

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
Prophet On The Edge



Jesus Mural of Faith, Hope, Love and Peace (20th century Chicago)

January 30, 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@ucplymouth.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@ucplymouth.org to get more information about programming for children and families.

Prelude

What Wondrous Love is This

William Walker

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

*Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 71

One: In a world full of trouble, O God, we come to you, our refuge and our shelter.

ALL: In your presence, we can rest, reflect, and be renewed.

One: When life feels overwhelming, we turn to you, our hope and our trust.

ALL: You offer the kind of refuge that is peaceful, fertile, and creative.

One: You reach into every situation, every heart, in order to bring transformation.

ALL: We give praise and thanks for your healing, empowering love!

*Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

PH (red) #366

John Hughes, 1873-1932

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On thy pec - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to
 4 Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; Gird our lives that
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils

pour thy power; Crown thine an - cient church's sto - ry; Bring her bud to
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us, Free our hearts to
 thy con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, Rich in things and
 they may be Arm - ored with all Christ - like gra - ces In the fight to
 we de - plore; Let the search for thy sal - va - tion Be our glo - ry

glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,
 faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,
 poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,
 set men free. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,
 ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,

For the fac - ing of this hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
 For the liv - ing of these days, For the liv - ing of these days.
 Lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, Lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 That we fail not man nor thee, That we fail not man nor thee.
 Serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, Serv - ing thee whom we a - dore. 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

Based on 1 Corinthians 13

Loving God, as we gather for worship, may your Spirit fill us with the gifts of faith, hope, and love. We long to serve you and others, not as clanging noises that hurt ear and heart, but rather as instruments that weave their diverse sounds together in wondrous harmony. Guide us this day in the ways of your bold and tender love. May we be willing to take risks, as Jesus did, embodying your love in a compassionate chorus that challenges and changes us all. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: It is hard to be patient and kind all the time. It is not easy to let our hearts be broken open, to let them grow deeper and larger. God calls us to see beyond the surface of people and things, beyond our assumptions and prejudices. We can practice new ways of seeing in a world that is not only broken but also filled with beauty.

ALL: When we awaken each day with gratitude in our hearts, we open to divine love that is not arrogant or rude, not boastful or resentful. We can look with wonder and listen with care; our relationships can reflect the goodness and blessings of creation. God is our strength and our refuge, the dynamic Spirit of love that weaves us together in community. Let us share that 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

Again, we invite children and families to get connected to our programming by emailing faithformation@uccplymouth.org.

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Psalm 71: 1-6 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

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 “Prophecy, Faith, LOVE” Rev. Sara M. Holland

***Hymn** Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken PH (red) #267

1 Glo-rious things of thee are spo-ken, Zi-on, cit-y of our God;
2 See, the streams of liv-ing wa-ters, Springing from e-ter-nal love,
3 Round each hab-i-ta-tion hov-ering, See the cloud and fire ap-pear

He whose word can-not be bro-ken Formed thee for his own a-bode.
Well sup-ply thy sons and daughters, And all fear of want re-move.
For a glo-ry and a covering, Show-ing that the Lord is near!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

On the Rock of A - ges founded, What can shake thy sure re - pose?
 Who can faint, while such a riv - er Ev - er flows their thirst to as - suage?
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner Light by night and shade by day,

On the Rock of A - ges founded, What can shake thy sure re - pose?
 Who can faint, while such a riv - er Ev - er flows their thirst to as - suage?
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner Light by night and shade by day,

With sal - va - tion's walls surrounded, Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
 Grace, which like the Lord, the Giver, Nev - er fails from age to age.
 Safe they feed up - on the man - na Which he gives them when they pray. 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

Sonata in C. Major, III.

Andante

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:

Gracious God, with joy and gladness, we dedicate our treasure and our hearts to the unfolding of your purpose through this community and far beyond these church walls. May these gifts be used to strengthen those in need and to support those who are suffering. Reshape us in your image; may we extend your love to all we meet, and to sisters and brothers whom we may never know. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn**

Come Forth, O Love Devine

NC (black) #289

1 Come forth, O Love di - vine, seek now this soul of
 2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions
 3 And so the yearn - ing strong with which the soul will

mine, and vis - it it with your own ar - dor glow - ing;
 turn to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
 long, shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com-fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,
 And let your glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
 For none can guess its grace, till love cre - ate a place
 and kin - dle it, your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

*Pastoral Benediction

Postlude Praise to the Lord the Almighty, arr. by Cindy Berry

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

Many thanks to Rev. Ruth Martz for supplying the liturgy today.

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 Lynda Swenson
 Thoughts and prayers for Fran Lewis
 Sympathy and prayers for the family and friends of Claire Benedix
 Prayers for Mike Hunt
 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

Keeping in Prayer: Prayers for Bill Larsen
 Dianne Anderson, sister of Donna Castor
 Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family, granddaughter of
 Diane Arsenaault 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
 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

This Week and More at PCUCC

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------|---|
| Today | 9:30 AM | 4 th Sunday after Epiphany |
| | 7:00 PM | Worship service airs on PBTv |
| February 2 nd | 9:30 AM | Lectio Divina Bible Study |
| February 8-17 | | Prepare to Serve |
| February 13 th | | SOUPER Bowl Fundraiser for youth mission trip |
| March 2 nd | | Ash Wednesday |
| March 13 th | | New Member Sunday |

Our church council agreed to discontinue in-person worship through February 6th 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 will revisit the situation on February 9th.

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.

Youth Mission Fund Raiser: Soup & Sandwiches freshly made by us for you on the big day! Support our trip and order online. Choose from 3 hearty soups & sandwiches, and decide what yummy sides, fixings, and desserts you'd like too. You can pick up your meal at church on Sunday, Feb 13th from 9 to 11 am, or if you live locally, choose the delivery option and we will bring it to you.

Order details at

<https://neartail.com/us/pcuccyouthmissiontripsouperbowlsubs>

Please submit the order form above and send payment to PCUCC at PO Box 86, by Monday, Feb 7th. Checks should be made out to PCUCC and note Youth Mission Trip on the memo line. Thanks for supporting our mission trip to Oregon!

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.

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 February 7th 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

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 | plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org |
| Eileen Torrey & Linda LaPrad, Interim 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: Bill Heron

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



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