

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

First Sunday After Christmas
Who Is This Child?



December 26, 2021

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 O Come, All Ye Faithful with Beethoven's "Pathetique"
Sonata, Wade's Cantus Diversi

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: Come and worship! Come and worship! Come and worship, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

All: Born among us a Savior, one to offer us peace, to give us hope.


One: We proclaim this good news to all in need; Love is born!

All: A blessing for all people, one who will be called Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting One, Prince of Peace.

One: Let the earth hear this news of great jubilee – let this joy captivate those in need of hope.

All: No matter the struggle of our lives, we may proclaim peace, hope, love, joy and faith to all the world. Let it be so!

***Hymn** In the Bleak Midwinter PH (red) #128



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, Frost - y wind made moan,
2 Our God, heaven can-not hold him, Nor earth sus - tain;
3 An - gels and arch - an - gels May have gath - ered there,
4 What can I give him, Poor as I am?

Earth stood hard as i - ron, Wa - ter like a stone;
 Heaven and earth shall flee a - way When he comes to reign;
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim Throng-ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, Snow on snow,
 In the bleak mid-win - ter A sta - ble place suf - ficed The
 But his moth - er on - ly, In her maid - en bliss,
 If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet

In the bleak mid - win - ter, Long a - go.
 Lord God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 Wor-shipped the be - lov - ed With a kiss.
 what I can I give him— Give my heart.

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

All: Hope is here. For we have heard the good news of Christ's coming. Joy is here, for we have seen God's compassion. Love is here, for the angels are singing around us. And still there is a star ahead to follow. May the whole world delight in the promise of peace. Christ is born. Amen!

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Throughout our lives, discord abounds. In the midst of chaos, God's mystery is present. This truth has been born, once again. The incarnation of love has come to us!

All: In spite of the chaos, we may turn to God. No matter our own discord, the constancy and harmony of God is before us. Looking for harmony and love, we sing together:

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.

On first and third Sundays we sometimes have a message for all ages during this time. We invite children and youth to remain in worship this Sunday if they like. There are also available 'wiggle' spaces on the sanctuary floor near the restrooms as well as on the lowest floor of the church building. We hope that families will make themselves comfortable and know that giggling kiddos are more than welcome throughout the entirety of our service!

HEARING THE WORD


Scripture Readings Psalm 148 Colossians 3: 12-17

One: Emmanuel, God among us, we seek your grace as we reflect today. Let us be present to your truths and wisdom during this time. We pray your spirit moves between words and hearing.

All: Amen.

Message "More Than Ugly Christmas Sweaters" Rev. Sara M. Holland

***Hymn** Once in Royal David's City NCH (black) #145



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 Je - sus came to earth from heav - en, who is God and Head of all,
3 And through all this won - drous child-hood Je - sus hon - ored and o - beyed,
4 Je - sus is our child-hood's pat - tern, dai - ly like us lived and grew,
5 We at last shall meet our Sav - ior, fount of God's re - deem - ing grace,

Where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for a bed:
 Shel - tered in a rus - tic sta - ble, cra - dled in a com - mon stall;
 Loved and watched the ten - der moth - er whose strong arms a cra - dle made.
 Je - sus, lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and smiles and com - fort knew.
 For that Child so dear and gen - tle reigns with - in a glo - rious place;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 With the poor and meek and low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 So, like Je - sus, we should be serv - ing God o - be - dient - ly.
 Je - sus felt the pain of sad - ness, and the joy - ous lift of glad - ness.
 Lead - ing all God's chil - dren on to the heaven where saints have gone.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

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

All: **Hear Your people at prayer**

You will also be invited to offer your personal prayers from the silence of your heart.

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.**

Offertory *Away in A Manger* James R. Murray

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: O Shining light of this day, move in these gifts. We pray your Spirit moves for the light of eternal love, for the light of the journey to justice and peace, and for the light of your grace in our lives. Shine through us, we pray, that the light of joy may spread through the world. Move in our offerings and reach those most in need – the hurting, hungry, and all forgotten. We pray all this for Love’s sake and in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

NCH (black) #144

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring;
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3 Hail the Bear - er of God's peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous-ness,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ner rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time the Sav - ior comes, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life our Sav - ior brings, risen with ra - diant, heal - ing wings.

Joy - ful, all you saints a - rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh, the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild - ly lay - ing glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

With the an - gel host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise us all from earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain
Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring!"

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude Joy to the World with Hayden's Sonata in D Major, G. F. Handel
The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us into the world where our true service begins.

Rev. Sara will be happy to greet you as you leave the sanctuary.

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.

This Week and More at PCUCC

Today	9:30 AM	1 st Sunday after Christmas
	7:00 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv
Jan 4 th	7:00 PM	Racial Justice
Jan 12 th	11:30 AM	Regular staff meeting resume
March 13 th		New Member Sunday

Many thanks and appreciation to all our youth and adults who decorated the sanctuary, narthex and doors of our church so beautifully for advent and Christmas! Please notice the new winter scenes paintings on the walls of our sanctuary. You all helped to bring joy and inspiration to all as we journey to Christmas and the coming of the Christ Child!

We want to extend a sincere and heartfelt thanks to Eileen Lovett and her support, Campbell! The children, youth and adults who decorated gingerbread houses had such a good time. Also, it was tasty too!

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!!!

Huge thanks to Peggy Martin and Paulette Brace for adorning our amazing chapel with nativity scenes from around the world. We encourage you to spend some time in the chapel one Sunday after worship or some other time during Advent.

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.

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 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 or Kathy Henning at 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 or on her work cell phone number at 336-485-5618 to set up a meeting.

The Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor

Eileen Torrey & Linda LaPrad,

Interim Office Administrator

David A. Williams, Director of Music

Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist

Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation

Ann Thurston, Treasurer

plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org

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Liturgist: Bill Heron

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Celebrating Birthdays in December in our Community:

December 4	Rev. Sara Holland
December 9	Tucker Magrauth
December 12	Linda LaPrad
December 13	Lucas Hyde
December 15	Eileen Torrey
December 17	Sylvia Shaw
December 19	Frank Tedeschi
December 25	David Williams
December 26	Natalie Boyer
December 27	Rob Stewart

January 1	Rohan Magrauth
January 3	Tavari Wilms
January 5	Woody Hedberg
January 13	David Berman
January 17	Alexandra Woodsum
January 18	Butch Castor
January 23	Jerry Larson
January 24	Briggs Adey-Merrithew
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