

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Second Sunday of Easter



**April 7, 2024**

**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**

Op. 12, No. 3

Robert Schumann

## **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](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org).*

*On Communion Sunday the children begin downstairs in Sunday School and come up for Communion.*

**Introit**

God of love, hear our prayer

John Helgen

\*Those who are able may stand.

### **\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist – Carol Stewart

One: We gather in this place to find the extraordinary in the ordinary.

**All: Seeking community in the togetherness of ordinary people.**

One: Listening for the voice of the Divine in common words.

**All: Searching for grace amidst everyday happenings.**

One: For whenever we gather to practice God's love,

**All: The extraordinary is bound to unfold.**

### **\*Hymn**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

NCH(black) #243

## **Passing of the Peace**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

### **\*Unison Gathering Prayer**

**Spirit of the Living God, you call us together to pause, to rest ourselves in your presence, and to listen for the lessons of your Word. Clear away our distractions. Center and ground our worshipful practice. Draw us closer into community with You and our siblings in faith. In our time together, may we discover new revelations of your love for us and for all creation. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**



## Prayer of Consecration and Words of Institution

### Sharing of the Bread and Cup (By Intinction)

*This morning Communion will be by Intinction, which simply means “dipping in.” Please come forward in a single line down the center aisle and receive the elements then return to your seat by the side aisles.*

*\*The bread is gluten free and nut free: the grape juice is non-alcoholic.*

### Communion Music

#### **\*Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Gracious God, you are present with us in all the brokenness our world has known. And you are present with us in the gathering of community renewed and strengthened by the promise of new life. Thank you! Thank you for all the ways you feed us, not just at this table, but in sharing grace upon grace. Amen.**

**Offertory Anthem**    Oh, Sing unto the Lord a New Song                      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.**

#### **\*Unison Prayer of Dedication**

**We present before you, O God, our offering of financial support and of self. May that which we have given, as well as our words and deeds, proclaim your love to a world that so desperately needs the healing that only your love can provide. Amen.**

### Prayers of the People

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

## The Lord's Prayer *(debts/debtors)*

**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**                      In the Bulb There Is a Flower                      NCH(black) #433

### **\*Pastoral Benediction**

**Choral Benediction**              The Lord Is My Hope                      Aaron David Miller

**Postlude**              Claire de Lune with Blessed Assurance                      Arr. Kendall Lord

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 for food and fellowship, as well as a discussion with  
Rev. Gordon Rankin about our interim process.

### **Keeping in Prayer:**

Prayers for Eileen Torrey's brother-in-law Carl, who is being treated for throat cancer

Prayers for Ruth Mosher as she undergoes outpatient dialysis.

Prayers for Rebecca Herr, as she undergoes chemotherapy

Prayers for the people of Ukraine

Prayers for Eleanor Spencer's brother, Ron Ury

Prayers for Alice Carey, friend of Alice O'Connor, who will be undergoing radiation therapy

Prayers for Kristin, friend of Alice O'Connor, who has recently been diagnosed with cancer

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

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 our partner church in Zimbabwe, Masvingo 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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)*

## **This Week and More at PCUCC**

Sunday, April 7	Post-worship gathering downstairs led by our Conference Minister, Rev. Gordon Rankin
Monday, April 8	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Tuesday, April 9	10:00 am Mission & Outreach Meeting
Tuesday, April 9	11:00 am Parish Care Team: all interested, please come!
Tuesday, April 9	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, April 10	11:00 am Lectio Divina
Thursday, April 11	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, April 12	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Saturday, April 13	11:00am-1:00pm Soft Plastics Recycling at the UU Church on 172 Pleasant St in Laconia
Sunday, April 14	2 pm at North Barnstead UCC: Merrimack Assoc. Meeting
Sunday, April 14	4:00 pm Concert: Baker Valley Band
Monday, April 15	10:00 am Book Group
Saturday, April 20	9:30 am Women's Fellowship Gathering and White Elephant Sale

### **CHURCH LIFE**

#### **Preaching Schedule:**

April 7: Rev. Gordon Rankin,  
Conference Minister, NHCUC  
April 14: Rev. Bill Torrey preaching,  
Rev. Ruth Martz leading worship

April 21: Rev. Ruth Martz  
April 28: Alison Thatcher

**Our Conference Minister, Rev. Gordon Rankin,** will be staying after worship to lead a discussion for all of us to help us navigate our interim period.

**Get your solar eclipse glasses:** The total solar eclipse will be visible from NH on Monday, April 8. See Sally Jensen to get a pair of solar eclipse glasses.

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!** We had a blessed group with us on Easter morn and, thanks to so many caring and sharing people, we were able to serve them all at Coffee Hour! It was a wonderful way to continue the celebration of Christ's Resurrection.

