

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

## Second Sunday After Epiphany Martin Luther King Jr. Day Weekend



**January 16, 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

*Andante* from Sonata

General John Reid

*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, send an email to [office@ucplymouth.org](mailto:office@ucplymouth.org). While we usually welcome young worshippers, our children and youth are currently joining in a remote space. Our church council voted this week to be remote for a 2 week period and we will revisit this on January 26. We hope you enjoy worship from home.*

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

## \*Call to Worship

One: Praise to the one who brings us together this day; many voices for one Love.

**All: We long for divine epiphanies; we search for You today.**

One: Praise to the one who comes with mighty rushing winds, peaceful streams and simple moments of silence.

**All: We know You are manifest in the struggles of life, God; let us seek Your love in the hardest of times.**

One: Let our praises come with humility and tenderness.

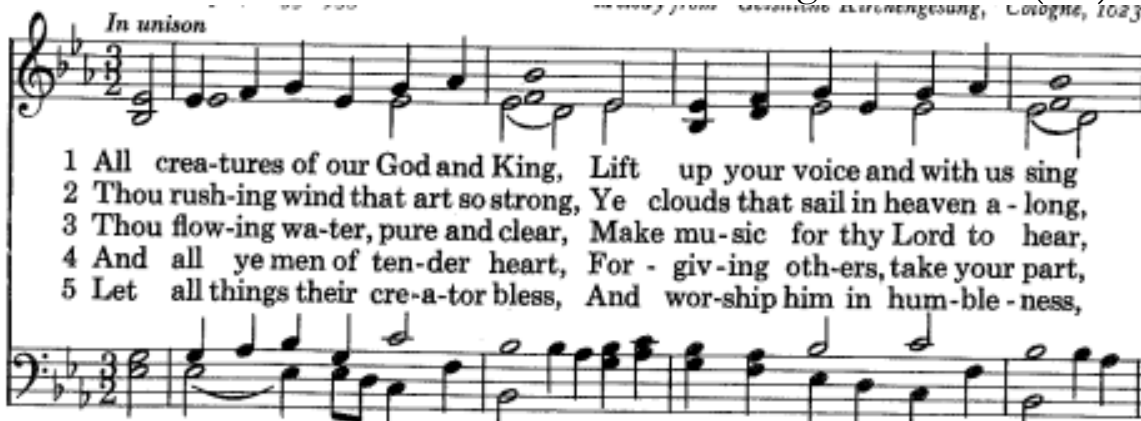
**All: We await Your truth, Holy One! Join us this hour!**

## \*Hymn

All Creatures of Our God and King

PH (red) #64

*In unison*



1 All crea-tures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing  
2 Thou rush-ing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heaven a - long,  
3 Thou flow-ing wa-ter, pure and clear, Make mu-sic for thy Lord to hear,  
4 And all ye men of ten-der heart, For - giv-ing oth-ers, take your part,  
5 Let all things their cre-a-tor bless, And wor-ship him in hum-ble-ness,

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'All Creatures of Our God and King'. It features a treble clef and a bass clef, both in 3/2 time. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The score includes five lines of lyrics corresponding to the five verses of the hymn. The music is written in a simple, unison style.

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou burn - ing sun with gold - en  
 O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou ris - ing morn, in praise re -  
 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou fire so mas - ter - ful and  
 O sing ye, Al - le - lu - ia! Ye who long pain and sor - row  
 O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the

beam, Thou sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam, O praise him, O  
 joice, Ye lights of eve - ning, find a voice, O praise him, O  
 bright, That giv - est man both warmth and light, O praise him, O  
 bear, Praise God and on him cast your care. O praise him, O  
 Son, And praise the Spir - it, three in One. O praise him, O

praise him, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

## 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**

adapted from Julian of Norwich

**All: The fullness of joy is to behold God in everything. God is the ground, the substance, the teaching, the teacher, the purpose, and the reward for which every soul labors. Let us labor in our singing, praying, reflecting and silence. Let our hearts and minds be moved to care for those most in need. We listen to prophets of past and present seeking Your love. Amen.**

## *Silence for Personal Reflection*

### **God's Promise of New Life**

**One:** Sometimes all we see is water even though you have presented us with miracles. We are often in disbelief of the good which is present and also of the possibilities within ourselves.

**All:** Today, we center around miracles, around faith. No matter how much doubt is present, let us rest in faith and possibility. Deeply aware of the divine, may we find hope in our singing:

**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.**

## **HEARING THE WORD**

**Scripture**                      John 2: 7 - 11

**Reading**                      Excerpts from A. Gorman's "The Hill We Climb"

**One:** Holy God, let us see Your love manifest in the world today. Let us name Your miracles. May we be present to Your wisdom during this time. We pray Your Spirit moves between words and hearing.

**All: Amen.**

**Message**

Reflection and sharing – updates  
on our church’s racial justice work

Alison Thatcher

**\*Hymn**

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

NCH (black) #596

1 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide; my shel-ter be!  
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill your law's de - mands;  
 3 Noth-ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to your cross I cling;  
 4 While I draw this fleet-ing breath, when my eyes shall close in death,

Let the wat - er and the blood, from your wound - ed side which flowed,  
 Could my zeal no re - spite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
 Na - ked, come to you for dress; help-less, look to you for grace;  
 When I soar to worlds un - known, meet you at your judg-ment throne,

Be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.  
 All for sin could not a - tone; you must save, and you a - lone.  
 Stained, I to the foun-tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die!  
 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide; my shel-ter be!

