

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Second Sunday after the Epiphany Martin Luther King Jr. Day Weekend

January 17, 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

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

Franklin D. Ashdown

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

Call to Worship

One: Our world has given us reason to believe we are not enough.

All: God names us as beloved, just as we are.

One: Our minds sometimes start to believe these harmful lines of reasoning;

All: We come to You, God. Remind us of our worthiness. Remind us we are called, even with our imperfections.

One: Our hearts struggle to find peace; we look to prayer, song, reading and silence for Your truth, this day. The truth revealed in Jesus.

All: We come to You God. Let us reimagine the ways You know the depths of our being. Bring us back into Your fold of Holy Love.

Hymn

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

PH (red) 43

The hymn is located at the end of the bulletin.

Gathering Prayer

Ephesians 3:16-21, restated

One: Awesome Creator, we pray that according to the riches of Your glory, we may be strengthened in Your inner being with power through the Spirit, the Holy Spirit revealed in Jesus. Christ, dwell in our hearts through faith. Let us be rooted and grounded in your Holy Love. Let us aim to comprehend, with all the saints, what Your breadth and length and height and depth are - ineffable, indescribable.

All: God in this hour let us know the love of Christ in a new way - a love that surpasses knowledge. Let us be filled with all the fullness of God during this time. For You, Holy One, You are at work within us in ways we cannot imagine. Let us make space for this truth and for You to move as mystery. For You are able to accomplish abundantly more than we can imagine. In this time: let all glory, praise and honor be Yours. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Come, all who are weary, come, all who yearn for joy. As the waters of the Jordan washed over Jesus, so the Spirit washes over you and me! The source of life and love, through the power of the Spirit, changes despair to hope.

All: Be with us this day, this week, Holy God; for we know: There is nothing – nothing here, nothing anywhere else that will separate us from the love of God in Jesus. It is for this promise and Spirit that we sing.

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.

Children's Message

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings John 1: 51 1st Samuel 3: 1-20

One: Here end the readings from our tradition. May God come to us through word and Spirit this day. Let us find wisdom for today in these ancient words, and let us know, deep in our hearts, that we are beloved. We pray that Spirit moves between words and hearing on this very day.

All: Amen.

Message “Hide Nothing” Rev. Sara M. Holland

Hymn Go, Tell It on the Mountain PH (red) 488
The hymn is located at the end of the bulletin.

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

adapted from Bishop Serapion, 4th century

All: Holy God, You are the source of life and light, the source of grace and truth. You love both the poor and the rich, You seek reconciliation with us all and You draw us towards Your being. In our giving, grant us life, Holy God. Let our sharing of gifts buoy and empower us. God carry these gifts to the farthest corners of the earth - to those who are hungry, hurting and lonely. Grant strength to those in need on this day. Amen.

SENDING

Hymn

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

NCH (black) 1

The hymn is located at the end of the bulletin.

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

Our Sympathy & Prayers for the Family of Michael O'Donnell

Jim Connolly Fran Lewis Judy Detzel

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

Tom Healey, Debbie's husband

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.

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Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

RATISBON 7.7.7.7.7.
Johann Werner's "Choralbuch," 1815

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly Light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn Un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;



Sun of right-eous-ness, a - rise, Tri-umph o'er the shades of night;
Joy - less is the day's re - turn, Till thy mer - cy's beams I see,



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
Till they in-ward light im - part, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart. A-men.



3 Visit, then, this soul of mine;
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiancy divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Negro Spiritual

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN *Irregular
Negro Melody*

REFRAIN

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, O - ver the hills and ev - ery-where;

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, Be -
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo! a - bove the earth Rang
3 Down in a low - ly man-ger The hum-ble Christ was born, And

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

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
 4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
 in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
 your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
 All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
 your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
 in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free Church of Scotland and later moderator of the Assembly, wrote poetry as a retreat from work and to say what could not be fully expressed in the pulpit.

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.
 Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839

This Week and More at PCUCC

Sunday - 9:30 AM Worship Service on Facebook Live

10:00 AM Sunday School

6:30 PM Worship service airs on PBTv

Tuesday at 1:00 PM & Wednesday at 11:30 AM - Zoom Staff Meetings

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

Link will be sent Wednesday afternoon.

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!

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. 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

The church office will be open on Monday and Wednesday through Friday, but will be closed on Tuesday.

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
or on her work cell phone number at 336-485-5618 to set up a meeting.

The Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor
Deborah Healey, Office Administrator
David Williams, Director of Music
Ashley Paine, Organist/Pianist
Gale Adams, Co-Director of Faith Formation
Julie Kelsey, Co-Director of Faith Formation
Larry Spencer, Treasurer
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling

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David Williams, Liturgist

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