

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



February 16, 2025

9:30 am

Zoom Worship:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86117742318?pwd=bifLCgOdFM6Ny24KfOA1KpjSS9zzJv.1>

Meeting ID: 861 1774 2318

Passcode: 761826

Zoom Coffee Hour:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86578820584?pwd=9s1o68KYy7EZ19mPmRNoGaLiZFjz7b.1>

Meeting ID: 865 7882 0584

Passcode: 598583

Our Congregational Values Include:
Seeking peace with justice
Welcoming LGBTQ+ people
Listening for the Still Speaking God
Striving to be an Anti-Racism church
“Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking is not”

GATHERING

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please sign the **red friendship** pad and return it to the center aisle noting your neighbor in the pen.*
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@uccphymouth.org.
Sunday School for all ages begins after the Message for All Ages. Children are welcome to fill a bag with books and toys (in the narthex), to use during worship.

*Those who are able may stand.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 1, by Steve Garnass-Holmes
Liturgist: Steve Majeski

One: Creator God, you are a stream of living water;
We are trees planted nearby, rooted in your deep, flowing love.

ALL: We drink from your blessing; we grow in your grace.

One: Through the gentle presence of Christ with us,
we avoid the ways of selfishness and cynicism,
even when they are all around us.

ALL: We fill ourselves with your Word; we delight in your ways.
Rooted in your Creation, we flourish in your love.

One: Seeking your guidance, we turn to you;
our false desire and grasping become like dry leaves,
blown away in the wind of your Spirit.

ALL: In closeness with you, we bear the fruit of love,
for the healing of the world.
Flow in us, God of life; inspire us anew
as we join our hearts and voices to worship you.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

In the spirit of reconciliation and unity among us and all peoples,
let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

UNISON GATHERING PRAYER

**God who heals, and who asks us to bring healing
to others both near and far,
you call us again and again to turn to your ways
of justice, kindness, and humility.**

**Shape us in the image of Christ, who lived compassion,
who took risks, who preached possibility.**

**May we recognize your guidance, today and every day;
may we speak and do what is truly good and right in your eyes. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

One: God of grace, forgive us for the ways in which we fail to follow
Jesus' teachings, as individuals, as the church, as a nation.
When we lash out in anger,

ALL: give us patience and understanding.

One: When we refuse to listen,

ALL: open our hearts and our minds.

One: When we insist that we are right,

ALL: fill us with humility.

One: When we focus on our own agendas,

ALL: stir us with love for community.

God of grace, bless us with your Spirit of reconciliation. (*Silence*)

WORDS OF GRACE

One: Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ!
As we pray, God touches us with the power of forgiveness.

**ALL: May all hearts know God's blessings and be transformed,
that we may live in harmony together. Amen.**

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Luke 6:17-26

MESSAGE *Rooted and Growing through Beatitudes and “Woetitudes”*

*HYMN

“Return, My Soul”

Tune: Finlandia

Adapted from lyrics by Steve Garnass-Holmes

Return, my soul, from all your hungry wandering,
your fearful search for comfort and control.
Let go my grasp of things apart from God,
for God alone can heal and hold my soul.
Return to God, for God alone will love me,
and give me life, and bless and make me whole.

Return, my soul, from all the things that dull me,
that seem to soothe but do not satisfy.
My broken heart, return from tricks and bargains,
turn to the One who meets me face to face.

I turn, O God, to you who love with patience.
You walk beside me, though I cannot see.
You are my life in dry and weary deserts,
my spring of life that flows eternally.
I turn to you, from false desire and grasping,
and letting go, I find you holding me.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

*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 AND DEDICATION

**God, we pray that you will use these gifts
to do wondrous acts of justice and compassion in your name.
We give you great thanks for the blessings that we witness every day;
may those who are suffering find hope and support in community. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: O God, in your grace and mercy . . . **ALL: Hear your people at prayer.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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.

If you prefer, please feel free to pray: "Our Creator" or "Our Father and Mother."

SENDING

*PASTORAL BENEDICTION

"Blessed Are You Who Hunger"

--Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Unfolding Light; www.unfoldinglight.net

Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. ...

Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. (Luke 6.21, 25)

What do you want? What are you most hungry for?

Food for yourself, comfort, a good life?

Now perhaps you have them.

But later you will find the real Want we're given,

the Hunger in our souls, the Desire of God:

not just for us, but for all the world:

the poor, the stranger, the others,

the next seven generations—every living creature.

