

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

## Advent Three: Love Look Forward



**December 12, 2021**

**9:30 am**

We Practice Just Peace: doing justice, seeking peace  
We are Open and Affirming: welcoming LGBTQ+ people

☞ We Listen for the Still Speaking God

Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

*Masks are REQUIRED in our community at this time. Masks should be worn for the entirety of the service over both mouth and nose.*

*If you need a mask break, please take a step outside of the building.*

# GATHERING

**Prelude**            Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

arr. byCarolyn Taylor

*The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.*

## Welcome & Announcements

*Please, if you are new to our community and want to be involved, share your email address or phone with a greeter in the narthex. We are delighted to get to know you! There is a nursery space on the lower level if needed and activity bags in the narthex; on 1st and 3rd Sundays we have Church School. Please know we welcome wiggling worshippers.*

## Introit

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Peggy & Wayne Martin

\*Please note, those who are able and willing may stand.

### \*Call to Worship

One: Holy Spirit, You are joy of breathing creatures and growing earth.

**All: We gather to worship You as the promised one.**

One: You are grace of stars, wind and waves. Through these, we see  
Your love and look forward.

**All: We gather to worship You as anticipation grows.**

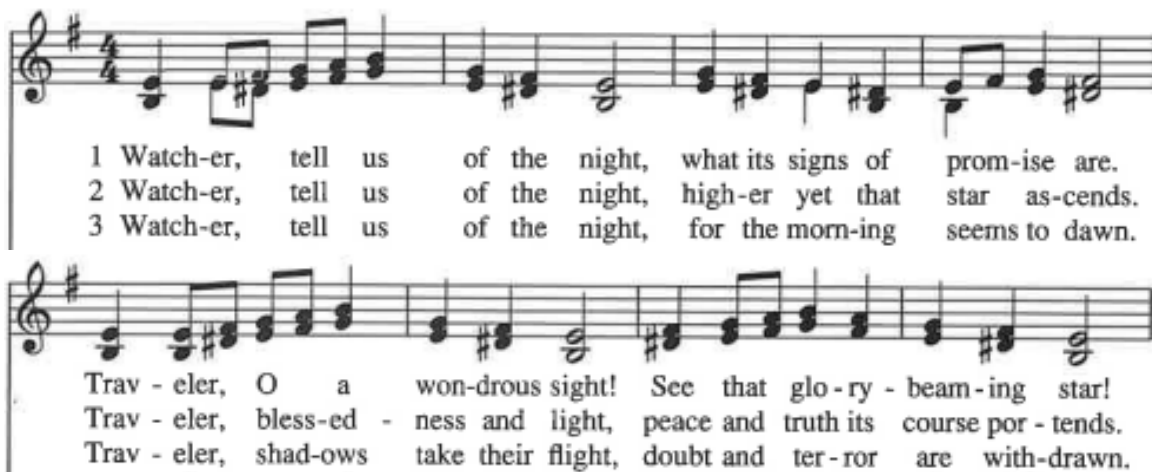
One: Speak to us of promise as the Christ-light among us.

**All: We gather to worship You as hope, peace and love are surely  
being revealed. Amen.**

### \*Hymn

Watcher, Tell Us of the Night

NCH (black) #103



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!

## Passing of the Peace

*We invite you to text or email someone a note of peace today. A hand-written note will work too!*

Leader: God be with you

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

## Unison Gathering Prayer

**All: Light of Christ, awaken us this hour to the glory of Your presence in our midst. Seeking the love of Christ throughout the season of anticipation, we look forward to your reign in our hearts. We long to understand your depth and love, and so we sing out praises. In Your presence, we name our shortcomings and sins. As we come before You more fully, enable us to behold Your creation, our neighbors and ourselves as Your beloved. May Your light within us shine through worship this day. This we pray in the name of the Word made flesh, the one called Love: Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Silence for Personal Reflection*

## God's Promise of New Life

One: In our world, hatred seems to abound. As we await the Christ child, a reincarnation of God, let us be centered around love. Let us find the fruits of the spirit this season:

**All:** No matter where we have been or who we are, we may turn to God in Christ. As early Christ followers heard, we too may be baptized with Holy Spirit on this very day. Seeking love, we sing together:

**Response**

Ubi Caritas

Music: J. Berthier

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U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - - mor,  
u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

*Translation:* Where true charity is, there is God.

