

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Advent Two: Peace Communion Sunday



December 5, 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

Solstice Carol and Sussex Carol

Traditional Carols

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

Welcome & Announcements

Please, if you are new or relatively 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!

This morning we have Sunday School on the lowest level of the church building.

Children are always welcome to experience worship. In addition to Sunday School, there is a nursery space on the lower level if it is needed and bags with activities in the narthex too.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

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

*Call to Worship

One: Prepare your hearts for the way of the Lord; in our worship, we lay space for the holy.

All: The glory of God shall be revealed; blessed is the child that comes with divine hope and peace.

One: Arise, let your hope be bright like the sun: God's glory surrounds you – it is a glory full of simplicity and deep truth.

All: With our minds and imaginations, we lift our eyes towards divine peace.

One: At a sacred table, one of reconciliation, peace *will* be revealed.

All: In unity, rather than uniformity, we seek the peace of the Christ child.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Arline Bownes & Ann Thurston

*Hymn

Comfort, Comfort O My People

NCH (black) #101

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 Més-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.

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

Holy One: the prophets of ancient days spoke of a peace that would surpass all understanding. We seek such peace, today. We pray that we will be so enabled to open our imaginations. Let our minds be so opened that our hearts will be touched. During our worship, let us find such deep comfort that we will be strengthened. In our being strengthened, let us dare to change the world for Your Love's sake and so that all people may find Your peace. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: In turning to the table of Christ, we might be able to find the deep peace of the Advent season. No matter our path this week, God's love and grace is before us; let our hearts be open:

All: We look with spirits of intrigue this morning. We intentionally move beyond the mundane, seeking divine peace. In listening to the prophets, we are assured of Christ's presence. We may find reconciliation to God, to neighbor and to our deepest selves. Seeking peace, we sing together:

Response

Ubi Caritas

Music: J. Berthier

© Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Communauté, 71250 TAIZE, FRANCE

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 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 'wiggle' 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

Luke 1: 68-79

One: Come, Holy Spirit, come, lead us towards the peace promised in the Advent season. Let our minds and hearts be opened to Your Way. We pray You move in the meditations of our hearts and minds, for You are our rock and redeemer.

All: Amen, amén.

Message

“Imagination & Peace”

Rev. Sara M. Holland

***Hymn**

O How Shall I Receive You

NCH (black) #102

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.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory

Serenade

Titt'l

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: Holy Mystery of Love, we give You thanks for the gift of Your outpouring Spirit, for the courage of Mary, for Joseph's willing heart, for glad tidings of comfort and joy. Receive the gifts we offer that Your light may shine among us and Your love may be re-born in the world. With Christ, in Christ, and through Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all power and possibility is Yours, God most Holy. Amen.

Invitation to Holy Communion

One: We are scattered God: in apartments, houses, condos; on counters, at dinner tables, on our couch and stretching on the floor; and some of us are here in Church. As we join in this historic ritual, let us know that this holy meal may strengthen us. Let us find renewal in this great Communion.

All: We are prepared God. Our tables and makeshift tables may be messy, but they 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 and the Cup

Closing Prayer & Lord's Prayer

All: God of truth, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life. Grant us the peace of the Advent season and of this holy meal. Give us imaginations for our walk with You and peace that may reach all those we encounter, for this is Your will in Christ Jesus, who taught us to pray:

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 Baptists Shouts on Jordan's Shore

NCH (black) # 115

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.

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude

Bring a Torch

Jeannette Isabella
arr. by Phil Della Penna

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:

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
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, Jess and all who struggle with addiction
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.

This Week and More at PCUCC

Today	9:30 AM	2 nd Sunday in Advent, Communion Sunday
	10:00 AM	Church School with Craft & Snack
	10:30 AM	Blessing of the LFFP & Decorating the Sanctuary
	7:00 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv
Dec. 6 th	9:30 AM	Book Group
Dec. 8 th	9:30 AM	Lectio Divina
	11:30 AM	Staff Meeting
Dec. 9 th	7:00 PM	Vivaldi Concert
Dec. 12 th	3:00 PM	All Church Caroling
Dec. 19 th	7:00 PM	'Blue' Christmas Service, making space for grief
Dec. 24 th	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service

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. 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 17th.

Invitation to Sunday Nitters – On December 12th at 5:00 PM will be at Arline Bownes house. Pot Luck 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 begins her once-a-week ESL classes in Plymouth on Monday, October 4th. 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.

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 summer we purchased food for people, assisted families who needed back to school supplies, assisted folks with rental expenses as well as utilities. When we assisted families in preparation for school, we were able to meet a few of the children impacted; they were immensely grateful.

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 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 6th at 10 AM. All are welcome! Any questions please contact Peggy Martin at pmartin03223@yahoo.com or Kathy Henning at 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

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 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
Courtney Crosato, Office Administrator	office@uccplymouth.org
David A. Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist	organist@uccplymouth.org
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org
Liturgist: Al Mather	
Advent Wreath Readers: Ann Thurston & Arline Bownes	
Acolyte: Wesley Ball	
Flautist: Peggy Martin	
Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ	
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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

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

Poinsettia Order Form

is due Tuesday, December 14th



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 14th**. Print this form and send with donation.