

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

First Sunday after Epiphany The Baptism of Christ



January 9, 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.

GATHERING

Prelude Good King Wenceslas with "Anitra's Dance", Spring Carol

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: Sisters and brothers, today we recall Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

All: In baptism, our Creator claims us and frees us from the power of hatred and death.

One: In baptism we are joined to Christ and we are joined together in unity, recalling:

All: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

One: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry and makes us signs of divine love. It is the mark of acceptance into the church and the beginning of our growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

All: Therefore on this day, the whole church, the Body of Christ, remembers and celebrates.

All: Let us worship God!.

***Hymn**

God is Here! As We Your People Meet

NCH (black) #70



1 God is here! As we your peo-ple meet to of - fer praise and prayer,
2 Here are sym-bols to re - mind us of our life - long need of grace;
3 Here our chil-dren find a wel-come in the Shep - herd's flock and fold;
4 Sov - ereign God, of earth and heav-en, in an age of change and doubt



May we find in full - er mea-sure what it is in Christ we share.
Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit, here the cross has cen - tral place.
Here as bread and wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.
Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel, help us work your pur - pose out.



Here, as in the world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

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

One: Gracious God, too often we live as though we are fearful, not faithful. When we encounter the waters of chaos and confusion, we don't easily pass through them, but we obsess about the height of the water instead of the sight of the other side.

All: You promised to walk through the rivers with us.

Help us believe. And help our unbelief.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Thus says the God who created you and formed us in God's image: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."

All: I belong to God. This is the good news!

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

Isaiah 43: 1-7

Luke 3: 15 -17, 21-22

One: Holy One, through Christ's baptism you have opened for us the new and living way into your presence. Give us pure hearts and steadfast will to worship you in spirit and in truth.

All: Amen.

Message

"Called By Name"

Rev. Rebecca Larson

***Hymn**

Mark How the Lamb of God's Self-Offering

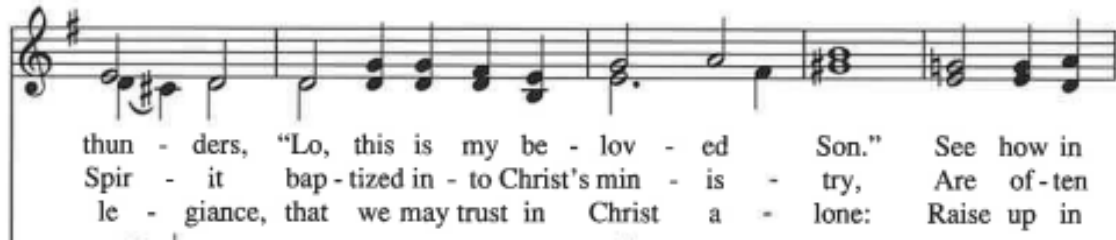
NCH (black) #167



1 Mark how the Lamb of God's self - of - fering our hu - man
2 From this as - sur - ance of God's fa - vor Je - sus goes
3 Grant us, O God, the strength and cour - age to live the

sin - ful - ness takes on In the birth - wa - ters of the Jor - dan
to the wil - der - ness, There to en - dure a time of test - ing
faith our lips de - clare; Bless us in our bap - tis - mal call - ing;

as Je - sus is bap - tized by John. Hear how the voice from heav - en
that read - ied him to teach and bless. So we, by wa - ter and the
Christ's roy - al priest - hood help us share. Turn us from ev - ery false al -



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Pastor: O God, in Your grace and mercy . . .

All: **Hear Your people at prayer**

You will be invited to offer your silent prayers for others.

The Lord's Prayer

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

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: Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God. Let them give you honor and glory as we serve the needs of your people. And let the called and redeemed of God say, Amen!

Remembering Our Baptismal Promises

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God to be a disciple, to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, as best you are able?

The people answer silently to themselves.

Pastor: And do you promise, according to the grace given to you, to grow in your faith and to be a faithful member of the church, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering God's mission in all the world?

Reaffirmation of Baptism

Please touch your forehead as you make the sign of the cross and say,

"I am God's beloved!"

Prayer of Recommitment

All: By your Spirit, Almighty God, Grant us Love for others, Joy in serving you, Peace in disagreement, Patience in suffering, Kindness toward all people, Goodness in evil times, Faithfulness in temptation, Gentleness in the face of opposition, Self-control in all things. Then strengthen us for ministry in your name. Amen

SENDING

*Hymn

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

NCH (black) # 351

Unison

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
 2 When you found the won - der of the Word, I was
 3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too
 4 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you
 there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you

were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.
 liv - ing God, to whom you now be - long.
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold. *St. 4, end*

I was there when you were but a child, with a
 Should you find some-one to share your time and you
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you

faith to suit you well; I'll be there in case you
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

wan - der off and find where de - mons dwell.
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude Angels We Have Heard on High with Sonatina #2, Allegro by Muzio Clementi,
arr. byCarolyn M. Taylor

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

Rev. Rebecca will be happy to greet you as you leave the sanctuary.

Keeping in Prayer: Prayers for Lynda & Len Swenson, parents of Megan Magrauth
Thoughts and prayers for Fran Lewis
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
Love and Sympathy for Susan Wei, whose sister Bonny passed away
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
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	1 st Sunday after Epiphany
	7:00 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv
Jan 10 th	10:00 AM	Book Group via Zoom
Jan 12 th	9:30 AM	Lectio Divina Bible Study
Jan 12 th	11:30 AM	Regular staff meeting resume
March 13 th		New Member Sunday

Winter Scenes: Take a moment to view the winter scene paintings and pictures that now grace our sanctuary walls. We are grateful to the church friends who are sharing their works of art with us!

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 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 or Pastor Sara if you are considering ways to get involved in these important efforts.

Book Group: The next book group will be on January 10th 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.

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

Guest Preacher: Rev. Rebecca Larson
Liturgist: Rev. Lynn Morrison

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 January 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

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