

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

3rd Sunday of Advent: Love

December 13, 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 "Some Children See Him" Alfred Burt
The beginning of the prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

Call to Worship adapted from Gaelic, 6th century

One: God the Beloved has opened a door;

All: the child of Mary hastens to help us.

One: Christ of Hope, One of joy, One of hill and meadow, all is One!

All: At Your rising, we await You! Let us proclaim the Love You bring!

One: God the Beloved may open our hearts, let us receive this Love, let us be moved to joy.

All: Wherever we are, let us sense our connection to You, let us move towards that Love You provide and find some part of the deep joy in this season. Amen.

Hymn Watcher, Tell Us of the Night #103 (black) NCH
Hymn is located at the end of the order of worship.

The Lighting of the Advent wreath

Gathering Prayer

One: Advent God, sustain us as we journey to the stable. Strengthen our hands and make firm our feeble knees, open our eyes to the dawning of the sun, and guide our steps on the pathways of peace. For this very week we sense the Love that will come in the Christ child. Let us be held by your Holy Presence, God. Let us know that we too can find the joy of the season, even in these hard times.

All: God of Love in the face of fear: We turn to Your way, once again. During this time, let us find the comfort we may need and let us be challenged if we are so ready. As we read and hear of Your love this morning, let us know that we may carry such love in our lives. Let us be led to and by Your joy, with Your Love as the sure foundation. We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Love is what we seek, Love is what we need. God's promise reminds us that we are worthy of love and we may share that with others. Today, we'll seek the intersection of Love and joy as we await the coming of the Christ child.

All: In the realm of the divine, all is made right and brought to Love. Christ reveals that all may receive Love from God. Let us land at the intersection of love and joy this very day. 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 are: U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - - mor, with a long note on 'a'.

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 features a triplet of eighth notes on the word 'ibi' in the melody. The lyrics are: u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

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

Children's Message

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 1st Thess. 5:16-24

One: Here end the readings from our tradition. May God grant us the love in these words and may Spirit move between words and hearing. Let us be led to joy this day.

All: Amen.

Message “Led to Joy” Rev. Sara M. Holland

Hymn Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates #114 (red) PH
Hymn is located at the end of the order of worship.

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 "In the Bleak Midwinter" Gustav Holst
arr. Amanda Max Conrad

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: Come, Holy Spirit, come. While we wait for Christ's coming, we give thanks for the love You have promised. As we prepare for Christ's presence, help us share love with others so your hope for creation is fulfilled. Bless these gifts, God; let Your Love be known among all people. We pray these gifts reach those who are lonely, hungry and hurting. Amen.

SENDING

Hymn

With Joy Draw Water #109 (black) NCH
Hymn is located at the end of the order of worship.

Benediction

Postlude

"There's a Song in the Air" Karl P. Harrington
The Postlude ends our gathered worship
and sends us into the world where our true service begins.

This Week and More at PCUCC

Sunday – 9:30 AM Worship Service on Facebook Live

10:00 AM Virtual Sunday School

10:45 AM Zoom with Pastor Sara – Tour of new office!

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

Wednesday - December 16th at 7:30 PM - Evening Advent Services

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

Sunday, December 20th - 10:45 AM Sunday School Skit

7:00 PM Sunday Nitters simple gift
exchange. See info below.

Monday, December 21st at 7:30 PM - Informational & Question and Answer
Session on the potential for a capital campaign via Zoom.

The link to be sent out next week.

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

Announcements

Our Annual Habitat for Humanity Offering, that we collect each Christmas Eve will happen 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 local Habitat Housing and 1/3 will go to international support. 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!!

Zoom Sunday Niters Christmas Party – On Sunday, **December 20th**, 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. The zoom contact information is Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84285491847?pwd=WitPdzQ5VGVRMzdxdjFVZFJjYXZhdz09>, Meeting ID: 842 8549 1847 and Passcode: 827818

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

Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice – Friends, please share these special events with anyone in your life for whom they may offer solace or support. May peace and kindness be with you this season. -Dan

- **Annual Hospice Tree of Memories - Online Virtual Service of Remembrance** on Saturday, **December 12th** and throughout the month view trees in Alton, Meredith, Wakefield & Wolfeboro and to view the interfaith service and learn more, visit www.centralvna.org.
- **Online Grief Support Group – Winter & Holiday Season** on Tuesday, **December 15th**, between 6:00-7:15 PM via Zoom. To register and receive the Zoom link, call or e-mail Dan Kusch at 524-8444 x2390 or dkusch@centralvna.org.
- We will also be offering a multi-week grief support group online starting in the second half of January 2021. Please contact Dan Kusch, Bereavement Coordinator, for more information.

We still have a few more Advent Wreath Kits if you and/or your family would like one! Please contact a staff person to pick it up.

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

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Rohan and Tucker Magraith, Liturgist

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

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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 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.**

Watcher, Tell Us of the Night

*Isa. 21:11-12**John Bowring, 1825; alt.*

1 Watch-er, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.
 2 Watch-er, tell us of the night, high-er yet that star as-cends.
 3 Watch-er, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.

Trav - eler, O a won-drous sight! See that glo-ry - beam-ing star!
 Trav - eler, bless-ed - ness and light, peace and truth its course por - tends.
 Trav - eler, shad-ows take their flight, doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.

Watch-er, does its beau - teous ray news of joy or hope fore - tell?
 Watch-er, will its beams a - lone gild the spot that gave them birth?
 Watch-er, you may go your way; has-ten to your qui - et home.

Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el!
 Trav-eler, a - ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth!
 Trav-eler, I re - joice to-day, for Em - man - u - el has come!

This hymn, a dialogue between watcher and traveler, was suggested by the dialogue in Isaiah 21:11-12. John Bowring was a gifted linguist, worker for political and social reform, member of Parliament, and governor of Hong Kong.

Tune: ABERYSTWYTH 7.7.7.7.D.

Joseph Parry, 1879

Alternate tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

114

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Based on Psalm 24

Georg Weissel, 1590-1635

Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

TRURO L.M.

Thomas Williams', "Psalmodia Evangelica," 1789

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; Be - hold the
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide My heart to
 4 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and

King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
 tem - ple, set a - part From earth - ly use for
 thee; here, Lord, a - bid! Let me thy in - ner
 no - bler life be - gin; Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

draw - ing near; The Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel; Thy grace and love in me re - veal.
 guide us on, Un - til the glo - rious crown be won. A - men.

A lower setting may be found at No. 82

With Joy Draw Water

109

Anne McKinstry, 1986, 1993

Isa. 11:1-10; 12:2-6



- 1 With joy draw wa - ter from the spring; sal - va - tion's liv - ing well.
- 2 A shoot has sprung from Jes - se's tree; of God the cho - sen One.
- 3 With love the poor will be re - ceived; the proud will turn a - side;
- 4 The wolf shall lie down with the lamb; the calf and li - on play.
- 5 With joy draw wa - ter from the spring; sal - va - tion's liv - ing well.



The Ho - ly One is in your midst; glad prais - es sing and tell!
A branch of knowl - edge and of truth; a gift of love has come!
And faith - ful - ness will be a path, and righ - teous - ness the guide!
God's peace shall dwell with - in the land; a child shall show the way!
The Ho - ly One is in your midst; glad prais - es sing and tell!



This text combines images from two Advent readings from the book of Isaiah, including the passage anticipating the reign of peace. The author, Anne McKinstry, has served as a writer-in-residence at Otis United Church of Christ in Massachusetts.

Tune: ST. COLUMBA altered to 8.6.8.6.
Irish traditional melody
Harm. Charles V. Stanford, 1906