

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

## Baptism of Christ Sunday First Sunday after Epiphany Reception of New Member

January 10, 2021

9:30 am



A Just Peace Church  
An Open and Affirming Congregation  
A God is Still Speaking Congregation

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

# GATHERING

## Welcome & Announcements

### Prelude

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

### Call to Worship

adapted from Julian of Norwich, 1342-1419

**One:** The fullness of joy is to behold God in everything.

**All:** God is the ground, the substance, the teaching, the teacher, the purpose and the reward for which every soul labors.

**One:** The fullness of love is to seek God in all paths.

**All:** God is the music, the notes, the melodies, the sound of the wind and the still small voice for which we long.

**One:** The fullness of peace is to stand beside God in all moments.

**All:** God is a feeble utterance of a prayer, a simple poem, a reading from ancient times in which we might find peace.

**One:** Let us seek the fullness of joy, the fullness of love and the fullness of peace this very day.

### Hymn

O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright NCH (black) 158

The hymn is located at the end of the Worship Service.

### Gathering Prayer

**One:** Holy God, we come seeking You once again. We have caught glimmers of Your hope in rituals of old and in new friends. Our world often leaves us anxious and fearful: We hope to find peace in this hour. As we sing let us know that more than words are heard - remind us in a deep way that You hold our hearts with love and care. Fill our hearts with gratitude this hour for friends and family of faith and challenge us, once again, to reach out as compassionate neighbors in a world of suffering.

**All:** Creator on high who is also among us, we want to be a part of something larger than what we see. For the hurts that we feel and witness, we long to see redemption. For the pain that we experience and notice, we want to offer and find comfort. For the aimlessness that leaves us confused, we want direction. Provide us some of these this hour. Let us be reminded that we may purposefully work towards the repair of the world and be held by Your love. Amen.

### Silence for Personal Reflection



**Message**

“Into What Then?”

Rev. Sara M. Holland

**Hymn**

The Baptist Shouts on Jordan’s Shore

NCH (black) 115

Verses 1, 3, 5 and 6

The hymn is located at the end of the Worship Service.

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**Prayers of the People**

You will 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**

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: Blessed are You, God of Promise, who brings light to our darkness. We give You thanks for the ancestors who received Your holy word, for the prophets who help us to see the Messiah and for Christ who lights the way to peace and freedom. Amen.**

## **SENDING**

**Hymn**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

NCH (black) 593

The hymn is located at the end of the Worship Service.

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

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

**Keeping in Prayer**

Dick & Paulette Brace     Patti Dyszinsky     Alice & Margaret Avery

Jim Connolly     Michael O'Donnell     Fran Lewis

Annie Rice, Bev Tedeschi's mother

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

Jean Nilson, Susan Wei's sister     Heidi Watts, Fran Lewis' sister

Ron Ury, Eleanor Spencer's brother

Janet Taylor who is recovering at Goldenview Health

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'd like Pastor Sara to include in Sunday Worship,  
please email her at [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org).

## EPIPHANY

158

## O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright

*Isa. 60:19-20; Rom. 15:7-13**Philipp Nicolai, 1598**Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.*

1 O Morn-ing Star, how clear and bright, your beam shines forth in  
2 Come heav-en-ly Bright-ness, Light di - vine, and deep with - in my

truth and light! My Sov-ereign meek and low - ly! O Root of Jes - se,  
heart now shine, there make your - self an al - tar! Fill me with joy and

Prom - ised One, my God and Rul - er, you have won my heart to serve you  
strength to be your mem-ber, joined e - ter - nal - ly in love that can - not

sole - ly! You are ho - ly, great and glo - rious, all - vic - to - rious,  
fal - ter; Long-ing for you does pos - sess me; turn and bless me;

*This German chorale by Lutheran pastor Philipp Nicolai became so popular that its tune was chimed by church bells and its words engraved on pottery. It has been called "the queen of chorales."*

Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET 8.8.7.8.8.7.4.8.4.8.

*Philipp Nicolai, 1598  
Harm. J. S. Bach, c. 1731*

## EPIPHANY

Rich in bless - ing, rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing.  
Here in sad - ness eye and heart long for your glad - ness.

## The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore

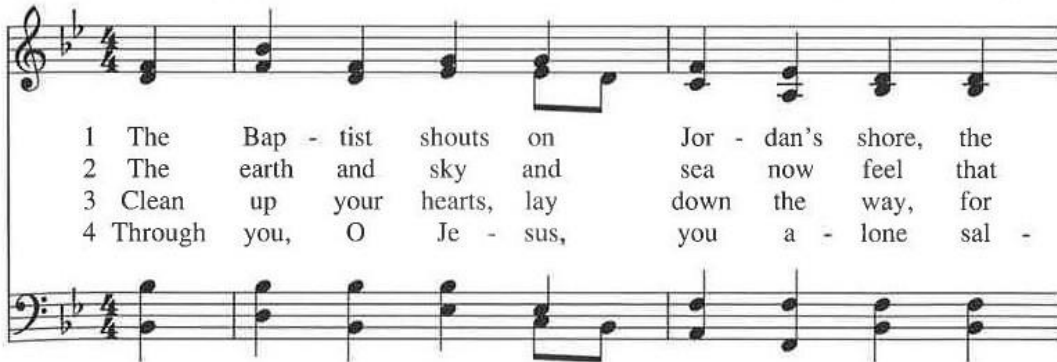
115

Charles Coffin, 1736

Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

John 1:6-8, 19-28; Mark 1:1-8;

