

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Second Sunday after Christmas & Communion Sunday

Another Road



January 2, 2022

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

Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

*Masks are REQUIRED in our community at this time. Masks should be worn for the entirety of the service over both mouth and nose.*

*If you need a mask break, please take a step outside of the building.*

# GATHERING

## Prelude

*The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.*

## Welcome & Announcements

*Please, if you are new to our community and want to be involved, share your email address or phone with a greeter in the narthex. We are delighted to get to know you! There is a nursery space on the lower level if needed and activity bags in the narthex; on 1st and 3rd Sundays we have Church School. Please know we welcome wiggling worshippers.*

\*Please note, those who are able and willing may stand.

### \*Call to Worship

One: Praise God from the highest peak of heaven.

**All: Praise God, sun and the moon;  
Sing for Joy, you shining stars.**

One: Praise God from the deepest seas.

**All: Praise God, fire and hail;  
Dance of tides, snow and frost.**

One: Praise God from the hearts of the people.

**All: Let us praise our creator, everyone;  
We worship the Lord our God.**

## Hymn

“Arise Your Light Is Come”

CH (black) #164



1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,  
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!

Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!  
Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

## Passing of the Peace

*We invite you to text or email someone a note of peace today. A hand-written note will work too!*

Leader: God be with you

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

## Unison Gathering Prayer

One: God of holy mystery, it was no heavenly stranger that came to bring the light; it was no happy accident that saved us from captivity; it was no offhand action that showed us the way of life and death.

**All: You are our light and our salvation. You alone are worthy of our worship and praise.**

One: In this season of Christmas, remind us once more of what you offer: a love born of endless searching, a connection born of deep longing, a future born of selfless sacrifice.

Amen.

## *Silence for Personal Reflection*

The Christ candle is lit.

## God's Promise of New Life

One: Friends, in Christ, God has given us a new Light, kindling unconditional love for us, and showing us a well-lit path to wholeness and forgiveness, to courage and clarity.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen**

## HEARING THE WORD

### Scripture Readings

Ephesians 4: 15-16

John 1: 1-17

One: O Holy God, grant us peace as we meditate and reflect. Let Your Spirit speak comfort and challenge to us on this day; give us Your word; we pray that You move between words and hearing.

**All: Amen.**

### Message


“Desmond Tutu’s Christmas Vision”

Rev. Sam Lovett


# Hymn

## “The First Nowell”


NCH (black) #139




1 The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say,  
2 They looked a - bove and saw a star  
3 And by the light of that same star  
4 This star shone bright in the north - west,  
5 Then en - tered in those ma - gi three,



was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;  
shin - ing in the east, be - yond them far,  
three sag - es came from coun - try far;  
o'er Beth - le - hem it seemed to rest,  
and bend - ing low up - on their knee,



In fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
To seek for a king was their in - tent,  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
They of - fered there, in great rev - erence,



on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.  
their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.

*Refrain*



Now - ell, now - ell, now - ell, now -



ell, born in a man - ger, Em - man - u - el.

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## Prayers of the People

You will be invited to offer your silent prayers for others.

## Pastoral Prayer

### Offertory

*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.

### Offertory Prayer

**All:** God of glory, we thank you for the blessings of Christmas: the planting of little seeds that will grow into the towering gifts of creation. In thankfulness and praise for the love that guides us in this season, we dedicate this offering as signs of our love and service. Amen.

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

### Invitation to the Table

**One:** We are scattered God: in apartments, houses, condos; on counters, at dinner tables, on our couch and stretching on the floor. As we join in this historic ritual, let us know that this holy meal brings us together — not just with our local church family, but with Christians all over the world.

**All:** We are prepared, God. Wherever and however we are, our shared table is open: There are no prerequisites for God's love. This table is for the community, for all of us who come seeking solace and strength. Let us share in God's abundance.

### Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Cup

### Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

## Closing Prayer

All: O God, You come to set our spirits aglow with Holy Light. For this we are grateful. Send us from this table to be bold in our love and constant in our prayers. Grant that we may not flag in zeal, but rejoice in hope. Let our love be genuine. This we pray through Christ our Lord who taught us to pray.

## The Lord's Prayer

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.

## Sending

### Hymn

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

NCH (black) #154

The musical score is written in G major and 2/4 time. It features a melody line and a bass line. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The score includes a refrain, a main body of the hymn, and a final ending. Chord symbols are provided above the notes.

*Refrain*  
G D7 G  
Go tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hill and ev - ery - where.

G Em C G/D D7 G  
Go tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born!

*Last time, end*  
G  
1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,  
Be - hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
And God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

## **\*Pastoral Benediction**

### **Postlude**

The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us into the world where our true service begins.

**Rev. Sam will be happy to greet you outside the church as you leave**

**Keeping in Prayer:** Thoughts and prayers for Judi Forney  
Prayers for the Malone family who are grieving  
Prayers for Kathy, a friend of a community member who is struggling.  
Thoughts and Prayers for Terry Cote's daughter Lynn Bowers  
Love and Sympathy to Alice Avery and the Avery Family  
Prayers for Kathy Henning's nephew, Colin Slocomb  
Love and Sympathy for Susan Wei, whose sister Bonny passed away  
Bill Larsen's recovery and for his family  
Dianne Anderson, sister of Donna Castor  
Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family  
Lynda & Len Swenson, parents of Megan Magrauth  
Charlie & Wendy Scouras  
Prayers for Healing for Valerie, a dear friend of Sally Jensen  
Prayers for Healing for Brian Paine  
Prayers & Healing for Ruth Munroe  
Mae Larson, Rebecca Larson's mother-in-law  
Dick & Paulette Brace  
Annie Rice, Bev Tedeschi's mother  
Sue Switaj

Prayers for those administering and receiving COVID-19 vaccines and boosters.  
All those who are sick or have family member/s who have passed during the pandemic.  
If you have a prayer request, you would like Rev. Sara to include in Sunday Worship,  
please email her at [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org).

