

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Joy

December 20, 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 Cradle Song in the setting of *Waltz, op. 39*

William J. Kirkpatrick

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

Call to Worship

One: In the power of the Spirit, love is coming!

All: **May love's pure joy in Jesus, the love which is for all the world, the love which no evil overcomes, be with us this day.**

One: This we pray – let this love come! In this love, we will find some joy.

All: **In our phone calls, our zoom calls, our facetime conversations, let us find Your joy, holy God.**

One: With cookies and candy, with pot roast and veggie loaf, let us find Your joy, holy God.

All: **We look for you this hour; let us hear Your voice.**

Hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel

NCH (black) #116

Verses 1 & 2, Hymn is located at the end of the order of worship.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Gathering Prayer

Louise Mangan, Nancy Wyse, Lori

Farr

One: O God, You have searched for us and known us. You know when

we hunger, not for kindness or justice, but for comfort, success and contentment. You know when we ignore the matters of our neighbors and of strangers. Give breath to your Spirit within us, O God.

All: **Be born in us again, as generosity, as tenderness, as freedom. Come, O come, Emmanuel. Amen.**

God's Promise of New Life

Response

“Ubi Caritas”

J. Berthier

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

The first system of the musical score is in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are 'U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - - mor,'. The piano part consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

5
u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

The second system of the musical score continues the piece. It starts with a measure rest of 5 measures. The lyrics are 'u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.'. There are triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes for 'i - bi' and 'est.'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines.

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TRANSLATION: Where there is charity and love, God is there.

HEARING THE WORD

Introduction to Scripture Lessons

First Lesson Genesis 1:1, 26-27

Hymn Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying PH (red) #108
Verses 1 & 2, Hymn is located at the end of the order of worship.

Second Lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel NCH (black) #116
Verses 3 & 5, Hymn is located at the end of the order of worship.

Third Lesson Luke 2:1-7

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: Holy Mystery of Love, we give You thanks for the gift of your outpouring Spirit, for the courage of Mary, for Joseph's willing heart, for glad tidings of comfort and joy. Receive the gifts we offer that your light may shine among us and your love may be re-born in the world. With Christ, in Christ, and through Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all power and possibility is yours, God most Holy, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

Hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel NCH (black) #116
Verses 6 & 7, Hymn is located at the end of the order of worship.

Benediction

Postlude What Child Is This

William Dix
arr. by Preston Keys

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

Keeping in Prayer

Dick Brace Patti Dyszinsky Annie Rice
Jim Connolly Michael O'Donnell
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.

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

This Week and More at PCUCC

Sunday – 9:30 AM Worship Service on Facebook

10:45 AM Sunday School Skit and Songs! Use Zoom information from newsletter to access.

7:00 PM Sunday Niter Gift Exchange & Fellowship

Monday – 7:30 PM Informational / Question and Answer Session about plans for the Capital Campaign

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

Thursday - December 24th at 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service, Habitat for Humanity offering will be received.

Announcements

Zoom Sunday Niters Christmas Party - Today at 7:00 PM, you are invited to join a Zoom gathering with a gift exchange. Only one gift per family. Gift ideas include food items, jokes, lightly used treasures, something unique, etc. Each family will display, unwrapped, the gift item or a sign which tells about it (e.g. an apple pie). Participants will be assigned a number and then pick their gift of choice in that order. The two parties will contact each other about delivery. Please refer to the newsletter for information to join the Zoom party. We hope to see you there! Peggy & Wayne

Our Annual Habitat for Humanity Offering, that we collect each Christmas Eve, will happen again this year in a different way. Members and friends will receive a letter of appeal for Habitat with a return envelope in the mail soon. 2/3 of the offering stays in the Plymouth Area to provide Habitat Housing locally and 1/3 goes internationally. Please make your check out to PCUCC and write Habitat in the memo line! Many thanks for continuing this work so another family can have a warm and safe home in our area!!

Poinsettia Pickup - After Christmas, you may pick up your poinsettias on Sunday, **December 27th** between 10:30 AM-12:30 PM. Eileen and Sara will be at church to let you in. Or on Monday thru Thursday the following week during regular church office hours of 9:00 AM-2:00 PM. If you would like to pick up a poinsettia to take to a shut-in or to those that are ill, please, please do so. Let us know who you are taking the poinsettia to so we don't duplicate! Many thanks to Fran Taylor for ordering and picking up the poinsettias from Moulton Farms and helping arrange the poinsettias to prepare our sanctuary for Christmas!

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:

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 also 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.

