

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

7th Sunday After Epiphany
Love Your Enemies



February 20, 2022

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.
Finally, please respectfully ask neighbors before shaking hands or hugging.*

GATHERING

Welcome & Announcements

Please, if you are new to our community and want to be more involved, leave your email address on our sign in sheet in the narthex / entrance of the building or email us at office@uccplymouth.org. We are delighted to get to know you! On 1st and 3rd Sundays we have Church School, in-person or via Zoom depending on public health. You may contact faithformation@uccplymouth.org to get more information about programming for children and families.

Prelude “When Morning Guilds the Skies” Joseph Barnby

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

*Those who are able may stand as willing.

***Call to Worship – Bill Torrey, Liturgist**

One: We come, with humble hearts, seeking a spirit of love, a spirit of mercy.

All: Fill us with your love; for blessings, we are grateful.

One: We seek the fullness of your love and belief that will give us a sure foundation for living.

All: Let us be revived by your sweet spirit; carry us this morning so we may walk by your Love.

One: We turn to the divine with our hearts, some full of joy, some full of sorrow:

All: We want to follow Jesus all the way – let us find Holy Spirit for such a journey.

*Hymn

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

NCH (black) #293

Slowly

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I
2 There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are
know that Spir - it's full - ness and be - lieve; you're the

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I
one to prof - it when you say, 'I am

to Refrain

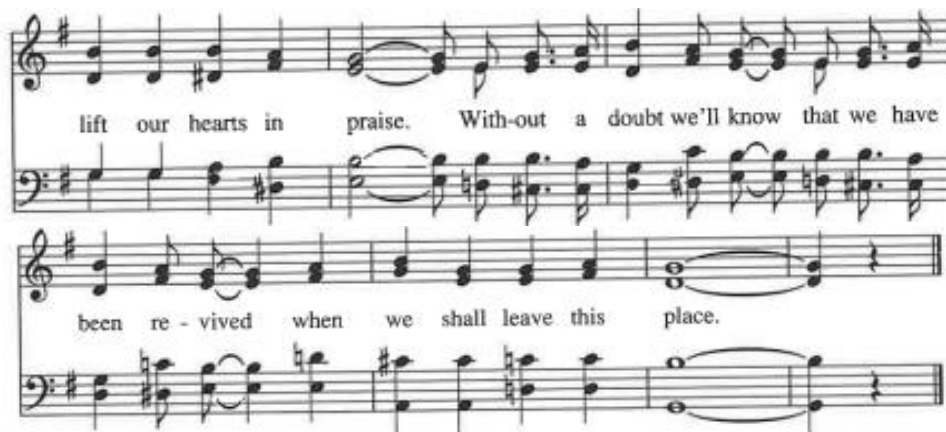
know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
going to stay with Je - sus all the way."

Refrain

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill - ing us with your love; And for these bless - ings we

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Slowly'. The score is divided into several systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are provided below the vocal lines. The piece concludes with a refrain section.



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: Holy One, we give thanks for the lengthening of days and the sunlight giving us energy, even courage. Join us in this hour – lead us beside your sacred word. Let us find a realm of mercy, one of loving kindness. As we toil over a challenging scripture, let us be centered first in your love. We offer our struggles to you, this day, hoping to find comfort in your presence as we have before. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Creator God, it is often challenging to love. We sometimes find ourselves tempted to lash out at people or just to simply ignore those in need. Your word implores us to walk with mercy; we confess that not only do we struggle to give mercy, we struggle to receive mercy as well . . .

All: God has promised us realms of mercy – those from which we may receive and give. Let us find comfort and challenge as we consider your mercy; bring us to new life and your love as we sing together:

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.

Message for All Ages

Children and youth are welcome to come forward during the message for all ages if they like. The message for all ages will truly be intergenerational this morning so if children want to stay in the pews that is okay too!

***You are the seed that will grow a new sprout,
You're the star that will shine through the day.
You are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a beacon to glow in the night.
Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all:
Messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.***

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Isaiah 55: 10-13 Luke 6: 29-37

One: Loving Savior, grant us the loving kindness that moved with Christ. Let our ears be open and our minds be nimble so we might prepare to speak all about the love of your word. We pray that your gospel moves between words and hearing.

All: Amen.

