

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

First Sunday after Christmas Day  
Communion Sunday



**January 1, 2023**

**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 working to become a Racial Justice Church

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

*Please inquire with people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.*



## Unison Gathering Prayer

**All:** Gracious and Eternal God, angels appeared to Joseph in dreams, and guided him in protecting the Christ child. Come to us now in our worship and speak to us, and guide us. Fill us with your Spirit that we may hear and obey, and so serve and glorify you. Open our hearts now, so that as the scriptures are read and your good news proclaimed we may hear with joy what you are saying to us today. Amen.

### *Moments for Confession and Silence for Personal Reflection*

#### **God's Promise of New Life**

**One:** In this new year we can be made new people, set free from the world's way of domination and cruelty.

**All:** Baptized into Christ, renewed by the grace of the Holy Spirit, we are freed from old ways that we have followed. We resolve to live new lives, lives of mercy, love, and justice, in the name of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. God, by your grace, may all the world be made new!

**Response**                      As With Gladness Those of Old                      NCH (black) #159  
As with gladness those of old did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward beaming bright; So, true  
Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.

## HEARING THE WORD

**Scripture Readings**                      Hebrews 2:10-18                      Matthew 2:13-23

**One:** Great Creator, we pray that the meditations of our hearts and minds will be acceptable to you, for you are our rock and redeemer. We pray that your voice moves between words and hearing.

**All:** Amen

**Message**                      "Holy Refugees"                      Rev. Rebecca Larson

**\*Hymn**                      What Child is This                      NCH (black) #148

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table  
Communion Prayer  
Words of Institution  
Sharing Communion

*The Ushers will guide twelve participants at a time to the front to share Communion. Each person will be given a simple bread and juice cup as Pastor Sara offers simple words of blessing: "This is the bread of heaven and the cup of the new covenant."*

*After each participant receives the elements, the group of 12 will take and eat. You will then be invited to return to your seats and the next group of twelve will take your place.*

***\*The bread is gluten & nut free and the juice is non-alcoholic.\****

## Communion Music

### Prayer of Thanks in Unison

**All: Creator God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love, that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world, through Jesus the Christ our redeemer. Amen.**

*We invite you to remember your support for the ministry of PCUCC.*

### Offertory Anthem

Away in a Manger

James R. Murray  
arr. by Carolyne M. Taylor

### \*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: Source of Life and Bringer of Light to the nations, you provide for all our needs. We bring your gifts in response to your goodness. We thank you for sending Christ into our midst. Use what we offer, to enlighten all people to the truth of his salvation, and bless all our endeavors as we seek faithfully in Christ's name to do your will. We pray this in Jesus' name and for Love's sake. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People**

You are invited to offer your personal prayers from the silence of your heart.

## **Pastoral Prayer**

## **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.

\*\*We believe that God is revealed in persons of all genders and sorts; we also honor tradition.

## **SENDING**

**\*Hymn**                      Go Tell It on the Mountain                      NCH (black) #154

## **\*Pastoral Benediction**

**Postlude**                      I Saw Three Ships                      arr. byCarolyn M. Taylor

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

## Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for Georgene Fabian who is recovering and healing  
Prayers for Eileen Torrey  
Prayers for Paulette Brace for a speedy recovery from surgery  
Prayers for Jaime Armstrong, niece of Marlin Collingwood,  
who will be undergoing surgery for breast cancer  
Prayers for Ellen who struggles with cancer,  
family member of Ruth & Dale Mosher  
Prayers of healing for Sue Switaj  
Prayers for Alice Avery  
Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family,  
granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie  
Prayers for Polly Bartlett, who struggles with cancer  
Prayers for Mae Larson, Rebecca Larson's mother-in-law  
Prayers for communities affected by war and for all immigrants  
Prayers for the Masvingo UCCZ, our partner church in Zimbabwe

*If you have a prayer request, you would like Rev. Sara to include in Sunday Worship, please write on the yellow card in the pews and place it in the offering tray, or send an email to [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)*

## This Week and More at PCUCC

Jan 3	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Jan 5	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Jan 5	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Jan 5	5:00 pm Meals for Many
Jan 6	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Jan 9	10:00 am Book Group
Jan 11	9:30 am Lectio Divina

## **CHURCH LIFE**

**Knitting Group** will start back up on January 5 and will meet every other Thursday at 1:00 in the parlor. Come with your knitting, knitting questions, or just for some fellowship! Contact Linda LaPrad for more information: [llaprad297@gmail.com](mailto:llaprad297@gmail.com).

**Book Group** will be meeting at 10:00 on January 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss Afterlife by Julia Alvarez. Contact Peggy Martin for more information: [pmartin03223@yahoo.com](mailto:pmartin03223@yahoo.com).

**Sunday Evening Services:** On January 22<sup>nd</sup> Pastor Holland is launching a Sunday evening service. This service will take place on the lower level at 5:30 pm each week until mid-June (reconvening in September). It will be casual and use some components of the Sunday morning service but be a different setting and atmosphere. Come one and all – let's worship together! Periodically, pizza will be served.

## FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

### **Our HOPE Fund and Little Food Pantry are in desperate need of your support!**

The HOPE Fund supports families at risk who need assistance paying for rent, heating, electricity, and medications. Right now, with rising fuel, electricity, and rent prices, the need is greater than ever. To give to the HOPE Fund, 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. Our Little Food Pantry in front of the church is always in great need of being filled. You can put items right in the pantry or bring them to the church office. Our Little Food Pantry serves many people in need in our community.

## FROM FINANCE

**Support PCUCC with no cost to you!** By choosing our church as your favorite charity through **AmazonSMILE**, Amazon will donate to the charity you designate at 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

### Pastor's Office Hours

Monday – Wednesday 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM or by appointment.

Pastor Sara keeps sabbath on Friday.

Email: [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)

Work Cell: 336-485-5618

Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor

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David A. Williams, Director of Music

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Ashley Rose, Organist, Pianist

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

Guest Preacher: Rev. Rebecca Larson

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

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## Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in January in our Community

Rohan Magraith	January 1	Steve Majeski	January 22
Alan Mather	January 1	Jerry Larson	January 23
Nance Ruhm	January 2	Briggs Adey-Merrithew	January 24
Janice Nielson	January 13	Marlin Collingwood	January 24
Hanna Starck	January 15	Rebecca Caron	January 25
Ashley Rose	January 16	Sophie Kelsey	January 26
Butch Castor	January 18	Peggy Martin	January 27
Sandy Larson	January 22		

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

