

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

**Ordinary Time:
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**



September 24, 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

Prelude

Cannon

Johann Pachelbel

Welcome & Announcements

Please sign the red friendship pad as it is passed to you and return it to the center aisle noting your neighbor in the pew. You may leave your email if you would like to receive our weekly newsletter.

If you want to know more, email the office at office@uccplymouth.org.

Sunday School for all ages begins after the Message for All Ages on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays. Children are welcome to fill a bag with books and toys, which are in the narthex, to use during worship.

Introit

Open Our Hearts, O Lord

Carl. F. Schalk

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist – Bill Heron

One: Out of the fullness of the lives God has given us we have come to worship and to praise.

Many: With thanks we offer to God the creativity of our minds, the warmth of our hearts, and the joy of our spirits.

One: We love because God has first loved us, freeing us from the power of sin and death.

Many: With glad hearts let us join together in singing praise to God: Creator, Word, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Hymn**

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

NCH (black) #22

Unison Gathering Prayer

God of abundant grace and mercy, grant to each of us a singing heart — a heart open and ready to join in your love song. Grant to each of us a dancing heart — willing to embrace all our many partners in your great dance of creation. And grant to each of us a laughing heart — that we might come into your holy presence with praise, thanksgiving, and joy Amen.

Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Beloved, you are enough. God loves you as you are for who you are. We, collectively, have enough and may share in a common life where all may flourish and live in harmony as our Creator intended and designed. You are forgiven and free to embrace the life that is uniquely yours.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response God Speak to Me, That I May Speak NCH (black) #531

**God, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek your erring children lost and lone.**

Message For All Ages

Children and youth are welcome to come forward during the message for all ages if they like.

NCH (black) #325

**Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.**

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16

One: Here end the readings from our tradition. Let us feel God's extraordinary love in this ordinary time of our church year. O Holy Spirit, we pray You move between words and hearing.

All: Amen

Message God's Calculus of Grace Rev. Rebecca Larson

***Hymn** My Life Flows on in Endless Song NCH (black) #476

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts Healey Willan

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**

With hope in our hearts, we offer our gifts to you, O God, trusting you will use them in the work of your kingdom which welcomes all, loves all, needs all, and serves all. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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.

SENDING

***Hymn** Called as Partners in Christ's Service NCH (black) #495

***Pastoral Benediction**

***Choral Benediction** Guide My Eyes to You Aaron David Miller

Postlude Send the Light Charles Gabriel, arr. James Koerts

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.

Please join us downstairs after worship for refreshments and fellowship!

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers and condolences for the family and friends of William Broadrick,
who recently passed away

Prayers for those affected by the devastating floods in Libya

Prayers for all those affected by the earthquake in Morocco

Prayers and condolences for the friends and family of Judy Detzel, who recently passed away

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 and for
Alice Carey's mother who has Covid

Prayers for Paulette Brace's son, Shawn Cassington, for ongoing medical issues

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 the LaPrads, 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 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

Today, September 24	"Let's Talk!" following Worship
Monday, September 25	10:00 am Book Group
Monday, September 25	4:30 pm Music Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 26	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, September 27	11:00 am Lectio Divina
Wednesday, September 27	7:00 pm Council Meeting
Thursday, September 28	1:00 pm Knitting group
Thursday, September 28	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, September 29	8:00 pm AA Meeting

CHURCH LIFE

“Let’s Talk!”: Today, September 24, following Coffee Hour, you are all invited to gather for conversation during this time of pastoral transition in our congregation. Questions will be offered to jumpstart a few “one-on-one” conversations about our church, such as: “What brought you to this church and why do you keep coming?” After each mini conversation, we will talk about what has been shared. We plan to meet in the chapel; if it is too crowded, we will move to Fellowship Hall. Rebecca Larson and Ruth Martz will serve as facilitators. Let us talk with one another in a spirit of respect, compassion, and hope. Please join us!

Book Group will meet on Monday, September 25 to discuss The Forest Lover by Susan Vreeland. Contact Peggy Martin for more information: pmartin03223@yahoo.com.

Lectio Divina: All are invited to gather Wednesday mornings from 11 a.m. to noon for a Bible study modeled on Lectio Divina, the sacred reading of scripture. We’ll begin with the Gospel of Mark, the first gospel written, and read through it listening for God’s Still Speaking voice. Please join us. Rebecca Larson will lead us.

Sunday School focuses on Bible lessons, outreach projects, and family activities. The children will learn how to use the gifts God gave them to positively impact their community. Volunteers are always welcome! Please contact Jennifer for more details at faithformation@uccplymouth.org

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: Today is the last day of our church collection! There are two collection boxes for your donations, one in the narthex and the other in Fellowship Hall, along with flyers providing more information. Each \$1 that you donate relieves \$100 of medical debt! The Mission and Outreach Committee will match all donations, with a cap of \$250. The total amount donated by churches in the UCC Merrimack Association will be announced at the Association Annual Meeting: 2 p.m. October 1st, at the UCC Salisbury church. Checks may be made out to our church, with RIP Medical Debt in the memo line. Thank you for your generous donations.

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 contact Rev. Ruth Martz at ruthm.joy@gmail.com or 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 Preacher: Rev. Rebecca Larson

Guest Musicians: Peggy Martin, flute and Ruth Martz, harp

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264

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

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in September in our Community

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

Judy Floyd	September 8	Cameron Woodsum	September 20
Diane Arsenault	September 12	Anna Switaj	September 25
Philip Wei	September 16	Andrew Hedberg	September 27
Molly McCahan	September 20	Madelyn Kelsey	September 29

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

