

# **Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ**

## **1st Sunday of Advent Hope**

**November 29, 2020**

**9:30 a.m.**



A Just Peace Church  
An Open and Affirming Congregation  
A God is Still Speaking Congregation  
Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

# GATHERING

## Welcome & Announcements

### Prelude

### Call to Worship

One: A season of anticipation has begun, yet this year is different.

**All: With hope, the Christ child will come. We await the Prince of Peace!**

One: A season that can be exhausting feels different this year, yet God offers us constancy.

**All: With hope, God brought humanity to earth – dwelling among us – a tiny babe, a skilled carpenter.**

One: A season that may leave many of us sad, yet we turn to the good news in song and scripture.

**All: With hope, we will seek Holy Spirit this hour – we are not sure of where God is, but we are sure such presence is with us. In community, we pray God be revealed to us!**

### Hymn

Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

#718

United Methodist Hymnal

Verse 1

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favored sinners slain;  
thousand, thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
God appears on earth to reign.**

Verse 2

**Every eye shall now behold him,  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.**

Verse 3

**The dear tokens of his passion  
still his dazzling body bears;  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshipers;  
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,  
gaze we on those glorious scars!**

Verse 4

**Yea, Amen! Let all adore thee,  
high on thy eternal throne;  
Savior, take the power and glory,  
claim the kingdom for thine own.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Everlasting God, come down!**

## **The Lighting of the Advent wreath**

### **Gathering Prayer**

One: Gracious God, we are often wonder where you are. Sometimes we notice You in the beauty of creation, in the glory of choirs, in the mystery of giving, but we still long. We pray that during Advent we anticipate Your presence in simplicity, in a single moment or breath. In our time today, we pray that scripture, song and prayer will open our hearts and minds to the miracles that are all around us. We want to find ourselves with the hope on this day. We thank You for worship with our church family: let such a time become service too.

**All: Holy Spirit, you are joy of breathing creatures and growing earth. You are grace of stars and wind. You are compassion of the waves of the sea. Speak to us of promise as the Christ-light among us. Come to us, and dwell with us in love. Amen.**

### **Silence for Personal Reflection**

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

One: It is hard for us to give ourselves to Love. It is easier to let ourselves be hardened to the ways of the world. We want to shape all that goes on and think that we are completely independent. Today, we listen for the Great Potter's voice.

**All: We may delight in God this day and look to the hope that the Christ child will bring! Let us be like the clay, carefully shaped: there is nothing - nothing here, nothing anywhere else that will separate us from the Love of God in Jesus. It is for this promise and Spirit that we sing!**

**Response**

**"Ubi Caritas"**

J. Berthier

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - - mor,

The musical score for the first four measures of 'Ubi Caritas' is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - - mor,' are written below the notes.

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

The musical score for the next four measures (measures 5-8) continues the piece. It includes a measure rest at the beginning of measure 5. The lyrics 'u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.' are written below the notes. There are triplets indicated by the number '3' above the notes in measures 7 and 8.

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**Children's Message**

# HEARING THE WORD

**Scripture Readings** Isaiah 64:1-9 Mark 13:24-31

One: Here end the readings from our tradition. May God grant us the hope in these words and may Spirit move between words and hearing. Let us be shaped by God's Way.

**All: Amen.**

**Message**

“Like the Wind”

Rev. Sara M. Holland

**Hymn**

Let All Mortal Flesh

PH (Red) #107

Verse 1

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
For with blessing in his hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.**

Verse 2

**King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heav'nly food.**

Verse 3

**Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of light descendeth  
From the realms of endless day,  
That the powers of hell may vanish  
As the darkness clears away.**

Verse 4

**At his feet the six-winged seraph,  
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry,  
"Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!" Amen.**

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

### **Prayers of the People**

You will 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**

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: Thank you, God, for the people we love and the gift of hope  
that pours down on the human family. While we wait for  
Christ's coming, we give thanks for the hope promised. Holy  
Spirit bless these gifts and our hands and feet that we may  
offer the hope You give us to all we encounter in the world.  
Let us play and work for the sake of your Holy Love. Amen.**

# **SENDING**

## **Hymn**

**Come, O Long-Expected Jesus**

**NCH (Black) #122**

Verse 1

**Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set all people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; grant us your true liberty.**

Verse 2

**Israel's strength and consolation, hope to all the earth impart;  
Dear desire of every nation, enter every longing heart.**

Verse 3

**Born all people to deliver, born a child you came to reign!  
Born to rule on earth forever, came be known to us again.**

Verse 4

**By your own eternal Spirit, come to claim us as your own;  
By your all sufficient merit, let us share your cross and crown.**

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**

### **Keeping in Prayer**

Dick Brace

Patti Dyszinsky

Annie Rice

The Family of Catherine Smith

Prayers for Our Nation and for the World

If you have a prayer request you'd like Pastor Sara to include in Sunday Worship,  
please email her at [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org).

Please keep in mind that sometimes email systems will autocorrect Rev. Sara's email address  
so please double check that the email address is as listed here.

If you have not heard back from her about an important matter,  
please contact Debbie at 603-536-2626 or [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org).

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

Today – 9:30 AM Worship Service on Facebook Live

10:00 AM Virtual Sunday School

Tuesday, 9:15 AM & Wednesday, 11:30 AM - Zoom Staff Meetings

Wednesdays - December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, & 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM - Evening Advent Services

These will be contemplative in nature and will be focused on Hope.