*On first and third Sundays we sometimes have a message for all ages during this time. We invite children and youth to remain in worship this Sunday if they like. There are also available 'wobble' spaces on the sanctuary floor near the restrooms as well as on the lowest floor of the church building. We hope that families will make themselves comfortable and know that giggling kiddos are more than welcome throughout the entirety of our service!*

## HEARING THE WORD

**Scripture Readings**

Zephaniah 3: 14-20

Luke 3:7 - 18

One: Holy One, let us be open to your wisdom and love in this hour. Challenge our hearts and minds, bring comfort to our souls. We pray Your spirit moves with strength.

**All: Amen.**

**Message**

“But Just Wait”

Rev. Sara M. Holland



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 - bide! 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.

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## Prayers of the People

Pastor: O God, in Your grace and mercy . . .

All: **Hear Your people at prayer**

You will also 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 Anthem**            O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*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: Creator God, from Your well our thirst has been quenched. As we've looked at our reflections in streams, lakes and rivers, we have seen our call. Part of this call is in our humble offering: accept these gifts and let them become love throughout the world. Let these gifts be carried to the forgotten, the lonely, the hungry and hurting. As Your love is revealed, let peace prevail and let us be part of this. We pray all this for Love's sake and in Jesus' name. Amen.**

# SENDING

**\*Hymn**

With Joy Draw Water

NCH (black) #109

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!

## \*Pastoral Benediction

### Choral Benediction

**Postlude**      While Shepards Watched Their Flocks      By Night by J.S. Bach  
The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us into the world where our true service begins.

*Rev. Sara will be happy to greet you as you leave the sanctuary.*

### Keeping in Prayer:

Thoughts and Prayers for Terry Cote's daughter Lynn Bowers  
Sympathy and Prayers for Georgene Fabian & her family for the loss of her brother Bob Walter  
Prayers for Georgene Fabian as she is recovering  
Love and Sympathy to the family of Marjorie Glidden  
Love and Sympathy to Alice Avery and the Avery Family  
Prayers for Kathy Henning's nephew, Colin Slocomb McPhee  
Love and Sympathy for Susan Wei, whose sister Bonny passed away  
Love and Sympathy for the family of Tommy Hadley who passed away recently, a close friend of the Kelsey's  
Love and Sympathy for Janice, Jeff, Christopher and Maresa Nielson, the family of Joe Pedrin who passed away recently  
Bill Larsen's recovery and for his family  
Dianne Anderson, sister of Donna Castor  
Love and sympathy for the family of Sid Lovett  
Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family  
Lynda & Len Swenson, parents of Megan Magrauth Aaron, who has recently moved  
Charlie & Wendy Scouras  
Prayers for Healing for Valerie, a dear friend of Sally Jensen  
Prayers for Healing for Brian Paine  
Prayers & Healing for Ruth Munroe  
Mae Larson, Rebecca Larson's mother-in-law  
Bob, Georgene Fabian's brother and his wife, Joan  
Dick & Paulette Brace  
Annie Rice, Bev Tedeschi's mother  
Sue Switaj

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

If you have a prayer request, you would like Rev. Sara to include in Sunday Worship,  
please email her at [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org).

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

Today	9:30 AM	3rd Sunday in Advent: Love
	2:00 PM	Gingerbread house building with kids
	3:00 PM	Church Caroling
	5:00 PM	Sunday Niters
	7:00 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv
Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 AM	Lectio Divina
	11:30 AM	Staff Meeting
	1:00 PM	Mission & Social Outreach Meeting
Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	'Blue' Christmas Service, making space for grief
Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service

**Save the date** – March 13<sup>th</sup> is the next New Member Sunday

**Star Child Program Returns** – You can help make a difference in a child's life this Christmas with the Star Child program, sponsored by Mission & Social Outreach and Faith Formation. It's easy. Just select a star from the tree in the narthex. (You may split the cost of the star with another community member!) It will indicate the gift needed. For the little ones in Head Start, the star will indicate the sex, age, and clothing size of the child. After you've purchased and wrapped the gift, the star becomes the gift tag on the box. For the teens of Plymouth Regional High School, we will be giving them a gift card instead, so for them, we will be collecting cash or checks (please put Star Child in the memo line). The last day to bring a gift is December 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Invitation to Sunday Niters** – On December 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM will be at Arline Bownes house. Potluck style along with a Yankee swap!

**Huge thanks to Peggy Martin and Paulette Brace** for adorning our amazing chapel with nativity scenes from around the world. We encourage you to spend some time in the chapel one Sunday after worship or some other time during Advent.