**Attention church members and friends.** Nominating Committee is looking for interested individuals to join our church committee teams. If you have a passion and willingness to share your time and talents to contribute to the life our church please consider joining one of the wonderful groups of dedicated committee members. The nominating committee is excited to talk with folks about their interests and involvement. Please reach out to Megan Magrauth or Georgene Fabian with questions or interest in joining one our amazing groups. Feel free to catch up with us in person after church or email [meganmagrauth@gmail.com](mailto:meganmagrauth@gmail.com) or [georgene.fabian@gmail.com](mailto:georgene.fabian@gmail.com). We look forward to talking to you soon!

**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.

**Book Group** is reading The Lacuna by Barbara Kingsolver. Join the discussion on April 15 at 10am in the parlor. Contact Kathy Henning for more information: [henkat52@gmail.com](mailto:henkat52@gmail.com).

**Smores Time! Sign up for an UCC Outdoor Ministries Camp!** Kids & Adults are Welcome! Horton Center is currently accepting registrations for sessions this summer. Come enjoy a transformative week on top of Pine Mountain celebrating the beauty of God's natural wonders and be a part of this incredibly supportive and positive community. Catalogs are available and can also be found online at [www.hortoncenter.org](http://www.hortoncenter.org). Conference scholarships are available. Counselors are also needed- enjoy great food and fun and a week of camp for free! Contact Tivvi Pare at [tpare@nhcucc.org](mailto:tpare@nhcucc.org) or Megan Magrauth at [meganmagrauth@gmail.com](mailto:meganmagrauth@gmail.com) with any questions. Hope to see you on the mountain this summer!

**Spring Plant Sale Upcoming in May:** Calling all green thumbs! We're looking for donations of a variety of indoor and outdoor plants AND veggies plus pots to use for the sale. More information coming soon! Please reach out to Jenny Thibeault at [ThibeaultJennyR@gmail.com](mailto:ThibeaultJennyR@gmail.com) or 603-254-7824 if you have any questions.

### **UCC New Hampshire Women!**

On Sat. April 20, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., our church will serve as host for the NHCUCC Women's Fellowship Spring Meeting. Please pick up a Registration Form and flyer with details about the day's program, outside the church office. Would you be willing to serve as greeter at 9:30 a.m., read Scripture, and/or help with Communion? Please contact Ruth Martz (603-630-7936).

**Food Contribution for Women's Fellowship Spring Meeting:** PCUCC will supply a light breakfast and a luncheon (It can be a fundraiser if all the food is donated.) We need a sweet bread, muffins, or donuts for a light breakfast and for lunch a crock pot of soup, a loaf of savory bread or muffins, an offering for the salad bar, or cookies. We could also use some help in the kitchen setting up (Friday) and cleaning up (Saturday). Please contact Edie Doherty or sign up at coffee hour on Sunday.

**White Elephant Sale:** Calling for donations of books and jewelry in good condition. This sale will be held during the NHC UCC Women's Fellowship on Saturday, April 20 (9:30 am-3:30 pm). Please place items in the White Elephant Sale box in the Narthex. Thank you! Ladies, have you signed up for this event? If not, WALK-INS are welcome on April 20.

## **FROM MISSION & OUTREACH**

**Soft Plastics Collection beginning April 14 through May:** All soft plastic MUST be cleaned of food, dried, and stick-on labels cut out. Soft plastics include items such as: plastic bags, frozen food bags, plastic wrappings, bubble wrap, mulch/dirt bags, plastic nut bags, etc. Please place items in the large boxes in the Narthex and by the Church Office. There

will be samples of soft plastic in the Fellowship Hall. All soft plastic will be brought to the UU Church in Laconia; they have a monthly collection, the next one on April 13. Soft plastics are repurposed into composite Trex decks and furniture. Please pick up the resources for Earth Day (and beyond) from Creation Justice Ministries. The theme is: “Real Faith in a Synthetic World: Plastic Jesus.” We will celebrate Earth Day Sunday on April 21. Questions about soft plastics? Please contact members of the Mission and Outreach Committee (Ruth Martz, Linda Byam, Kathy Henning, Rebecca Larson, Lynn Morrison, Eileen Torrey). Thank you!

### 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.

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<p>Guest Preacher: Rev. Gordon Rankin          Guest Accompanist: Margot W. Swift</p> <p>Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ          4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264          (603) 536-2626 - office@ucplymouth.org - www.ucplymouth.org</p>	

### Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in April in our Community

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

Wayne Martin	April 1	Sabrina Tedeschi	April 17
Sue Switaj	April 5	Michael Carrier	April 25

