us for fellowship and snacks starting September 10th.

Feeding Our Children Together: For the past few years, our church has participated in a local program called Feeding Our Children Together (FOCT). This program provides a bag of various foods for families at the Plymouth Elementary School and the Plymouth HeadStart Program. We pack on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-10:00 a.m. Michael, who used to be our building caretaker here at PCUCC, picks up the bags on Thursdays and delivers them to PES and HeadStart so that the kids can take them home on Fridays to help with weekend meals. If you would like to be a packer for this program, please notify Alice O'Connor at alimaenh@gmail.com. Packers usually pack about once a month.

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!**

RIP MEDICAL DEBT—The UCC NHC Merrimack Association is inviting churches to support the UCC National Fundraiser that will help relieve people in debt throughout the United States. **In the month of September** (2023), there will be two collection boxes for your donations, one in the narthex and the other in Fellowship Hall. RIP Medical Debt flyers will be available with more information (also online: ripmedicaldebt.org).

Each \$1 that you donate relieves \$100 of medical debt!

The Mission and Outreach Committee will match all donations, with a cap of \$250.

At the Merrimack Association Fall meeting this October, the total sum raised by our Association churches will be announced. Checks may be made out to our church, with RIP Medical Debt in the info line. **Thanks in advance for your contribution!**

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

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

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.

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 Speaker: Alison Thatcher

Guest Musician: Margot W. Swift

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
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(603) 536-2626 - office@uccplymouth.org - www.uccplymouth.org

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in August and September in our Community

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

Jan Bass	August 1	Marti Shoemaker	August 29
Arline Bownes	August 11	Judy Floyd	September 8
Dick Brace	August 15	Diane Arsenault	September 12
Angi Francesco	August 15	Philip Wei	September 16
Georgia Merrithew-Stone	August 17	Molly McCahan	September 20
Natalie Amtmann	August 21	Cameron Woodsum	September 20
Jim LaPrad	August 21	Anna Switaj	September 25
Colton Hyde	August 22	Andrew Hedberg	September 27
Maeghan Warburton	August 24	Madelyn Kelsey	September 29

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