

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

*Second Sunday after Christmas
& Communion Sunday*

January 3, 2021

9:30 am



A Just Peace Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

A God is Still Speaking Congregation 9

Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

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 Isaiah 60: 1-6 Matthew 2: 1-12

Message “The Magi’s Wrong Turn” Rev. Rebecca Larson

Hymn “The First Nowell” NCH (black) #139

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory I Saw Three Ships, Traditional arr. Carolyne M. Taylor
We invite you to remember your support for the ministry of PCUCC.

Offertory Prayer

All: Holy God, help us to remember that the first act of worship offered to the newborn Christ was that of giving. When they had opened their treasures, they presented to him gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Receive and bless our offerings, bless us as we send them in and use them for the extension of your kingdom in the world. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

One: We are scattered God: in apartments, houses, condos; on counters, at dinner tables, on our couch and stretching on the floor. As we join in this historic ritual, let us know that this holy meal brings us together – not just with our local church family, but with Christians all over the world.

All: We are prepared God. Our tables and makeshift tables may be messy, but they are set. These tables are open: There are no prerequisites for God’s love. This table is for those who believe a little or a lot. This table is for those who need community, those who need solace and those who need strength. Let us share in this abundance.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Cup

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Closing Prayer

All: O God, You come to set our spirits aglow with Holy Light. For this we are grateful. Send us from this table to be bold in our love and constant in our prayers. Grant that we may not flag in zeal, but rejoice in hope. Let our love be genuine. This we pray through Christ our Lord who taught us to pray.

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.

Sending

Hymn "Go Tell It on the Mountain" NCH (black) #154

Benediction

Postlude Angels We Have Heard On High, French Carol

arr. Carolyn M. Taylor

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

PREPARE COMMUNION BEFORE WORSHIP

Today's worship service will include the celebration of the Lord's Supper. We encourage you to participate in the sacrament and to prepare bread and cup before the service begins. Here is a suggested preparation.

Before the time of the service, you will want to prepare some bread, a slice or a small loaf of any kind of bread. In some parts of the world tortilla, rice cake or cassava are used as this element which is defined not as a wheat product, but as the most common food of the people. Let it be something you alone or you with others in your house may break and share. Prepare a cup or cups of juice — perhaps grape or cranberry — or wine, with or without alcohol.

Set these elements in the living room or kitchen where you experience worship electronically with our faith community. Perhaps you want to put them on a lovely cloth or fabric that reminds you of a special time or a person deeply connected with you in the communion of saints. Perhaps you will light a candle, place a flower/plant or the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup. Thank

you for your preparation.

Keeping in Prayer

Dick Brace Patti Dyszinsky Annie Rice
Jim Connolly Michael O'Donnell

Terry Cote & David Cote, close friends of Alice O'Connor

Prayers for those administering and receiving the first COVID-19 vaccines.

All those who are sick or have family member/s who have passed during the pandemic.

Prayers for Our Nation and for the World!

If you have a prayer request, you would like Pastor Sara to include in Sunday Worship, please email her at plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org.

Please keep in mind that sometimes email systems will autocorrect Rev. Sara's email so please double check that the email is as listed here.

If you have not heard back from her about an important matter, please contact Debbie at 603-536-2626 or office@uccplymouth.org.

This Week and More at PCUCC

Sunday - 9:30 AM Worship Service on Facebook Live
10:00 AM Sunday School

Wednesday - 7:00 PM Midweek Prayer & Devotion via Zoom

Please see below for additional information.

Tuesday, 9:15 AM & Wednesday, 11:30 AM - Zoom Staff Meetings

Announcements

Midweek Prayer and Devotion - Please join us for Midweek Prayer & Devotion on Wednesday, January 6th, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Following is the information needed to join:
Link

<https://zoom.us/j/95720155404?pwd=eHBrUWF6VmRyV05mRFdwUlhXYmVTUT09>, Meeting ID 957 2015 5404 and Passcode 997975. If you prefer to join via telephone, the number is 1-929-205-6099.

Dear Church, we are seeking support in organizing food delivery for a couple of families in our congregation. If you have experience with signup.com and would be willing to help Rev. Sara and the deacons in this endeavor, please reach out to Eileen Torrey. You may also reach out if you are willing to learn about how to use this very helpful platform!

Finance Committee - CHOOSE OUR CHURCH as your favorite charity on AMAZON SMILE and support our ministries and mission. We can be found by entering Plymouth Congregational Church or Plymouth* under Faith and Spiritual list only.

Once on AmazonSmile click on "Accounts and Lists" under your name, scroll down to "AmazonSmile Charity Lists" select "Faith and Spiritual" then either type Plymouth Congregational Church or Ply* to find all listings starting with Ply then select our church.

HANNAFORD prepaid grocery cards are available during this "stay-at-home" time of practicing safe distancing. Denominations of \$100, \$250 and \$500 are available. Finance

orders cards regularly. Please let Linda or Larry know via phone or email what you would like to purchase. We'll let you know when to mail your check to the church. If you shop at HANNAFORD for your essentials, please purchase a prepaid card. The church receives 5% of each card purchased. Thank you for your continued support!

