

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

First Sunday After Christmas

December 27, 2020

9:30 am



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

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

Call to Worship

Fiona Macleod, 1855-1905

One: Deep peace, pure Spirit of the moon to you.

All: Deep peace, pure green of the grass to you. Deep peace, pure brown of the earth to you.

One: Deep peace, pure gray of the dew to you. Deep peace, pure blue of the sky to you.

All: Deep peace, of the running way to you. Deep peace, of the flowing air to you.

One: Deep peace, of the quiet earth to you. Deep peace, of the shining stars to you.

All: Deep peace, of the Son of Peace to you. Amen.

Hymn

Away in a Manger

111 NCH

All Verses - Hymn is located at the end of the order of worship.

Gathering Prayer

One: You have come to dwell among us, God. But beyond that, Holy One, You name us a family. We are family not only to one another, but even to you. This is a deep call which we easily forget, God. Let us be reminded this hour. Let us hear in scripture, in prayer, in song and in notes how we are meant to move with Your Spirit. If we find ourselves beside Your Spirit, let us be so bold to share such a Spirit with those we encounter too.

All: Meet us this hour God, let our hearts become receptive to the Love which you have granted our faith ancestors. In the simple scene of the manger we see that peace, hope, love and joy were born in a tiny babe. As the divine was born into a part of the human, so we became connected to the Holy Creator. Let us be reminded of amazing and deep truth in this hour. Let us hold this miracle with joy and courage. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: A humble beginning, a simple start. God, we pray that with the birth of the Christ child, we might find the miracles all around us. Today, we'll challenge ourselves to sense a deep connection to the one born in Bethlehem.

All: Let us go to Bethlehem and see this babe of miracles. Let us consider the humanity of our Savior. Let us know that God has come to meet us 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 As with Gladness Those of Old NCH (black) #159
As with gladness those of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward beaming bright;
So, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.

Children's Message

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings Psalm 148, 1-5 & 7-17, adapted Galatians 4: 4-7

One: Here end the readings from our tradition. May God grant us open hearts to accept the long-awaited gift of life and faith. We pray that Spirit moves between words and hearing on this very day.

All: Amen.

Message "Also An Heir" Rev. Sara M. Holland

Hymn Once in Royal David's City NCH 145
Verses 1, 3 & 4 - 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

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: Tender God, in Your wisdom You reveal Yourself to us in a tiny baby. In Jesus' humble birth, we remember our own opportunity to care for strangers in our midst. In Jesus' vulnerability, we remember our own dependence on Your love. In Jesus' humanness, we remember that all of Your creation is sacred. For the mystery of incarnation and for Your gift of holy love, we give thanks and we offer our lives. Amen.

SENDING

Hymn

Love Came Down at Christmas NCH 165
All Verses - Hymn is located at the end of the order of worship.

Benediction

Postlude

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



2020 Christmas Dedications

In Loving Memory Of:

Sara & Harold Moses
and Guy Taylor

Mac Bownes

Rick Fabian

Loved Ones In the Love,

Pierson, Hahn & Torres Families

Jeanette Coley, Mary Young,

Robert Karl Wunsch & Tina Leehr

Our Parents, Muriel & Robert W. Pollock, Sr.

and Caroline & Arthur J. Anderson, Jr.

David Starck

Elizabeth W. Cheney

By:

Paul R. Belyea

Arline Bownes

Georgene Fabian

Carol Hahn

Rev. Sara M. Holland

& Elizabeth H. Coley

Chris Pollock

Hanna Starck

Ann Thurston

In Thanksgiving for:

Our Wonderful Family

and Our Wonderful Friends

Our Children Who Love & Support Us

Our Family and Church Family

Alice O'Connor

Ken & Nance Ruhm

Eileen & Bill Torrey

In Celebration of:

Birth of Forest LaPrad

The Hope Fund

By:

Linda & Jim LaPrad

Bea & Woolsey Conover

The white poinsettia given by the choir is dedicated
to members of the heavenly chorus.

