

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Third Sunday of Easter



14 April 2024

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 striving to be 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

## Prelude

## 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).*

*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

God of Love, Hear Our Prayer

John Helgen

\*Those who are able may stand.

**\*Call to Worship** by *Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley* Rev. Ruth Martz

One: Blessed is the One who spoke and the world came into being.

**All: Blessed is the One who creates the world.**

One: Blessed is the One who speaks and does.

**All: Blessed is the One who decrees and fulfills.**

One: Blessed is the One who has compassion for the earth.

**All: Blessed is the One who has compassion for all creatures.**

One: Blessed is the One who rewards those who fear God.

**All: Blessed is the One who lives eternally and exists forever.**

One: Blessed is the One who redeems and saves.

**All: Blessed is the Holy One.**

## \*Hymn

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

NCH(black) #7

## \*Passing of the Peace

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## Unison Gathering Prayer by P.T. Forsyth

**We beseech you, O God, for your church throughout the world. May it grow in the faith of the cross and power of the resurrection. May your spirit minister to it continually the redemption and reconciliation of all things. Keep it in your eternal unity, in great humility, in godly fear, and in your own pure and peaceable wisdom so easy to be entreated. Make it**

swift and mighty in the cause of the dominion of heaven. Cover, establish, and enlighten it, that it may see through all that obscures the time, and that it may move in the shadow of your wing, with faith, obedience, sacrifice, and godly power, through Jesus Christ our Sovereign. Amen.

### Unison Prayer of Confession

Almighty and most merciful God,  
We have followed too much  
the devices and desires of our own hearts.  
We have offended against your holy laws.  
We have left undone those things  
which we ought to have done,  
and we have done those things  
which we ought not to have done.  
Have mercy upon us.  
Spare those, O God, who confess their faults.  
Restore those who are penitent,  
according to the promises declared  
to all persons in Christ Jesus.  
And grant, O most merciful God, for Jesus' sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of your holy name.  
Amen.

### God's Assurance of Pardon

The almighty and merciful God grants us pardon and remission of all our sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

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.**

Word for All Ages

Rev. Bill Torrey

Response                                  Jesus Loves Me                                  NCH (black) #327  
**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

## **HEARING THE WORD**

**Scripture Readings**                          Ephesians 4:17-32                          John 14:1-6, 18-19

**Sermon**                          “Jesus Is the Way to God in this Life and the Next”                          Rev. Bill Torrey

**\*Hymn**    You Are the Way    NCH(black) #40

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**Offertory**    A Right Spirit    Stephan Casurella  
*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 Offertory Prayer**

**O God, most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty we have all received; accept, we pray, this offering of your people. Remember in your love those who have brought it and those for whom it is given; and so follow it with your blessing that it may promote peace and goodwill among all people and advance the realm of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

**Pastor: O God, in your grace and mercy . . .  
Response: Hear your people at prayer.**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

Rev. Bill Torrey



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

Today, April 14	Following Worship, Anti Racism Meeting
Today, April 14	2 pm at North Barnstead UCC: Merrimack Assoc. Meeting
Today, April 14	4:00 pm Concert: Baker Valley Band
Monday, April 15	10:00 am Book Group
Tuesday, April 16	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, April 17	11:00 am Lectio Divina
Thursday, April 18	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, April 19	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Saturday, April 20	9:30 am Women's Fellowship Gathering and White Elephant Sale
Monday, April 22	1:00 pm Knitting Group

### **CHURCH LIFE**

#### **Preaching Schedule:**

April 14: Rev. Bill Torrey preaching,  
Rev. Ruth Martz leading worship

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

**Anti Racism Taskforce** will be meeting in the parlor today after worship to discuss and plan ways to live into our anti racism commitment. If you have any interest in learning more, please join us or contact Alison Thatcher at [baker.alison@gmail.com](mailto:baker.alison@gmail.com)!

**Our Food Pantry shelves are almost bare!** Please help your fellow community members in need by buying a few extra items for our food pantry on your next shopping trip. Suggested items are tuna in packets, canned goods with flip tops, and single serve applesauce, granola bars, and trail mix. You can leave items outside the church office or place them in our Little Free Food Pantry in front of our church building. Your donation has a huge impact on this essential ministry!

**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 Magrath or Georgene Fabian with questions or interest in joining one of our amazing groups. Feel free to catch up with us in person after church or email [meganmagrath@gmail.com](mailto:meganmagrath@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.

**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 flyer with details about the day's program, outside the church office. WALK-INS are welcome on April 20!

**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. Please place items in the White Elephant Sale box in the Narthex. Thank you!

## **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 box in the Narthex and the bag in Fellowship Hall, where there are also samples. All soft plastic will be brought to the UU Church in Laconia, where it is trucked to Maine and repurposed into composite Trex decks and furniture. Thank you! We will celebrate Earth Day Sunday on April 21. Please pick up excellent resources for limiting your use of PLASTIC: "Real Faith in a Synthetic World: Plastic Jesus."

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

David A. Williams, Director of Music

[musicdirector@uccplymouth.org](mailto:musicdirector@uccplymouth.org)

Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation

[faithformation@uccplymouth.org](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org)

Ann Thurston, Treasurer

[treasurer@uccplymouth.org](mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org)

Worship Leader: Rev. Ruth Martz

Preacher: Rev. Bill Torrey

Accompanist: Will Gunn

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264

(603) 536-2626 - [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org) - [www.uccplymouth.org](http://www.uccplymouth.org)

### Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in our Community

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

Wayne Martin

April 1

Sabrina Tedeschi

April 17

Sue Switaj

April 5

Michael Carrier

April 25