# 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**                      Two Arias in Rondeau                      Jean-Jacques Naudot  
*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**    adapted from 13<sup>th</sup> hymn, source unknown

**All:** Come, Holy Spirit, send from highest heaven the radiance of your light. Come, Father of the poor. Come, Giver of all gifts. Come, Light of every heart. Comfort in our grief. O most blessed one, fill the inmost hearts of your faithful ones as we return some of our worldly gifts. Grant us deep divine peace as we turn these gifts to You. Let us continually find humility. Carry these gifts to those most in need – the lonely, the hungry, and those forgotten. We pray all this for Love's sake and in Jesus' name. Amen.

# SENDING

\*Hymn

There Is a Balm in Gilead

NCH (black) #553

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to make the wound-ed whole,

*Last time, end*

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,  
2 Don't ev - er feel dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend,  
3 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,

*to Refrain*

But then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain.  
who, if you ask for knowl-edge, will nev-er fail to lend.  
you can tell the love of Je-sus, who died to save us all.

\*Pastoral Benediction

Postlude

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

**Keeping in Prayer:** Prayers for Lynda & Len Swenson, parents of Megan Magrauth  
Thoughts and prayers for Fran Lewis  
Healing prayers for Claire Benedix, friend of Eileen Torrey  
Prayers for Mike Hunt  
Thoughts and prayers for Judi Forney  
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  
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  
Dick & Paulette Brace  
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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)

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

|                        |          |   |
|------------------------|----------|---|
| Today                  | 9:30 AM  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany                   |
|                        | 10:45 AM | Coffee Hour type gathering via zoom (Information below) |
|                        | 7:00 PM  | Worship service airs on PBTv                            |
| Jan 19 <sup>th</sup>   | 9:30 AM  | Lectio Divina Bible Study                               |
| Jan 19 <sup>th</sup>   | 11:30 AM | Staff meeting   |
| February 8-17          |          | Prepare to Serve  |
| March 13 <sup>th</sup> |          | New Member Sunday                                       |



Topic: **Coffee Hour** with full Gorman poem reading & MLK Jr reflection and discussion

Time: Jan 16, 2022 10:45 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82525524936?pwd=aVQ1U1JwTVpsSmItL3d6dXNHVUM5UT09>

Meeting ID: 825 2552 4936

Passcode: 358247

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,82525524936#,,,,\*358247# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,82525524936#,,,,\*358247# US (Chicago)

**Our church council agreed on January 13th to discontinue in-person worship for a 2 week period** given the covid-19 Omicron surge. We are so sorry for the inconvenience and the whole situation though we hope that everyone stays as low risk as possible. Our council meets again on January 26<sup>th</sup> and will further discuss the situation at that time.

All meetings of 4 people or more are to take place via zoom for now. Any other meetings need to be run by the church council and pastor. Masks continue to be required.

**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 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 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.

**PREPARE TO SERVE:**

New Hampshire Conference UCC's Prepared to Serve 2022 will be held as an online event featuring 12 workshops from February 8 – 17. This year's theme is from the scripture passage found in 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" Registration is now open. The event brochure is available at

<https://www.nhcucc.org/uploads/documents/caring-for-congregations/PTS/PTS%202022%20Brochure.pdf> and you can register at <https://web.cvent.com/event/2a1ba075-cc57-496b-89c5-06d633e2c790/summary>

**Book Group:** The next book group will be on January 24th at 10 AM via Zoom. 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 of up to 4 people 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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org) or on her work cell phone number at 336-485-5618 to set up a meeting.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor                                  | <a href="mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org">plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org</a> |
| Eileen Torrey & Linda LaPrad,<br>Interim Office Administrator | <a href="mailto:office@uccplymouth.org">office@uccplymouth.org</a>                 |
| David A. Williams, Director of Music                          | <a href="mailto:musicdirector@uccplymouth.org">musicdirector@uccplymouth.org</a>   |
| Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist                                 | <a href="mailto:organist@uccplymouth.org">organist@uccplymouth.org</a>             |
| Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation                    | <a href="mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org">faithformation@uccplymouth.org</a> |
| Ann Thurston, Treasurer                                       | <a href="mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org">treasurer@uccplymouth.org</a>           |

Lay pastoral fill-in: Alison Thatcher

Liturgist: David Williams

Special musician: Peggy Martin

With great thanks to Eileen Torrey for all her leadership with worship!

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ  
4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264  
(603) 536-2626 - [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org) - [www.uccplymouth.org](http://www.uccplymouth.org)



Celebrating Birthdays in January in our Community:

|            |                       |
|------------|-----------------------|
| January 1  | Rohan Magraith        |
| January 1  | Al Mather             |
| January 2  | Nance Ruhm            |
| January 3  | Tavari Wilms          |
| January 5  | Woody* Hedberg        |
| January 13 | David Berman          |
| January 13 | Janice Nielson        |
| January 15 | Hanna Starck          |
| January 16 | Ashley Rose           |
| January 17 | Alexandra Woodsum     |
| January 18 | Butch Castor          |
| January 22 | Sandy Larsen          |
| January 23 | Jerry Larson          |
| January 24 | Briggs Adey-Merrithew |
| January 24 | Marlin Collingwood    |
| January 25 | Rebecca Caron         |
| January 26 | Sophie Kelsey         |
| January 27 | Peggy Martin          |

\*\*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)