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

Today	9:30 AM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas
	7:00 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv
Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	Racial Justice
Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 AM	Book Group
Jan 12 <sup>th</sup>	11:30 AM	Regular staff meeting resume
March 13 <sup>th</sup>		New Member Sunday

**Poinsettias:** Please, please pick up a poinsettia from church for yourself, a friend or relative. They are beautiful and would brighten yours or a friend's home Thank you!

**After Church:** Please help take the decorations off the Christmas tree in the narthex today. If 6 people could help with taking down the tree we will be done in one-half hour. Thank you so much.

**Winter Scenes:** Take a moment to view the winter scene paintings and pictures that now grace our sanctuary walls. We are grateful to the church friends who are sharing their works of art with us!

**As some in our community have found out,** Courtney Crosato has accepted a more full time job in the lakes region. We will miss her spirit, care, and outstanding efforts terribly. She brought incredible 'pizazz' to the office. Please wish Courtney well as she ventures to a new beginning. Thank you, Courtney!!!

**Welcome to church families!** Activity bags are hanging in the Narthex and toys are made available, please ask an usher if you cannot find them. If your child needs more space during worship, please feel free to use the parlor on the sanctuary level or downstairs in our nursery and fellowship area. We have Sunday school in person, with masks on, the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Volunteers are always welcome, please contact Jennifer or Julie for more information at [faithformation@uccplymouth.org](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org).

**AmazonSMILE** - By choosing our church as your favorite charity, Amazon will make a donation to the charity you designate at no cost to you. Please let Ann, Linda or the office know if you need help setting PCUCC up as your favorite charity on AmazonSMILE.

**PREPAID HANNAFORD CARDS** - For every card purchased from the Finance Committee, the church receives 5% without any additional cost to you. Denominations of \$100, \$250 and \$500 are available by contacting Ann or Linda after services on Sunday, by phone or email. Thank you for your continued support!

**HOPE Fund:** The HOPE Fund supports families at risk who need assistance paying for rent, heating, electricity, and medications. Please consider giving to the HOPE Fund. You can send your check to PCUCC and write HOPE Fund in the memo. If you know of someone who is in need, please put them in touch with the church office or Pastor Sara.

*The Hope Fund of our church continues to touch the lives of people in the Lakes Region. This fall, we supported people in need of rent, security deposits and transitional housing. We have deep gratitude for all of those who have contributed money and time related to the Hope Fund.*



**Racial Justice Exploration:** We are continuing these explorations this fall. We welcome new attendees and we pray you'll reach out to Alison Thatcher at [Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com](mailto:Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com) or Pastor Sara if you are considering ways to get involved in these important efforts.

**Book Group:** The next book group will be on January 10th at 10 AM. All are welcome! Any questions please contact Peggy Martin at [pmartin03223@yahoo.com](mailto:pmartin03223@yahoo.com) or Kathy Henning at [henkat52@gmail.com](mailto:henkat52@gmail.com)

**Please continue to be aware of COVID-related concerns when on site. Please do not assume old friends are okay with physical contact - always ask out of respect for the other person and be empathetic to anxieties anyone might have on the basis of the pandemic (or otherwise).**

**We want to encourage all community members (who are able) to get a COVID-19 vaccine. We hope that this will ensure the health and well-being of our most vulnerable community members.**

**We will offer the option of meeting digitally indefinitely (Facebook).** You may also catch our services (one week delayed) on Sunday nights on PBTv at 7:00 pm. (Local channel 1302.) Please check for Constant Contact and the Facebook page for ongoing updates.

**Small, in person meetings are allowed if all people in groups agree to such a format. Zoom, google meet, Skype, phone, etc. may still be used! Please consider care for creation and reducing greenhouse emissions when scheduling in person meetings.**

### **Office Hours**

Tuesday - 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Wednesday - 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Thursday – 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Friday - 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

## Pastor's Office Hours

Pastor Sara is generally at the church for office hours Monday – Wednesday 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM; please reach out to make an appointment. She keeps sabbath on Friday.

Please feel free to contact her by email at [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org) or on her work cell phone number at 336-485-5618 to set up a meeting.

The Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor	<a href="mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org">plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org</a>
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Celebrating Birthdays in January in our Community:

January 1	Rohan Magrauth
January 1	Al Mather
January 2	Nance Ruhm
January 3	Tavari Wilms
January 5	Woody* Hedberg
January 13	David Berman
January 13	Janice Nielson
January 15	Hanna Starck
January 16	Ashley Rose
January 17	Alexandra Woodsum
January 18	Butch Castor
January 22	Sandy Larsen
January 23	Jerry Larson
January 24	Briggs Adey-Merrithew
January 24	Marlin Collingwood
January 25	Rebecca Caron
January 26	Sophie Kelsey
January 27	Peggy Martin

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