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.

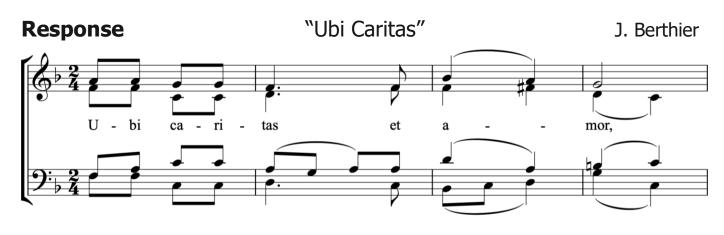
All: Compassionate God, we open ourselves to Your divine peace this hour. As we turn to You this hour, give us ears and hearts to sense the great miracles all around us. Let the word and song of our faith ancestors lead us to courage to proclaim peace of all people on earth. We pray that our worship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

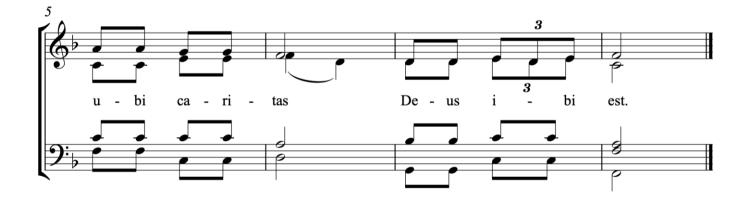
Silence for Personal Reflection

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!





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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.

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 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 9th & 16th at 7:30 PM - Evening Advent Services These will be contemplative in nature and will be focused on Hope. December 9th will be a 'blue' service honoring those of us who feel sad during the holiday season.

Thursday, December 24th 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 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^{th} & 8^{th} , and Thursday & Friday, December 10^{th} & 11^{th} , between 9:00 AM-2:00 PM. The office will be closed on Wednesday, December 9^{th} . 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 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 clwlcsw@gmail.com

Carol Stewart, 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

Poinsettia Order Form

is due Tuesday, December 15th





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 Thanksgiving for:
	In Celebration of:
	oy:
lease print all names	

In Loving Memory of: _____

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.



finest and most beloved in Christian hymnody.

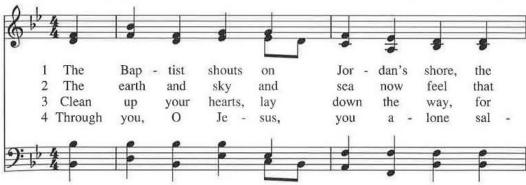


The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore

115

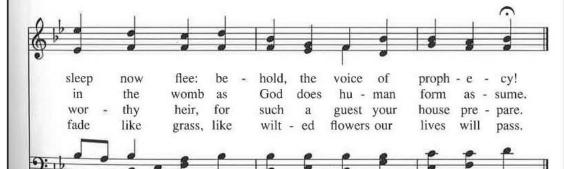


John 1:6-8, 19-28; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:2-6, 15-18; Matt. 3:1-6, 11-12





va - tion, so - lace, strength are known; With - out your love we



- 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