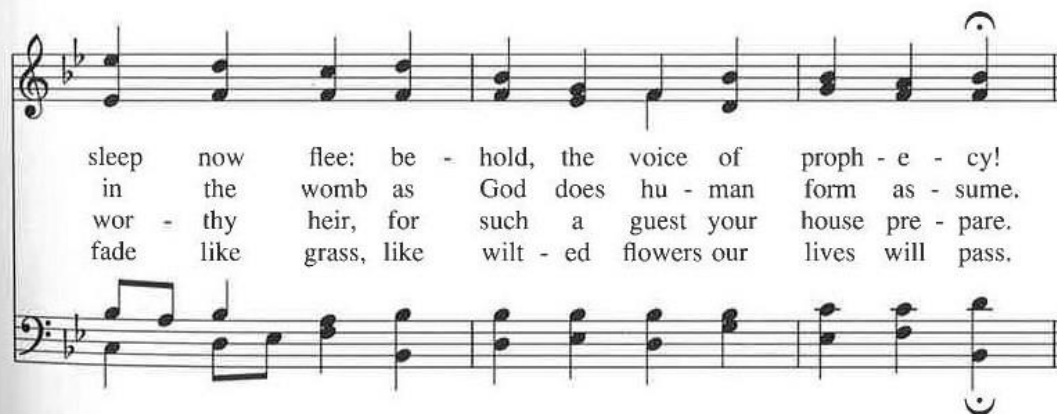
Luke 3:2-6, 15-18; Matt. 3:1-6, 11-12



1 The Bap - tist shouts on Jor - dan's shore, the  
 2 The earth and sky and sea now feel that  
 3 Clean up your hearts, lay down the way, for  
 4 Through you, O Je - sus, you a - lone sal -



earth shakes with the might - y roar, A - wake, let laz - y  
 which their Au - thor will re - veal: The Child now leap - ing  
 God ap - proach-es day by day; Pre - pare for such a  
 va - tion, so - lace, strength are known; With - out your love we



sleep now flee: be - hold, the voice of proph - e - cy!  
 in the womb as God does hu - man form as - sume.  
 wor - thy heir, for such a guest your house pre - pare.  
 fade like grass, like wilt - ed flowers our lives will pass.

5 Your hands ex-tend, our pain em-brace,  
 lift up the pros-trate, show your face;  
 Though we in part your beau-ty know,  
 O blos-som forth, your splen-dor show.

6 O One who comes to set us free,  
 O Child, to you our song will be,  
 With Fa-ther, Spir-it moth-er-ing,  
 to you shall praise for-ev-er ring!

*Charles Coffin, distinguished scholar and Latin author, was rector of the University of Paris for a time. The hymn, appearing here in a new translation, is from a breviary ordered by the archbishop of Paris to replace ancient Latin hymns with newer ones.*

Tune: WINCHESTER NEW L.M.  
 Musikalisches Handbuch, Hamburg, 1690



## Lift Every Voice and Sing

*James Weldon Johnson, 1921; alt.*

1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the  
 2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the  
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has

har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing  
 days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y  
 brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your

rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the  
 beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our  
 might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the

roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the  
 peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a  
 path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the

*Poet James Weldon Johnson was the first African-American to pass the bar examination in the state of Florida, and served as U.S. consul in Venezuela and Nicaragua. He collaborated with his composer brother, John Rosamond Johnson, to write Broadway operettas and edit song collections. John appeared in vaudeville, directed London musicals, and headed the Music School Settlement in New York.*

Tune: LIFT EVERY VOICE Irr.  
 J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

## CITIZENSHIP

faith that the harsh past has taught us, Sing a song full of the  
 way that with tears has been wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our  
 plac - es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the

hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the  
 path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, Out from the  
 wine of the world, for - get you; Shad - owed be -

ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, let us march  
 gloom - y past, till now we stand at last where the white  
 neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our

on till vic - to - ry is won.  
 gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 God, true to our na - tive land.

### This Week and More at PCUCC

Sunday - 9:30 AM Worship Service on Facebook Live

10:00 AM Sunday School

5:30 PM Confirmation via Zoom With Mentors

*The time of this meeting may change.*

6:30 PM Worship service airs on PBTv

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

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

### **Announcements**

**SignUp.com** - We're using SignUp.com - the leading online SignUp and reminder tool - to organize our upcoming SignUps to deliver meals.

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click this link to see our SignUp on SignUp.com: <https://signup.com/go/kEGjsBs> and <https://signup.com/go/ACZasWm>
2. Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
3. Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.

Please Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact Sara or Eleanor, and they can sign you up manually.

Sign up to bring meals to the Avery sisters here: <https://signup.com/go/kEGjsBs>

Sign up to bring meals to the Braces here: <https://signup.com/go/ACZasWm>

Thanks everyone!

**Many thanks to all who contributed to Habitat for Humanity and the UCC Christmas Fund this year.** We are so grateful for all who were able to offer any amount, large or small.

**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, electricity 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. If you know of someone who is in need, please put them in touch with the church office or Pastor Sara.

**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 has moved to digital platforms for all events until further announcement.  
The Worship Services will be live streamed on our Facebook page  
and are available on Sunday nights on PBTv at 6:30 pm.  
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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)  
or on her work cell phone number at 336-485-5618 to set up a meeting.

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Eileen Torrey, Liturgist

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