If you're satisfied now—full enough for your family,

a good pension--then later you will feel the ache

of that deeper hunger.

If you are hungry now, hungry for everyone,

not just yourself and your kind,

you know the desire of God, the passion of God,

the presence of God; and it will fill you.

Blessed are you.

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for David Scott who is having open heart surgery, from Fran Taylor
Prayers and condolences for the family of Paul Harman, from Larry and Eleanor Spencer
Prayers for Martha Richards who is undergoing chemotherapy, from Alice O'Connor
Prayers for Bill Straub who is undergoing tests for cancer, from Alice O'Connor
Prayers for Mark Fabian who is recovering from brain surgery
Prayers for Ruth Mosher as she undergoes outpatient dialysis
Prayers for Sage Pirnie and family, granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie
Prayers for the faithful work of our Pastoral Search Team
Prayers for the people of Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Israel
Prayers for the people of Ukraine
Prayers for people affected by the devastating wildfires in and around Los Angeles
Prayers for Rev. Muchayi, his wife Maria, and our partner church in Zimbabwe

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

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| Monday, February 17 | 10:00 am Book Group |
| Tuesday, February 18 | 7:00 pm AA Meeting |
| Thursday, February 20 | 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday, February 20 | 7:00 pm NA Meeting |
| Friday, February 21 | 8:00 pm AA Meeting |
| Saturday, February 22 | Prepared to Serve at Pembroke Academy |
| Monday, February 24 | 1:00 pm Knitting Group |

Preaching Schedule

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| February 23: Rev. Campbell Lovett | March 9: Rev. Ruth Martz |
| March 2: Rev. Rebecca Larson | March 16: Rev. Ruth Martz |
| Ash Wednesday, March 5: Rev. Ruth Martz | |

LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES

Our pastoral Transition Team is excited to invite you to a special Lenten Worship series entitled "Gifts of the Dark Wood," based on the book by Dr. Eric Elnes and Worship Design Studios liturgy by Marcia McFee. Through music and Word, litany, reflection, and prayer, we will explore how experiences of life through the "dark wood" (uncertainty, emptiness, lostness, etc.) can be seen as gifts. How can the struggles of life be the seedbed of spiritual awakening to the fullness of life? Please join us for this inspiring series, from Ash Wednesday (March 5) through Easter (April 20),

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Engin Akyurt (unsplash.com)

Prepared to Serve Workshop Day will be held at Pembroke Academy on February 22. Online registration is closed, but you may register at the door. Many of the workshops are perfect for our congregation during this time of pastoral transition! Please consider attending. There is a Workshop catalogue on the table near the Church Office. Questions or interest in carpooling? Please contact Ruth Martz (ruthm.joy@gmail.com).

Become a Pen Pal and Discover the World Through Letters! Hey there, Are you looking to connect with people from a far corner of the Globe, share stories, and learn about a new culture through the magic of writing? Then let's be pen pals! Jenny and Diane are setting up the Pen Pal program with our amazing Masvingo Zimbabwe church. We are excited to exchange letters with anyone who wants to chat about everything, discover new perspectives, and build a long-distance friendship. Please reach out to Jenny Thibeault or Diane Arsenault.

February Mission Focus: Blanket Collection The Mission & Outreach Committee asks members of the congregation to contribute new or gently used, twin-size, non-wool blankets (cotton, acrylic) for clients of the Bridge House in town. We are also collecting old blankets for pets at the Lakes Region Humane Society in Laconia. Please put donated blankets by the signs on the pew in the Narthex. Warmest thanks!

The Book Group is discussing My Promised Land by Ari Shavit. Join the discussion on February 17 at 10am in the parlor. Contact Kathy Henning for more information: henkat52@gmail.com.

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!

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, this week please call Transition Team Member Rev. Ruth Martz at 603-630-7936.

Or you may call Eileen Torrey at 603-252-7513.

If you or a family member is hospitalized,
please inform the church office so we can ensure timely pastoral care

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in our Community

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

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| Janet Taylor | February 2 | Maris Thatcher-Forgues | February 11 |
| Ken Howe | February 11 | Beverly Tedeschi | February 26 |
| Chris Pollock | February 11 | Robert Pollock | February 28 |

Alison Thatcher, Office Administrator

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Preaching: Rev. Ruth Martz

Transition Team: Rebecca Larson, Campbell Lovett, Ruth Martz

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

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