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 between 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 Farm stand helping arrange the poinsettias to prepare our sanctuary for Christmas!

Keeping in Prayer

Dick Brace

Patti Dyszinsky

Annie Rice

Jim Connolly

Michael O'Donnell

Prayers for those administering and receiving the first COVID-19 vaccines.
All those who are sick or have family member/s who have passed during the pandemic.
Prayers for Our Nation and for the World!

If you have a prayer request, you would 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

There is no Sunday School today.

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

Announcements

Huge thanks to Peggy Martin for organizing the Sunday Niter and to all who participated!

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 between 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 Farm stand helping arrange the poinsettias to prepare our sanctuary for Christmas!

Dear Church, we are seeking support in organizing food delivery for a couple of families in our congregation. If you have experience with [signup.com](https://www.signup.com) and would be willing to help Rev. Sara and the deacons in this endeavor, please reach out to Eileen Torrey. You may also reach out if you are willing to learn about how to use this very helpful platform!

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!!

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, electric 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	plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org
Deborah Healey, Office Administrator	office@uccplymouth.org
David Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
Ashley Paine, Organist/Pianist	organist@uccplymouth.org
Gale Adams, Co-Director of Faith Formation	windygla2@yahoo.com
Julie Kelsey, Co-Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Larry Spencer, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling	clwlcsw@gmail.com

Bill Heron, Liturgist

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Away in a Manger 111

CRADLE SONG

1. A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord
2. The cat - tle are low-ing, the Ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay close by me for -

Je - sus laid down His sweet head; the stars in the heav - ens looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes. I love Thee, Lord Je - sus, look
ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where He lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
Thy ten - der care, and fit us for heav - en, to live with Thee there.

WORDS: Anonymous, 1885; st. 3, 1892

MUSIC: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1895

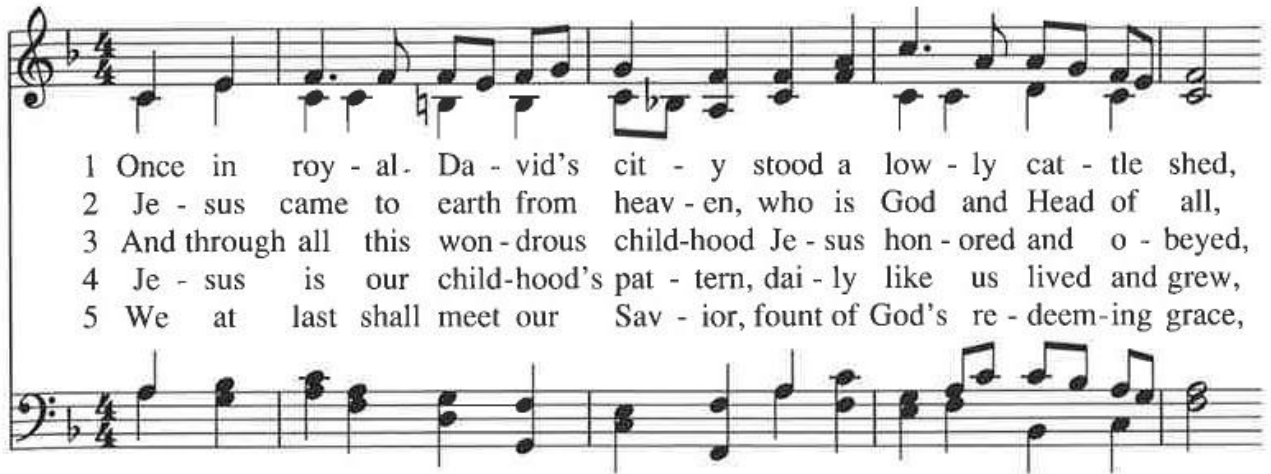
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Once in Royal David's City

