

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

**Third Sunday After Epiphany  
Good News, Good Ways; Ecumenical Sunday**



**January 23, 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

## Welcome & Announcements

*Please, if you are new to our community and want to be more involved, email us at [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto: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](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org) to get more information about programming for children and families.*

## Prelude

Morning Bell

Johann Burgmuller

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

## \*Call to Worship

adapted from St. Francis of Assisi

One: God is love, God is wisdom. In the divine, we find humility and endurance.

**All: In this season of Epiphany, let us find God revealed in Christian siblings all over the world.**

One: God is rest, God is peace. In the divine we may find joy and gladness.

**All: On this Ecumenical Sunday, let us recall the ways we are connected to all sorts of believers; we have in common our humanity!**

One: God is justice, God is moderation. In the divine we may find all our riches, may God be sufficient for us!

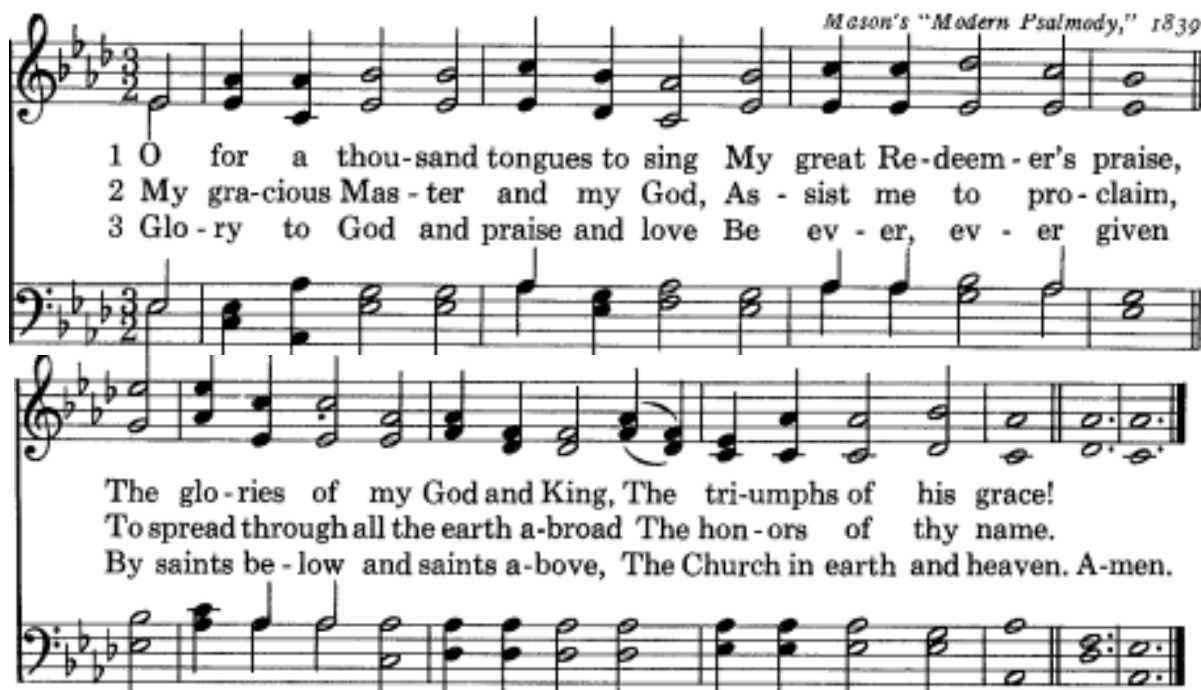
**All: We seek righteousness in this hour; let us be assured of how You may transform our lives and bring us great comfort.**

**\*Hymn**

O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing

PH (red) #223

*Mason's "Modern Psalms," 1839*



1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing My great Re-deem-er's praise,  
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, As-sist me to pro-claim,  
3 Glo-ry to God and praise and love Be-ev-er, ev-er given

The glo-ries of my God and King, The tri-umphs of his grace!  
To spread through all the earth a-broad The hon-ors of thy name.  
By saints be-low and saints a-bove, The Church in earth and heaven. 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

Ephesians 3:16-21, portions restated

All: We pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, all may be strengthened in their inner being. May we find power through your Holy Spirit and may Christ dwell in our hearts. Let us live through faith and learn through doubts we may have. May we be rooted and grounded in love. We pray that we may comprehend, with all the saints: the breadth, length, height and depth of God's love. Amen.

*Silence for Personal Reflection*

## God's Promise of New Life

One: Many of us feel depleted and our hearts may feel weary this day; we turn our hearts to God and seek grace. We come with some level of weakness, longing that God will send divine strength our way.

**All: And those who seek, shall find. Let none of us longing feel we are longing alone. God is our strength, this day; God is revealed in our unity, through the local church and those throughout the world committed to following the Way of Christ. Let us find hope 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

*Again, we invite children and families to get connected to our programming by emailing [faithformation@uccplymouth.org](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org).*

## HEARING THE WORD

**Scripture**                      Luke 4: 14-21                      Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10

One: Holy One, soften our hearts that we may hear Your Spirit. Let us know that we may live with Your divine truth in each moment. We pray that Your Love moves between words and hearing.

**All: Amen.**

**Message**                      “This Day Is Holy”                      Rev. Sara M. Holland

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;  
 3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all thy life re - ceive;  
 4 Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot-less let us be;

Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All thy faith - ful mer - cies crown;  
 Let us all in thee in - her - it, Let us find thy prom - ised rest;  
 Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.  
 Let us see thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;

Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;  
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;  
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,  
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in heaven we take our place,

Vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 Pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 Till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise. A - men.

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## Prayers of the People

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**                      My Jesus, I Love Thee                      Adoniram J. Gordon  
*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: O Shining Light, we give thanks for the light of this day, for the light of eternal love, for the light of the journey to justice and peace, and for the light of your grace in our lives. Shine through these our gifts and through us. We pray that the light of justice, mercy and joy may spread through the world. Let Your love reach those most in need – the hungry, the hurting, the lonely, and the forgotten. Amen.**

# SENDING

**\*Hymn**

Christian Rise and Act Your Creed

NC (black) #537

1 Chris - tian, rise and act your creed; let your  
2 Hearts a - round you sink with care; you can  
3 Of - fer oth - ers hope and joy, and God's  
4 Come then, law di - vine, and reign: faith that

prayer be in your deed; Seek the right, per - form the  
help their load to bear; You can bring in - spir - ing  
wor - ship your em - ploy; Giv - ing thanks in hum - ble  
doubt as - sails in vain, Per - fect love be - reft of

true, raise your work and life a - new,  
light, strength - en them to do the right.  
zeal, learn - ing all God's will to feel.  
fear, born in heaven and ra - diant here.

**\*Pastoral Benediction** My Jesus, I Love Thee by Adoniram J. Gordon

**Postlude**

Etude in E Minor

Stephen Heller

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

**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 Magrauth family on the passing of Lynden Swenson  
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 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 7:00 PM Worship service airs on PBTv
Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup>	5:00 PM Mission Trip Zoom, Pastor Sara will send link to families
Jan 24 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 AM Book Group
Jan 26 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 AM Lectio Divina Bible Study
Jan 26 <sup>th</sup>	11:30 AM Staff Meeting
Jan 26 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM Council Meeting
February 8-17	Prepare to Serve
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	SOUPer Bowl Fundraiser for youth mission trip
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	New Member Sunday

**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 Byam or Julie Kelsey 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 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.**

**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](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, 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>

Liturgist: Bev Newton

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Celebrating Birthdays in January and February in our Community:

January 1	Rohan Magrauth
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
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](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org)