HOPE Fund - The need for assistance through our HOPE Fund will increase as families at risk need assistance paying for rent, heating, electric and medications. Please consider giving to the HOPE Fund. You can send your check to PCUCC and write HOPE Fund in the memo. Send to Plymouth Congregational UCC, P.O. Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264.

We want to thank the congregation for the outpouring of generosity for the Hope Fund during this time of need; this will be critically important throughout the winter months.

Book Group - Here is our intended order of Book Group readings so that you can purchase or otherwise obtain them in advance:

January: *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate

February: *The Yellow House: A Memoir* by Sarah M. Broom Cheers, Peggy

Our church is closed to all events until further announcement.

The Worship Services will be live streamed on our Facebook page.

Please check for Constant Contact and the Facebook page for information about upcoming Worship Services.

Pastor's Office Hours

During this time of "physical distancing" and working remotely, Pastor Sara will be at the church for office hours Monday 10:00 AM-3:00 PM, Tuesday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM, Wednesday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM and Thursday by appointment though all church doors are locked.

Small meetings may be possible in person with masks.

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.

The Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor
plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org

Deborah Healey, Office Administrator

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David Williams, Director of Music
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Gale Adams, Co-Director of Faith Formation

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Larry Spencer, Treasurer

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Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling

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Rev. Rebecca Larson, Guest Pastor
Carol Stewart, Liturgist

EPIPHANY

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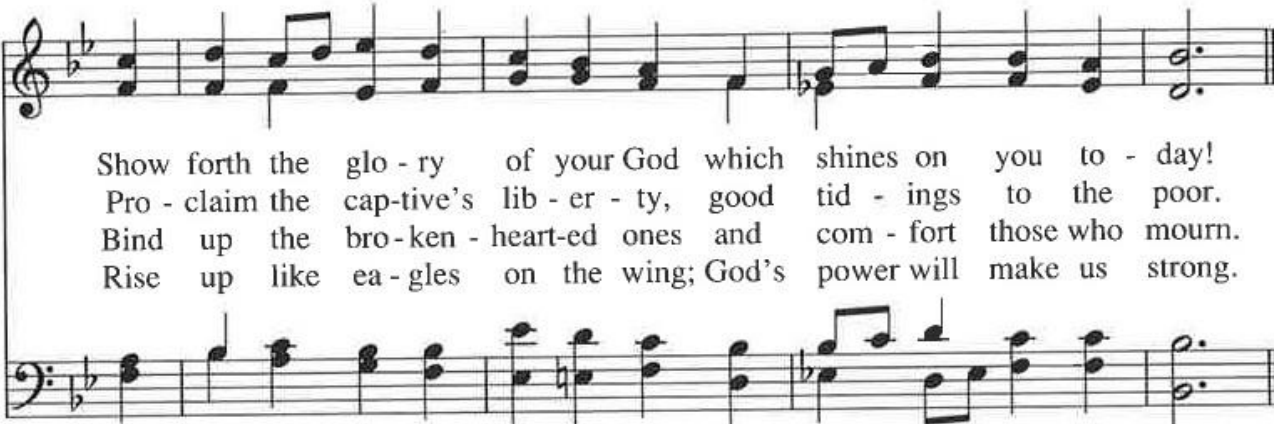
Arise, Your Light Is Come

Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21

Ruth Duck, 1973



1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!



Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!
Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

This hymn was first published by the Ecumenical Women's Center of Chicago in the 1974 collection of hymn adaptations, Because We Are One People. Ruth Duck later included it in her own collection, Dancing in the Universe.

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.
William Walter, 1872

Luke 2:8-20; Matt. 2:1-12

Traditional English carol; alt.

Descant

1 The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say,
 2 They looked a - bove and saw a star
 3 And by the light of that same star
 4 This star shone bright in the north - west,
 5 Then en - tered in those ma - gi three,

was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 shin - ing in the east, be - yond them far,
 three sag - es came from coun - try far;
 o'er Beth - le - hem it seemed to rest,
 and bend - ing low up - on their knee,

In fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep,
 And to the earth it gave great light,
 To seek for a king was their in - tent,
 And there it did both stop and stay,
 They of - fered there, in great rev - erence,

on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

Refrain

Now - ell, now - ell, now - ell, now -

ell, born in a man - ger, Em - man - u - el.

Though perhaps of earlier origins, this anonymous English carol first appeared in print in the nineteenth century. "Nowell" stems from the Latin novellae (news) and is used as a joyous greeting to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Tune: THE FIRST NOWELL Irr. with refrain
Traditional English melody
 Harm. Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871
 Descant, Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937

Go Tell It on the Mountain

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African-American spiritual
 Arr. John W. Work II, 1907

Luke 2:8-20; Isa. 18:3; 52:7

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hill and ev - ery - where.

Last time, end

Go tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

to Refrain

Be - hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light,
 Rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 And God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

This is one of the few spirituals heard inside as well as outside African-American churches. It was adapted by John Wesley Work II, who is remembered as the director of the Jubilee Singers of Fisk University.

Tune: African-American spiritual
 Adapt. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992