**Good News From Mission & Social Outreach:** We are happy to report that everything is going well for the refugee family Gale Adams-Davis is hosting. Six-year-old Kimberly is doing great in school, acclimating well and making lots of friends. She has an hour each day of ESL at school giving her some extra help. Mateo will begin Head Start in January when he turns three. And Chris began her once-a-week ESL classes in Plymouth on Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in helping there are several ways including transportation, babysitting, and providing friendship and activities. Let Linda LaPrad know if you can help.



**Welcome to church families!** Activity bags are hanging in the Narthex and toys are made available, please ask an usher if you cannot find them. If your child needs more space during worship, please feel free to use the parlor on the sanctuary level or downstairs in our nursery and fellowship area. We have Sunday school in person, with masks on, the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Volunteers are always welcome, please contact Jennifer or Julie for more information at [faithformation@uccplymouth.org](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org).

**AmazonSMILE** - By choosing our church as your favorite charity, Amazon will make a donation to the charity you designate at no cost to you. Please let Ann, Linda or the office know if you need help setting PCUCC up as your favorite charity on AmazonSMILE.

**PREPAID HANNAFORD CARDS** - For every card purchased from the Finance Committee, the church receives 5% without any additional cost to you. Denominations of \$100, \$250 and \$500 are available by contacting Ann or Linda after services on Sunday, by phone or email. Thank you for your continued support!

**HOPE Fund:** The HOPE Fund supports families at risk who 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. If you know of someone who is in need, please put them in touch with the church office or Pastor Sara.

*The Hope Fund of our church continues to touch the lives of people in the Lakes Region. This fall, we supported people in need of rent, security deposits and transitional housing. We have deep gratitude for all of those who have contributed money and time related to the Hope Fund.*

**Racial Justice Exploration:** We are continuing these explorations this fall. We welcome new attendees and we pray you'll reach out to Alison Thatcher at [Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com](mailto:Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com) or Pastor Sara if you are considering ways to get involved in these important efforts.

**Book Group:** The next book group will be on December 20th at 10 AM. All are welcome! Any questions please contact Peggy Martin at [pmartin03223@yahoo.com](mailto:pmartin03223@yahoo.com) or Kathy Henning at [henkat52@gmail.com](mailto:henkat52@gmail.com)

**Please continue to be aware of COVID-related concerns when on site. Please do not assume old friends are okay with physical contact - always ask out of respect for the other person and be empathetic to anxieties anyone might have on the basis of the pandemic (or otherwise).**

**We want to encourage all community members (who are able) to get a COVID-19 vaccine. We hope that this will ensure the health and well-being of our most vulnerable community members.**

**We will offer the option of meeting digitally indefinitely (Facebook). You may also catch our services (one week delayed) on Sunday nights on PBTv at 7:00 pm. (Local channel 1302.) Please check for Constant Contact and the Facebook page for ongoing updates.**

**Small, in person meetings are allowed if all people in groups agree to such a format. Zoom, google meet, Skype, phone, etc. may still be used! Please consider care for creation and reducing greenhouse emissions when scheduling in person meetings.**

### **Office Hours**

Monday – 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM  
Tuesday - 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Wednesday - 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Thursday – 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Friday - 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

### **Pastor's Office Hours**

Pastor Sara is generally at the church for office hours Monday – Wednesday 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM; please reach out to make an appointment. She keeps sabbath on Friday.

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  
Courtney Crosato, Office Administrator  
David A. Williams, Director of Music  
Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist  
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation  
Ann Thurston, Treasurer

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organist@uccplymouth.org  
faithformation@uccplymouth.org  
treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Liturgist: Wayne Martin

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Celebrating Birthdays in December in our Community:

December 4	Rev. Sara Holland
December 9	Tucker Magrauth
December 13	Lucas Hyde
December 15	Eileen Torrey
December 17	Sylvia Shaw
December 19	Frank Tedeschi
December 25	David Williams
December 26	Natalie Boyer
December 27	Rob Stewart

\*\*If you have a birthday or anniversary this month or next month that you would like listed, please email to: [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org)

# Poinsettia Order Form

is due Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>



Please print this order form and forward to the Church Office.



## 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 circle 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  
minimum

HOPE Fund \$15

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 form to church office or place in offering plate. In order for dedication to appear in the bulletin, please **place your order before December 14<sup>th</sup>**. Print this form and send with donation.