

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost



The Luther Rose

October 27, 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

Pastorale

Sven Armsden

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS FROM THE NH CONFERENCE, UCC

Rev. Sara Marean

Associate Conference Minister

Please sign the red friendship pad and note your neighbors' names as you return the pad to the center aisle.

You may leave your email if you would like to receive our weekly newsletter.

If you would like to know more, please contact the office at office@uccplymouth.org.

Sunday School for all ages begins after the Message for All Ages on the first 4 Sundays of each month.

In the narthex, there are bags for children to fill and use during worship.

INTROIT

The Lord Will Rescue Me

Carl F. Schalk

*Those who are able may stand.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 90)

Liturgist – Bill Heron

One: God is our dwelling place from year to year, age to age.

And yet, we become complacent, forgetting who we are.

ALL: God reforms us and makes prosperous the work of our hands!

One: God's life surges forth through creation, like grass that renews every day.

And yet we prefer to be dust, swept away in the wind

of every new idea and new fad.

ALL: God reforms us and makes prosperous the work of our hands!

One: God turns to us, and has compassion on us,

so the great work of our lives manifests Christ's glorious love to the world.

ALL: God reforms us and makes prosperous the work of our hands!

*HYMN

"Praise to the Living God"

NCH(black) #8

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

UNISON GATHERING PRAYER

Ever-calling God, we give thanks

that you have gathered us into your church

and graced us with your faithful presence.

We consider our history, ancient and still developing,
and marvel at the many expressions of your church.
Grant us the vision to be a part of a new reformation
for the Church, a get-up, stand-up,
follow-the-way-of-Jesus kind of reformation
that will bring ever more joy and justice to the world.
Continue to gather us, the diverse lot of us,
into Jesus' vision and dream
that all may be one in your beloved community. Amen

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Based on Mark 10

One: When we want to be a church ever-reforming,
yet cling to comfortable ways:

ALL: Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us!

One: When we want to honor your "still speaking voice,"
but are fearful of insights that challenge old assumptions:

ALL: Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us!

One: When we want to live into Jesus' dream of oneness,
but fail to listen to voices of difference:

ALL: Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us! (*Silence*) Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

One: Friends, the good news of the gospel is that God's love in Christ
stretches so deep and so wide that it infiltrates every broken place
in our hearts and in our world. In Christ you are forgiven, freed, made new.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sung 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

Sung Response

"This Little Light of Mine"

NCH (black)#524

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!**

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Rev. Sara Marean

Mark 10:36-42 Romans 12:1-5, 9-18

One: May God bless to our understanding these words of Holy Scripture.

All: Amen

MESSAGE

Here I Stand!

Rev. Ruth Martz

*HYMN

“We Offer Christ”

NCH(black) #527

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

I Will Worship

George Dyson

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.**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reform our lives, O God;

**may the gifts that we share help to transform
our broken world into all that you envision
for your creation.**

**Take these offerings and multiply them,
that they may spread your blessing of peace
and vision of justice for all to embrace. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: O God, in your grace and mercy . . .

Response: Hear your people at prayer.

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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.
You may also choose to begin this prayer with: “Our Creator.”

SENDING

*HYMN “Renew Your Church” NCH(black) #311

*PASTORAL BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION Spirit of Love Aaron David Miller

POSTLUDE Little Flower Girl of Paris William Gillock
Tessa Kelsey, piano

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.

The Luther Rose illustrates the theology of Martin Luther, who explains this symbol in the following way. A black cross, placed in a red heart, signifies faith in the crucified Christ who saves us, who brings new life out of suffering. The heart is at the center of a white rose, to symbolize that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. White is the color of pure spirits and angels. The rose is in a sky-blue field, for our joy in the Spirit and in faith marks the beginning of God’s heavenly realm, already here but not yet fully realized. Around this blue is a golden ring, symbolizing that such blessedness lasts forever and is precious beyond all joy and goods.

The Call to Worship and Unison Gathering Prayer are from: “God Reforms Us: A Service for Reformation Sunday,” by Rev. Ryan Slifka; © 2017 The United Church of Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike License.

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for Rebecca Herr for her upcoming surgery on November 12

Prayers for the life of Edward Ferguson, grandfather of Natalie and Anna Boyer

Prayers for those recovering from Hurricane Milton

Prayers for Rev. Renee Rouse, her children Aysa and Frank, after being hit by a car

Prayers for Mark Fabian who has recently been diagnosed with a brain tumor

Prayers for Alice O'Connor's friend Diane Straub

Prayers for the victims of war and famine everywhere

Prayers for those recovering from Hurricane Helene

Prayers for Ruth Mosher as she undergoes outpatient dialysis.

