

# **Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ**

## **2nd Sunday of Advent: Peace**

**December 6, 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

**Prelude**                    "Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus"    Rowland H. Prichard  
The beginning of the prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

## Call to Worship

One: Calming raindrops on a metal roof, quiet clouds –

**All: Holy God, your peace is in the rain falling slowly, surely.**

One: Warming sunlight beaming through a stormy day, bright and brilliant, rays of gold –

**All: Gentle Spirit, your peace is in the sunshine giving us steady energy.**

One: Fire burning brightly and bringing us the heat we need in our bodies and our souls –

**All: Creator, your peace is in our woodstove fires: let us name Your peace as all around the world.**

**Hymn**                            Comfort, Comfort O My People                    #101 (black) NCH  
Hymn is located at the end of the order of worship.

## The Lighting of the Advent wreath

### Gathering Prayer

One: Come to us, Advent God, with Your glorious light, that our lives may show the joy of your love. With Mary, we pray: may Your name be holy, may the hungry be filled, may the proud be scattered and the oppressed lifted up, may Your love be with Your people forever. Come, Source of our Longing, with healing and peace on your wings.

**All: Compassionate God, we open ourselves to Your divine peace this hour. As we turn to You this hour, give us ears and hearts to sense the great miracles all around us. Let the word and song of our faith ancestors lead us to courage to proclaim peace of all people on earth. We pray that our worship this hour be that which is for Love's sake. Amen.**

## Silence for Personal Reflection

## God's Promise of New Life

One: It can be very tough to find peace, especially at this moment in history. God's promise grants us the assurance of peace, even in tiny moments. Today, we'll seek that peace and we'll do so in community as we await the coming of the Christ child.

**All: By the power of the Spirit, the divine becomes human. Courage and strength come in a tiny babe. Christ comes to heal creation and bring ultimate peace. There is nothing – nothing here, nothing anywhere else that will separate us from the peace 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 first system of the musical score is in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a half note 'U' on G4, followed by quarter notes 'bi' on A4, 'ca' on B4, 'ri' on C5, and 'tas' on B4. After a two-measure rest, it continues with a quarter note 'et' on G4, followed by a half note 'a' on G4, a quarter rest, and a half note 'mor' on G4. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with 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 from measure 5. The vocal line starts with a half note 'u' on G4, followed by quarter notes 'bi' on A4, 'ca' on B4, 'ri' on C5, and 'tas' on B4. After a two-measure rest, it continues with a half note 'De' on G4, a quarter note 'us' on A4, a quarter rest, a quarter note 'i' on G4, a quarter note 'bi' on A4, and a half note 'est' on G4. There are triplets indicated above the notes 'i - bi' and 'est'. The piano accompaniment continues with harmonic support.

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

# HEARING THE WORD

**Scripture Readings**                      Isaiah 40:1-5      Mark 1:1-8

One: Here end the readings from our tradition. May God grant us the peace in these words and may Spirit move between words and hearing. Let us hear God's prophetic peace in new and deep ways.

**All: Amen.**

**Message**                                      "A Messenger"                                      Rev. Sara M. Holland

**Hymn**                                      O How Shall I Receive You                                      #102 (black) NCH  
Hymn is located at the end of the order of worship.

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**Offertory**                                      "Creation Will Be at Peace"                                      Anna Laura Page  
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 peace that comes to the human family. While we wait for Christ's coming, we give thanks for the peace promised. As we prepare for Christ's presence, help us share Your peace with all beings in the ways of justice, kindness and humility. Let these gifts be carried to all corners of the earth. 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 preparing and are prepared, God. We await the coming of a babe and our tables and makeshift tables are set. These tables are open: there are no prerequisites for God's love. This table is for those who believe a little, or a lot. This table is for those who need community, those who need solace, and those who need strength. Let us share in this abundance.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

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

### **Sharing of the Bread & the Cup**

### **Closing Prayer**

**All: Spirit of the Living God, you have filled us with Your life, embraced us with Your love, given us peace and fed us with Your grace. Now send us out into Your beloved world to share Your life, Your love, Your grace with all. This we pray through Christ our Lord who taught us to pray.**

**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**                      The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore    #115 (black) NCH  
Hymn is located at the end of the order of worship.

### **Benediction**

**Postlude**                      "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"                      Thomas Helmore  
arr. Caroline M. Taylor

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

## **PREPARE COMMUNION BEFORE WORSHIP**

Today's worship service will include the celebration of the Lord's Supper. We encourage you to participate in the sacrament and to prepare bread and cup before the service begins. Here is a suggested preparation.

