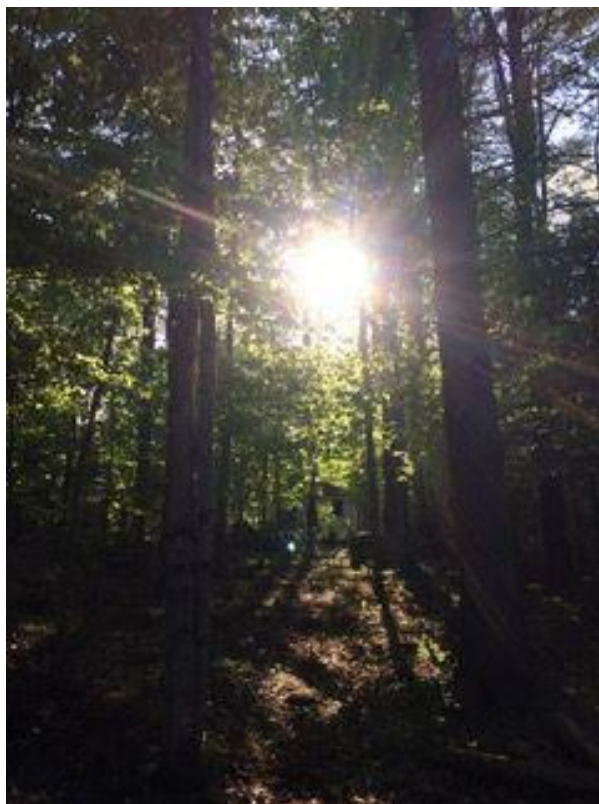


# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

## Fourth Sunday in Lent



**March 30, 2025**

**9:30 am**

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”*

*Please inquire with people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.  
Worship Services may be viewed online at the Plymouth UCC Facebook Page*

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

*Sunday School for all ages begins after the Message for All Ages.*

*Children are welcome to fill a bag with books and toys, which are in the narthex, to use during worship.*

## There's a Path

### "Gifts of the Dark Wood" Threshold Song (Congregational Melody Line)

Music by Chuck Bell  
Lyrics by Dr. Marcia McFee

**♩ = 70**

The musical score is written for a Soloist and a Congregation. It is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 70 beats per minute. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the Soloist and Congregation parts for the first two measures. The second system shows the Soloist and Congregation parts for the next two measures. The third system shows the Soloist and Congregation parts for the final two measures. The lyrics are written below the notes.

**Soloist**  
There's a path though it winds its way through dark-ness. We would

**Congregation**  
There's a path

**4**  
**Solo.**  
choose to avoid it if we could. We awake to an

**Cong.**  
We would choose We a-wake

**7**  
**Solo.**  
un-ex-pec-ted call-ing. God says, "Come, there are gifts in the Dark Wood."

**Cong.**  
God says, "Come"

THE CALL TO WORSHIP *Based on Psalm 42, 63*

Liturgist – Bill Heron

One: O God, as a deer longs for flowing streams, so our souls long for you.

**ALL: Our souls thirst for God, for the living God.**

One: You alone are our heart's desire, and we come to worship you.

**ALL: You alone are our strength and our compass.**

One: Through you alone are our souls satisfied as with a rich feast.

**ALL: You alone are our heart's desire, and we come to worship you.**

\*HYMN

Be Still My Soul (*verse 1*)

NCH(black) #488

1 Be still, my soul: for God is on your side; bear pa-tient-ly the cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to or - der and pro - vide; in ev - ery change God faith-ful will re - main. Be still, my soul: your best e - ter - nal friend through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

UNISON GATHERING PRAYER

Permeating Love, enter our lives  
and open us to the gifts  
residing deep within the Holy Darkness of our lives.  
When we feel overwhelmed  
by the twists and turns of life,  
quiet us,  
open us,  
heighten our senses to perceive your nudge toward life.  
In your many names, we pray. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Leader: For plunging ahead without listening to You,

**People: Forgive and restore us, O God.**

Leader: For not recognizing Your still small voice within us,

**People: Forgive and restore us, O God.**

Leader: For forgetting to ask for assurance—your greatest gift,

**People: Forgive and restore us, O God.**

*Silent prayers...*

Leader: Hear these words of assurance:

Lost is not lost to God.

You are not lost to God.

God is with you, forgiving and restoring you to wholeheartedness.

**People: Thanks be to God! Amen!**

## MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

### HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 42: 1-8 Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

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

**All: Amen**

MESSAGE

“The Gift of Being Lost”

Rev. Rebecca Larson

\*HYMN

As the Deer

(Worship & Rejoice #471)

Unison D A/C# Bm Dsus/A D/A

1 As the deer pants for the wa-ter, so my  
2 I want you more than gold or sil-ver, on-ly  
3 You're my friend and you are my broth-er, e-ven

G A7sus A7 D G/A A7 D A/C#

soul longs af - ter you; you a - lone are my

Bm Dsus/A D/A G Asus A7 D

heart's de - sire and I long to wor - ship you.  
 real joy-giv - er and the ap - ple of my eye.  
 an - y oth - er, so much more than an - y - thing!