Prayers for Rebecca Herr, as she undergoes chemotherapy

Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family, granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie

Prayers for the people of Lebanon, Palestine and Israel

Prayers for the people of Ukraine

Prayers for Rev. Muchayi and his wife Maria, both of whom are unwell, and 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 office@uccplymouth.org

This Week and More at PCUCC

Today , October 27	5:00 pm Chamber Orchestra and Organ Concert
Monday, October 28	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Monday, October 28	6:00 pm Search Team Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, October 29	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Thursday, October 31	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, October 31	7:00 pm NA Meeting
Friday, November 1	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Saturday, November 2	Church Clean-Up Day
Sunday, November 3	5:00 pm Sunday Nighters hosted by Campbell & Eileen Lovett
Monday, November 4	10:00 am Book Group

Preaching Schedule:

Nov. 3: Rev. Campbell Lovett	Dec. 1: Alison Thatcher
Nov. 10: Rev. Campbell Lovett	Dec. 8: Rev. Ruth Martz
Nov. 17: Rev. Campbell Lovett	Dec. 15: Rev. Campbell Lovett
Nov. 24: Rev. Ruth Martz	Dec. 22: Rev. Rebecca Larson

Chamber Orchestra and Organ Concert, October 27 at 5pm, PCUCC: Program to include Copland Preamble for a Solemn Occasion for organ, Handel Organ Concerto in F major "The Cuckoo and the Nightingale," Holst Brooke Green Suite for string orchestra, and Copland's celebrated ballet Appalachian Spring - Suite for 13 instruments.
Ethan Haman - organ, Sai-ly Acosta - concertmaster, David Williams - conductor
Free will offering

Church Cleanup Day is on Saturday, November 2, 9 to 12 noon. Please come and spend 3 hours cleaning our church home. Please bring some cleaning supplies if possible!

All Saints Sunday, November 3: Traditionally, this is a time to remember and recall those who have “run the good race” and are gathered in God’s nearer presence. As a part of our observance people are invited to bring a picture of loved ones for placement on the windowsills around the Sanctuary. Framed pictures that can stand on their own will display well, however, photographs that lay flat or frames that gently lean against the windows will also work. With pictures of the dearly departed in the windows, we will recall the scripture passage from Hebrews 12: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”

Sunday Nighters: Save the date! Campbell and Eileen Lovett will host Sunday Nighters on November 3rd.

Book Group is reading Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams. Join the discussion on November 4 and 18 at 10am in the parlor. Contact Kathy Henning for more information: henkat52@gmail.com.

Hurricane Helene Appeal: As we continue to pray for and respond to those who have experienced unimaginable loss this past week, please consider a gift to the Hurricane Helen Recovery Appeal of the United Church of Christ. To give, visit: support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief.

The Knitting Group meets every second and fourth Monday of the month at 1:00 pm. Join us with your fiber art of choice, trouble-shooting questions, or just for fellowship!

Come Sing with the Plymouth Festival Chorus at PCUCC! Rehearse and perform two different concerts in the 2025 season: Lessons and Carols on January 5 and Handel's complete Messiah on April 6. Participate in one or both! Whatever works best for you. Scan the code to view the performance programs, rehearsals, and registration to participate. Email David Williams at musicdirector@uccplymouth.org with any questions.



FOOD PANTRY Collection of Non-Perishable Items

For the month of October, we invite you to donate LUNCH FOODS. These can be cans of soup with pop tops (not everyone has access to a can opener), peanut butter and jelly, any meat in pop top cans or packets like chicken, tuna, or spam. Please place items in the basket in the Narthex. Warmest thanks!

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.

Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday 9:00-2:00

If you have a family emergency and want to talk with a pastor, please call Transition Team Member 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
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Music: Dan Perkins, piano and organ
Tessa Kelsey, piano

Preaching: Rev. Ruth Martz Guest: Rev. Sara Marean
Transition Team: Rebecca Larson, Campbell Lovett, Ruth Martz, Alison Thatcher

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 our Community

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

Carol Stewart	October 28
Leif Magrauth	November 2
Georgene Fabian	November 18
Ruth Martz	November 29
Ann Thurston	November 29