Before the time of the service, you will want to prepare some bread, a slice or a small loaf of any kind of bread. In some parts of the world tortilla, rice cake or cassava are used as this element which is defined not as a wheat product, but as the most common food of the people. Let it be something you alone or you with others in your house may break and share. Prepare a cup or cups of juice — perhaps grape or cranberry — or wine, with or without alcohol.

Set these elements in the living room or kitchen where you experience worship electronically with our faith community. Perhaps you want to put them on a lovely cloth or fabric that reminds you of a special time or a person deeply connected with you in the communion of saints. Perhaps you will light a candle, place a flower/plant or the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup. Thank you for your preparation.

### **Keeping in Prayer**

Dick Brace                      Patti Dyszinsky                      Annie Rice  
The Family of Wallace Stuart                      Jim Connolly  
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 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](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org)

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

Sunday – 9:30 AM Worship Service on Facebook Live  
10:00 AM Virtual Sunday School  
4:00 PM Confirmation

Tuesday at 9:15 AM & Wednesday at 11:30 AM - Zoom Staff Meetings  
Wednesdays - December 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> at 7:00 PM – Christmas Eve Service,  
Habitat for Humanity offering will be received.

## **Announcements**

**Faith Formation** - Please join us, grades pre-k to 5, at 10:00 AM for our weekly bible story, music, craft and fun! Please contact Julie Kelsey at [faithformation@uccplymouth.org](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org) for the zoom link! We look forward to seeing you!

**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

**Church Office** – The church office will be open on Monday & Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday & Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, between 9:00 AM-2:00 PM. The office will be closed on Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. The schedule is for this week only.

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](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

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Carol Stewart, Liturgist

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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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## Comfort, Comfort O My People

*Isa. 40:1-8**Johannes Olearius, 1671  
Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.*

1 "Com - fort, com - fort O my peo - ple, tell of peace," thus says our God;  
2 For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er pla - ces plain!

Com - fort those whose hearts are shroud - ed, mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.  
Bid - ding us to make re - pen - tance since the realm of God is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, for Mes - si - ah's ho - ly reign.

Speak un - to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
For God's glo - ry ev - er - more shall be known o'er all the world;

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver.  
Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.  
And all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

*Written for John the Baptist's Day, June 24, this hymn clearly reflects the Isaiah text. Johannes Olearius, a Lutheran pastor, held a faculty appointment at Wittenberg University as well as church administration positions in his region.*

Tune: PSALM 42 8.7.8.7.7.8.8.  
(FREU DICH SEHR)  
Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551

## O How Shall I Receive You

102

*Paul Gerhardt, 1653**Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, and others; alt.*

1 O how shall I re - ceive you, how meet you on your way,  
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you un - to me;  
 3 You come, O Christ, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good - will,

blessed hope of ev - ery peo - ple, my soul's de - light and stay?  
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O Je - sus, Je - sus, give me now by your own pure light,  
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to know what-e'er is pleas - ing and wel - come in your sight.  
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.  
 when a re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

*As a German Lutheran pastor serving during the Thirty Years' War, Paul Gerhardt's trials were legion. In the midst of it all, he composed more than a hundred hymns, among them some of the finest and most beloved in Christian hymnody.*

Tune: ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.  
 (VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN)  
 Melchior Teschner, 1615

## The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore

115

Charles Coffin, 1736

Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

John 1:6-8, 19-28; Mark 1:1-8;

Luke 3:2-6, 15-18; Matt. 3:1-6, 11-12

1 The Bap - tist shouts on Jor - dan's shore, the  
 2 The earth and sky and sea now feel that  
 3 Clean up your hearts, lay down the way, for  
 4 Through you, O Je - sus, you a - lone sal -

earth shakes with the might - y roar, A - wake, let laz - y  
 which their Au - thor will re - veal: The Child now leap - ing  
 God ap - proach-es day by day; Pre - pare for such a  
 va - tion, so - lace, strength are known; With - out your love we

sleep now flee: be - hold, the voice of proph - e - cy!  
 in the womb as God does hu - man form as - sume.  
 wor - thy heir, for such a guest your house pre - pare.  
 fade like grass, like wilt - ed flowers our lives will pass.

5 Your hands ex-tend, our pain em-brace,  
 lift up the pros-trate, show your face;  
 Though we in part your beau-ty know,  
 O blos-som forth, your splen-dor show.

6 O One who comes to set us free,  
 O Child, to you our song will be,  
 With Fa-ther, Spir-it moth-er-ing,  
 to you shall praise for-ev-er ring!

*Charles Coffin, distinguished scholar and Latin author, was rector of the University of Paris for a time. The hymn, appearing here in a new translation, is from a breviary ordered by the archbishop of Paris to replace ancient Latin hymns with newer ones.*

Tune: WINCHESTER NEW L.M.  
 Musikalisches Handbuch, Hamburg, 1690