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
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
office@uccplymouth.org
musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
organist@uccplymouth.org
windygla2@yahoo.com
faithformation@uccplymouth.org
treasurer@uccplymouth.org
clwlcs@gmail.com

Bev Newton, Liturgist

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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Isa. 11:1-12; Exod. 19-20:17

*Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710
Based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851, and others; alt.
St. 2, 7, transl. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.*

Unison

1 O come, O come, Em - man u - el, and
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, and
3 O come, O come, O A - do - nai, who
4 O come, O shoot of Jes - se, free your
5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and

ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly
or - der all things far - and nigh; To us the path of
came to all on Si - nai high, And from its peak a
own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny, From depths of hell your
o - pen wide your heaven - ly home; Make safe the path to

ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.
sin - gle law pro - claimed in maj - es - ty and awe.
peo - ple save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave,
end - less day, to hell's de - struc - tion close the way.

In the medieval Western church, seven "Great O" antiphons, the basis for this hymn, were sung consecutively on the seven days before Christmas, ending with what appears above as the first stanza.

*Tune: VENI EMMANUEL L.M. with refrain
Melody from a 15th-century French "Processional"
Arr. Thomas Helmore, 1854*

Refrain

Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el shall come to you, O Is-ra-el!

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>6 O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer
our spir-its by your ad-vent here;
Love stir with-in the womb of night,
and death's own shad-ows put to flight.
<i>(Refrain)</i></p> | <p>7 O come, De-sire of Na-tions, bind
all peo-ples in one heart and mind;
Make en-vy, strife, and quar-rels cease;
fill the whole world with heav-en's peace.
<i>(Refrain)</i></p> |
|--|---|

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

WACHET AUF 8.9.8.8.9.8.6.6.4.8.8.
Melody by Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608
Harm. by J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

1 Wake, a-wake, for night is fly - ing; The watch-men on the
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing; Her heart with deep de -

heights are cry - ing, A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!
light is spring - ing, She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom,

Mid-night's sol - emn hour is toll - ing; His char - iot wheels are
For her Lord comes down all glo - rious, In grace ar - rayed, by

near - er roll - ing; He comes! O Church, lift up thine eyes!
truth vic - to - rious; Her star is risen, her light is come!

Rise up, with will - ing feet Go forth, the Bride - groom meet:
Ah, come thou bless - ed One, God's own be - lov - ed Son,

Hal - le - lu - jah! Lo, great and small, We an - swer all;
Hal - le - lu - jah! We haste a - long, An ea - ger throng,

We fol - low where thy voice shall call.
And glad - some join the ad - vent song. A - men.

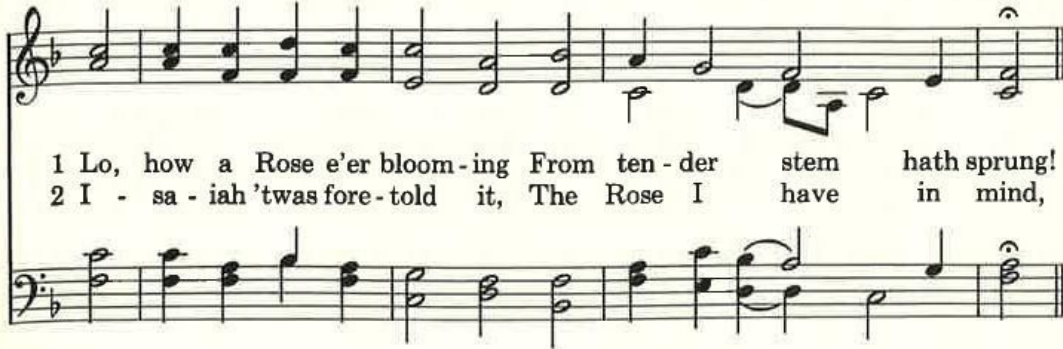
- 3 Now let all the heavens adore thee,
And men and angels sing before thee
With harp and cymbal's clearest tone;
Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where we shall join the choirs immortal
In praises round thy glorious throne;
No vision ever brought,
No ear hath ever caught
Such great glory!
Therefore will we, eternally,
Sing hymns of joy and praise to thee.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

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German: anon., 15th century
Tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934

ES IST EIN' ROS' 7.6.7.6.6.7.6.
German: Melody, 16th century
Arr. by Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621



1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath sprung!
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The Rose I have in mind,



Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As men of old have sung.
With Mar - y we be - hold it, The Vir - gin Moth - er kind.



It came, a flower - et bright, A - mid the cold of
To show God's love a - right, She bore to men a



win - ter, When half spent was the night.
Sav - ior, When half spent was the night.

BIRTH