Message “Be Merciful” Rev. Sara M. Holland

*Hymn

All My Hope on God is Founded

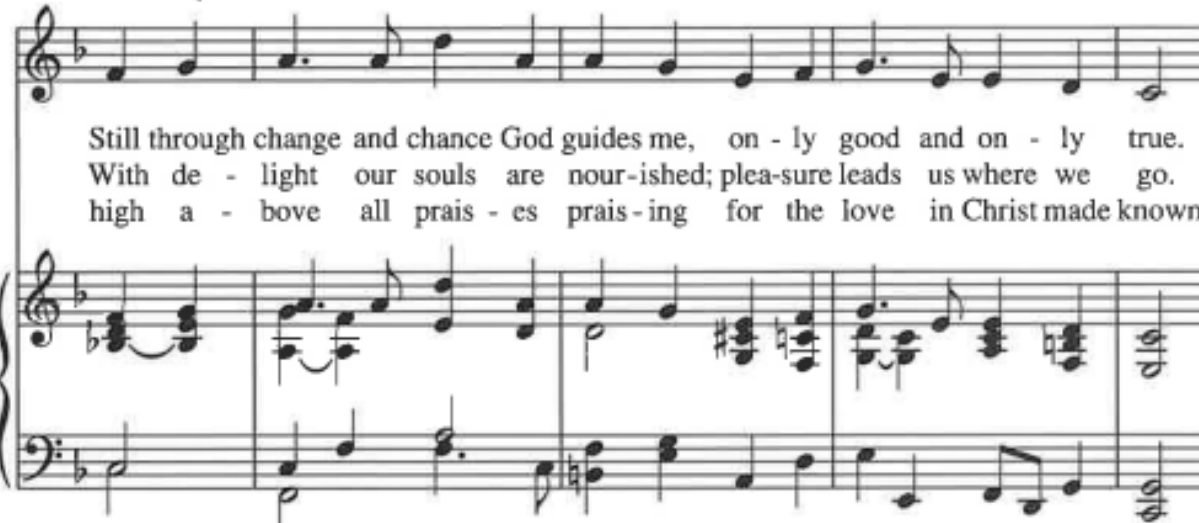
NCH (black) # 408



1 All my hope on God is found - ed: who else can my hope re - new?
2 Well does the al - might - y Giv - er boun - teous gifts on us be - stow!
3 In glad hymns to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of praise be done,



God un - known, grace a - lone, calls my heart to be God's own.
At God's hand does love stand; joy a - waits each new com - mand.
Hear Christ's call, one and all; those who fol - low shall not fall.



Still through change and chance God guides me, on - ly good and on - ly true.
With de - light our souls are nour - ished; plea - sure leads us where we go.
high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing for the love in Christ made known.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Pastor: Oh God, in your grace and mercy . . .

Response: Hear your people at prayer.

You will also be invited to offer your personal prayers from the silence of your heart.

Pastoral Prayer

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 "As With Gladness Men of Old" Austin C. Lovelace

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 Spirit, the rewards are indeed great. Let us be centered around your abundance this entire week. Let us know that in the midst of a world that seems to only offer scarcity, we may pull hope, joy, peace, and mercy from your gospel. Let our offerings carry such efforts forward; let our offerings bring peace to the child who is destitute, the one with no home and those who are lonely. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn

Morning Has Broken

PH (red) #38

In unison

1 Morn-ing has bro - ken Like the first morn - ing, Black-bird has
2 Sweet the rain's new fall Sun - lit from heav - en, Like the first
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing Born of the

spo - ken Like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing!
dew - fall On the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion,

Praise for the morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing Fresh from the Word!
Of the wet gar - den, Sprung in com-plete - ness Where his feet pass.
Praise ev - ery morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion Of the new day!

*Pastoral Benediction

Postlude

“Scherzo Op. posthumous”

Franz Schubert.

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 to Connie and her partner, Toni who are grieving the loss of Toni's Uncle Harvey.
Sympathy and love for the Swenson and Magrath family on the passing of Lynda Swenson
Thoughts and prayers for Fran Lewis
Prayers for the Malone family who are grieving
Prayers for Kathy, a friend of a community member who is struggling.
Thoughts and Prayers for Terry Cote's daughter Lynn Bowers
Prayers for Alice Avery
Prayers for Kathy Henning's nephew, Colin Slocomb
Prayers for Bill Larsen
Dianne Anderson, sister of Donna Castor
Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family, granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie
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
Annie Rice, Bev Tedeschi's mother
Prayers for Sue Switaj
Prayers for the Masvingo UCCZ, our partner church in Zimbabwe

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	7 th Sunday after Epiphany Church School
	7:00 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv
February 20 th	11:45 AM	Finance Meeting
February 21 st	10:00 AM	Book Group via Zoom
February 23 rd	9:30 AM	Lectio Divina Bible Study
	11:30 AM	Staff Meeting
February 27 th	9:30 AM	Jazz Sunday
March 1 st	7:00 PM	Racial Justice
March 2 nd	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday
March 6 th	9:30 AM	New Member Reception
March 8 th		2022-23 Budgets are due
March 20 th	4:00 PM	Adam Mayon and Zi Liang – Duo Piano Recital

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 Byam or Julie Kelsey 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 Thurston, Linda LaPrad 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

Thurston or Linda LaPrad 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 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 February 21st at 10 AM via Zoom. All are welcome! Any questions please contact Peggy Martin at pmartin03223@yahoo.com or Kathy Henning at henkat52@gmail.com

FOCT – We're in need of plastic grocery bags. We double bag FOCT groceries and need ~70 bags a week. Please bring in your Hannaford or Market Basket bags and leave them in the basket at the top of the stairs outside the sanctuary.

Please continue to be aware of COVID-related concerns when on site. We want to encourage all community members (who are able) to get a COVID-19 vaccine and boosters. 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.

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.

Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor
Eileen Torrey & Linda LaPrad,
Interim Office Administrators

David A. Williams, Director of Music

Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist

Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation

Ann Thurston, Treasurer

plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org

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treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Liturgist: Bill Torrey

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

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Celebrating Birthdays in February in our Community:

February 11	Chris Pollock
February 11	Maris Thatcher-Forgues
February 26	Beverly Tedeschi
February 28	Robert Pollock Jr.

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