December 9<sup>th</sup> will be a 'blue' service honoring those of us who feel sad during the holiday season.

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

We understand that at least two people in our community have received requests for money by email in the form of web gift cards from Ebay or iTunes.

These emails appear to be from Rev. Sara.

This has been happening at other churches as well, especially since this past March when the pandemic began.

Usually, these emails will say they are from Rev. Sara, but the email address will not match hers.

Rev. Sara's email is [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org).

*Please DO NOT respond to these requests; in fact, we encourage you to block and report such malicious web activity.*  
Another key indicator of such malintent often appears in subject lines. The line might read: "I need your help now, please respond!"

## **Announcements**

**The New Hampshire Food Bank** - will offer another Mobile Food Pantry in Plymouth on Friday, **December 4<sup>th</sup>**, between 11:00 AM-1:00 PM at the NH Electric Co-op at 579 Tenney Mtn. Hwy, Plymouth. This is a FREE drive-thru event for all! Please note that the pantry has a new provider for the food this time, so the quality should be improved! *Share this with everyone!*

**Faith Formation** – Virtual Sunday School is canceled for this Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. We will meet again on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Julie Kelsey at [faithformation@uccplymouth.org](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org) for more information. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Advent wreath kits have been prepared and are being distributed. If you or your family would like one, please contact a staff person, and we'll do our best to see to it that you receive one. At cost, they are \$12:00. Folks may offer a donation for the wreath for that amount, more or simply take one as we understand finances are tricky during the holidays. Please make check out to PCUCC and write FF Advent kit in the memo. Julie will be available at the church between



3:00-4:00 PM on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, for Advent wreath pickup. Please contact Julie to reserve yours. We hope you'll use this resource especially if you have children at home!

**Finance Committee** - CHOOSE OUR CHURCH as your favorite charity on AMAZON SMILE and support our ministries and mission. We can be found by entering Plymouth Congregational Church or Plymouth\* under Faith and Spiritual list only.

Once on AmazonSmile click on "Accounts and Lists" under your name, scroll down to "AmazonSmile Charity Lists" select "Faith and Spiritual" then either type Plymouth Congregational Church or Ply\* to find all listings starting with Ply then select our church.

HANNAFORD prepaid grocery cards are available during this "stay-at-home" time of practicing safe distancing. Denominations of \$100, \$250 and \$500 are available. Finance orders cards regularly. Please let Linda or Larry know via phone or email what you would like to purchase. We'll let you know when to mail your check to the church. If you shop at HANNAFORD for your essentials, please purchase a prepaid card. The church receives 5% of each card purchased. Thank you for your continued support!

**HOPE Fund** - The need for assistance through our HOPE Fund will increase as families at risk 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. Send to Plymouth Congregational UCC, P.O. Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264.

We want to thank the congregation for the outpouring of generosity for the Hope Fund during this time of need; this will be critically important throughout the winter months.

**Book Group** - Here is our intended order of Book Group readings so that you can purchase or otherwise obtain them in advance:

November: *The Signature of All Things* by Elizabeth Gilbert

December: *My Own Words* by Ruth B. Ginsberg

January: *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate

February: *The Yellow House: A Memoir* by Sarah M. Broom

Cheers, Peggy

Our church has moved to digital platforms for all events  
until further announcement.

The Worship Services will be live streamed on our Facebook page and placed  
on YouTube. We are also working on getting our worship services on  
public television once again!

Please check for Constant Contact and the Facebook page  
for information about upcoming Worship Services.

### **Pastor's Office Hours**

During this time of "physical distancing" and working remotely,  
Pastor Sara will be at the church for office hours Monday 10:00 AM-3:00 PM,  
Tuesday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM, Wednesday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM and Thursday by  
appointment though all church doors are locked.

Small meetings may be possible in person with masks and social distancing.  
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  
Deborah Healey, Office Administrator  
David Williams, Director of Music  
Ashley Paine, Organist/Pianist  
Gale Adams, Co-Director of Faith Formation  
Julie Kelsey, Co-Director of Faith Formation  
Larry Spencer, Treasurer  
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling

[plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)  
[office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org)  
[musicdirector@uccplymouth.org](mailto:musicdirector@uccplymouth.org)  
[organist@uccplymouth.org](mailto:organist@uccplymouth.org)  
[windygla2@yahoo.com](mailto:windygla2@yahoo.com)  
[faithformation@uccplymouth.org](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org)  
[treasurer@uccplymouth.org](mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org)  
[clwlcsw@gmail.com](mailto:clwlcsw@gmail.com)

Bill Heron, Liturgist

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ  
4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264  
(603) 536-2626 ~ [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org) ~ [www.uccplymouth.org](http://www.uccplymouth.org)

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# Poinsettia Order Form

is due Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>



## Poinsettias Order Form

Poinsettias will again grace our sanctuary for Christmas. This is also the time that we replenish the HOPE Fund. The HOPE Fund is used by our pastor to help those in need. The HOPE Fund is a separate account from the Flower Fund, so please check if you want to donate to that fund. Thank you for contributing to this effort!

### CIRCLE YOUR CHOICE

Single Stem \$15.00

Double Stem \$25

HOPE Fund \$15 minimum

If you would like to support the HOPE Fund, please write a separate check to the Plymouth Congregational UCC with HOPE Fund in memo line.

In Loving Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please print all names.*

Make check payable to Plymouth Congregational UCC and return with form to church office at P.O. Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264. In order for dedication to appear in the bulletin, please **place your order before December 15th.**

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