*Refrain* Bm Bm/A G D/F# G Bm/F#

You a - lone are my strength and shield; to you a - lone may my

Em F#sus F# D A/C#

spir - it yield. You a - lone are my

Bm Dsus/A D/A G A7sus A7 D

heart's de - sire, and I long to wor - ship you.

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

O Gracious God, we thank you for the gifts that you give us,  
especially for your guidance when we are lost.

Help us to be gift-bearers to others seeking their way in the dark.

We offer to you our deepest selves, as we praise you with joyful lips.

May all souls that thirst for you be satisfied as with a rich feast. Amen.

### TIME FOR REFLECTION

## Come and Rest

### "Gifts of the Dark Wood" Prayer Song

Music by Chuck Bell  
Lyrics by Dr. Marcia McFee

**♩ = 70**

The musical score is written for a Soloist and a Congregation. It is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 70 beats per minute. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the Soloist and Congregation parts. The Soloist part has lyrics: 'Come and rest. Come and lis-ten. Lay the'. The Congregation part has lyrics: 'Come and rest. Come and lis-ten.'. The second system starts at measure 4. The Soloist part has lyrics: 'full-ness of your lives be-fore the Ma-ker. Come and rest. Come and'. The Congregation part has lyrics: 'Lay the full-ness of your lives be-fore the Ma-ker. Come and rest.'. The third system starts at measure 7. The Soloist part has lyrics: 'lis-ten. Lay the full-ness of your lives be-fore the Ma-ker.'. The Congregation part has lyrics: 'Come and lis-ten. Lay the full-ness of your lives be-fore the Ma-ker.'. The score ends with a double bar line.

Soloist

Come and rest. Come and lis-ten. Lay the

Congregation

Come and rest. Come and lis-ten.

4

Solo.

full-ness of your lives be-fore the Ma-ker. Come and rest. Come and

Cong.

Lay the full-ness of your lives be-fore the Ma-ker. Come and rest.

7

Solo.

lis-ten. Lay the full-ness of your lives be-fore the Ma-ker.

Cong.

Come and lis-ten. Lay the full-ness of your lives be-fore the Ma-ker.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

**Response: 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

### SONG "There's A Path"

*The Choir will lead the singing; the congregation is invited to sing the "echo" **in bold**.*

There's a path (**there's a path**)...and it leads us out together

To the wood (**to the wood**)... where the darkness hovers still

We are sent (**we are sent**)... and the Spirit goes before us

God says, *Go* (**God says, Go**)... *be my presence in the world.*

### Keeping in Prayer:

Barbara and Tom, family members of Linda Laprad

Joshua Burdick, brother of Sarah Caron

Joan whose son passed away after heart surgery, from Fran Taylor

Peter Starck

The family of Paul Harman, from Larry and Eleanor Spencer

Martha Richards who is undergoing chemotherapy, from Alice O'Connor

Bill Straub who is undergoing tests for cancer, from Alice O'Connor

Mark Fabian who is recovering from brain surgery

Ruth Mosher as she undergoes outpatient dialysis

Sage Pirnie and family, granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie

The faithful work of our Pastoral Search Team

The people of Ukraine

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](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org)*

## **Preaching Schedule**

April 6: Rev. Rebecca Larson, "The Gift of Temptation"

April 13: Rev. Campbell Lovett, "The Gift of Misfits" (**Palm/Passion Sunday**)

**Maundy Thursday**, April 17 at 7:00 pm: Rev. Ruth Martz

**Easter**, April 20: Rev. Campbell Lovett

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

Tuesday, April 1	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, April 2	6:30 pm Council Meeting
Thursday, April 3	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, April 3	7:00 pm NA Meeting
Friday, April 4	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Monday, April 7	10:00 am Book Group
Monday, April 14	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Thursday, April 17	7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service

**Horton Center Scholarships:** Camp scholarships are available for children who attend Horton Center Camp. These scholarships will provide financial assistance for children whose parent(s) attend our church. Please contact Faith Formation, [faithformation@uccplymouth.org](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org), for application details.

**Plant sale Saturday June 14th 9am to 1pm.** Contact Jenny Thibeault if able to donate any plants (she can help dig up!) Or for more info! [Thibeaultjennyr@gmail.com](mailto:Thibeaultjennyr@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. We are also looking for younger pen pals!

**The Book Group** is discussing Boys in the Boat by Daniel J. Brown for the month of April. Join the discussion on April 7th and 21st at 10am in the parlor. Contact Kathy Henning for more information: [henkat52@gmail.com](mailto: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.



Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in our Community

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

Margot Swift	March 20	Julie Kelsey	March 30
Caleb Sweedler	March 26	Becc Kulengosky	March 30
		Megan Magrauth	March 30

**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.

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

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

Preaching: Rev. Rebecca Larson

Music: John Acosta, cello, Melanie Dixon, piano

Transition Team: Rebecca Larson, Campbell Lovett, Ruth Martz

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