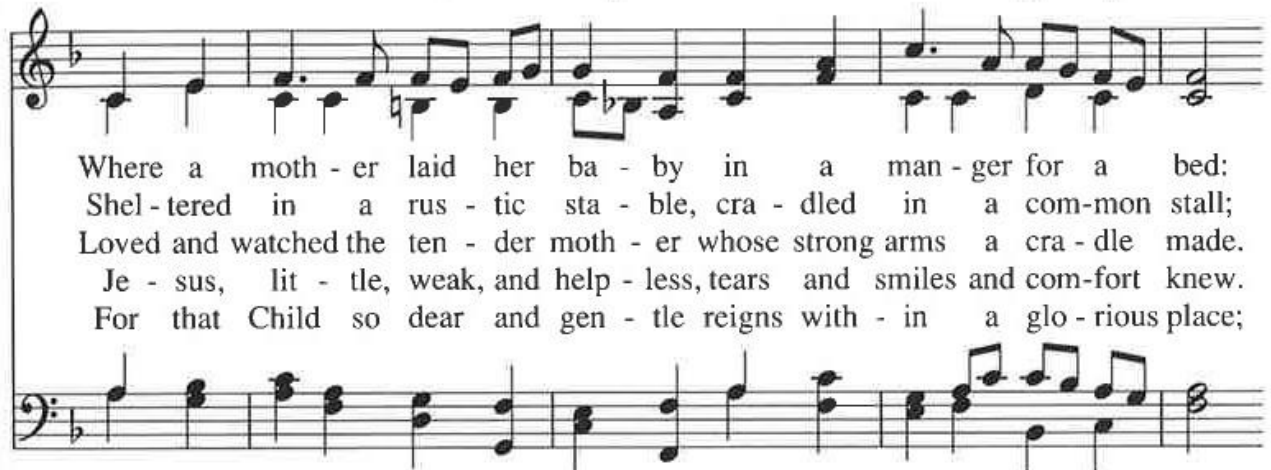
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Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Luke 1:26-35; 2:1-7; 1 Thess. 4:13-18



1 Once in roy - al - Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 Je - sus came to earth from heav - en, who is God and Head of all,
3 And through all this won - drous child - hood Je - sus hon - ored and o - beyed,
4 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern, dai - ly like us lived and grew,
5 We at last shall meet our Sav - ior, fount of God's re - deem - ing grace,



Where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for a bed:
Shel - tered in a rus - tic sta - ble, cra - dled in a com - mon stall;
Loved and watched the ten - der moth - er whose strong arms a cra - dle made.
Je - sus, lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and smiles and com - fort knew.
For that Child so dear and gen - tle reigns with - in a glo - rious place;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
With the poor and meek and low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
So, like Je - sus, we should be serv - ing God o - be - dient - ly.
Je - sus felt the pain of sad - ness, and the joy - ous lift of glad - ness.
Lead - ing all God's chil - dren on to the heaven where saints have gone.

Cecil Frances Alexander, wife of the bishop of Ireland, wrote a series of children's hymns commenting on the Apostles' Creed. This hymn, elaborating on the words "... born of the Virgin Mary," tells the whole life of Christ.

Tune: IRBY 8.7.8.7.7.7.
Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849
Harm. A. H. Mann, 1919

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Love Came Down at Christmas

Matt. 2:1-11; Luke 2:8-18

Christina G. Rossetti, 1885; alt.

1 Love came down at Christ - mas, Love all love - ly, Love di - vine;
 2 Wor - ship we the God - head, Love in - car - nate, Love di - vine;
 3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine;

Christina Rossetti, author of the more familiar carol "In the Bleak Midwinter," lived a very quiet life in England. This text has been described by the noted editor Percy Dearmer as a "gem, where so much is said in so little space."

Tune: WHITNEY 6.7.6.7.
Maurice C. Whitney, 1962

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Love Came Down at Christmas continued

Love was born at Christ - mas; star and an - gels gave the sign.
 Wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where is God's sa - cred sign?
 Love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.