

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Third Sunday after Epiphany Ecumenical Sunday

January 24, 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 St. Francis of Assisi, 12th cent.

One: You are love, Holy One! You are wisdom. We seek You this day.

All: You are humility, Gracious God: You are endurance. We seek You this day.

One: You are rest, Spirit of comfort: You are peace. We come before You.

All: You are joy and gladness, *the* unending Hope. We come before You.

One: You are justice and moderation. You are all our riches, and You suffice for us.
Meet us in this hour, Holy God.

All: You are beauty. You are gentleness. You are our guardian and defender. You are courage. You are our haven. Meet us in this hour, Holy God.

Hymn

You Walk Along Our Shoreline

NCH (black) 504

The hymn is located at the end of the bulletin.

Gathering Prayer

One: Keeper of our souls, we seek Your way for our lives. Refresh us in Your holy mercy. So open our hearts to Your power of possibility that through joy and sorrow, we may deepen in wisdom and grow in the light of compassion. Let us see with the eyes of the loving Creator, hear with the ears of Jesus and shine with the power of Your Spirit. Renew us in true community to serve You and the world. We join together as Your people:

All: Holy God, grant us grace and power during this time that will carry us into the week. Let us fulfill our holy calling in the world. Make us faithful to serve, ready to teach, and let our witness in action be gospel. Grant that having trust in You, abounding in hope and being rooted and grounded in love, we may continue with Your strength and the steadfast peace of Christ. In this hour, let us consider ways that we might follow You: We pray this for Love's sake.
Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: In Your time and in Your ways, Almighty God, we know in our hearts, love will prevail over fear. Grant that this day and week, we are able to find Your path - such is our call:

All: Grant us an assurance that we may leave our nets, once again, and find purpose on Your way. For we know in our hearts, 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 Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Mark 1:14-20

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 consider ways we might follow. We pray that Spirit moves between words and hearing on this very day.

All: Amen.

Message "They Left" Rev. Sara M. Holland

Hymn Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word PH (red) 212
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

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come with these gifts and our hearts, we come. Let these each reach the places most in need and those wrought with suffering. As we present humble offerings, let us not forget our great call to move with such gifts. Holy One, let these gifts reach the one who is lonely, the one who is sick, the child who is hungry and so many more. Let Your word be made true with these offerings. Amen.

SENDING

Hymn

Come Forth, O Love Divine NCH (black) 289
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
Fran Lewis Judy Detzel Alice O'Connor
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.

You Walk along Our Shoreline

504

Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1984; alt.

Mark 1:16-20; John 17:20-26

1 You walk a - long our shore - line where land meets un - known sea.
 2 You call us, Christ, to gath - er the peo - ple of the earth.
 3 We cast our net, O Je - sus; we seek your prom - ised reign;

We hear your voice of pow - er, "Now come and fol - low me. And
 We can - not fish for on - ly those lives we think have worth. We
 We work for love and jus - tice; we learn to hope through pain. You

if you still will fol - low through storm and wave and shoal,
 spread your net of gos - pel a - cross the wa - ter's face,
 call on us to gath - er God's daugh - ters and God's sons,

Then I will make you fish - ers, but of the hu - man soul."
 Our boat a com - mon shel - ter for all found by your grace.
 To let your judg - ment heal us so that all may be one.

Hymnwriter Sylvia Dunstan credited an article by Michael Steinhauser in the March 1984 issue of Practice of Ministry in Canada entitled "Fishing: A Metaphor for Ministry" as the inspiration for her text. Dunstan was an ordained minister of the United Church of Canada.

Tune: SALLEY GARDENS 7.6.7.6.D.
 Traditional Irish melody
 Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

212

Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word

Tobias Clausnitzer, c.1619-1684
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

LIEBSTER JESU 7.8.7.8.8.8.
Melody by Johann R. Ahle, 1625-1673

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at thy word We are gath-ered all to hear thee;
2 All our knowl-edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep-est dark-ness shroud - ed,
3 Glo - rious Lord, thy - self im - part! Light of light, from God pro-ceed - ing,

Let our hearts and souls be stirred Now to seek and love and fear thee;
Till thy Spir - it breaks our night With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed;
O - pen thou our ears and heart, Help us by thy Spir - it's plead - ing;

By thy teach-ings sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love thee sole - ly.
Thou a - lone to God canst win us, Thou must work all good with-in us.
Hear the cry thy peo-ple rais - es, Hear, and bless our prayers and prais-es. A-men.

Another setting may be found at No. 253

213

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

Edward Hopper, 1818-1888

PILOT 7.7.7.7.7.
John E. Gould, 1822-1875

1 Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me O - ver life's tem - pes-tuous sea;
2 As a moth-er stills her child, Thou canst hush the o - cean wild;
3 When at last I near the shore, And the fear - ful break-ers roar

Come Forth, O Love Divine

Acts 2:1-4

Bianco da Siena (d. 1434)
Transl. Richard F. Littledale, 1867; alt.

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.

Bianco da Siena lived in Venice, where he was a member of a religious order following the rule of St. Augustine. Ralph Vaughan Williams' tune composed for this hymn was named for his birthplace in England.

Tune: DOWN AMPNEY 6.6.11.D.
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

This Week and More at PCUCC

- Sunday - 9:30 AM Worship Service on Facebook Live
10:00 AM Virtual Sunday School
10:45 AM Coffee Hour via Zoom, See below for additional information.
4:00 PM Confirmation
6:30 PM - Worship Service Airs on PBTv
- Monday - 7:00 PM Parish Relations Meeting via Zoom
- Wednesday - 11:30 AM Zoom Staff Meeting
7:00 PM Council Meeting via Zoom
7:00 PM - Prayer & Devotional, to be recorded and uploaded to Facebook

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!

Coffee Hour - Please join Rev. Sara for Coffee Hour via Zoom on Sunday, January 24th, at 10:45 AM. Following is the link:

<https://zoom.us/j/92273191645?pwd=eEF0U29vdStEcWxMbTd2U2U5cU9xUT09>. The Meeting ID is 922 7319 1645 and the Passcode is 115280. If you prefer to dial into Coffee Hour, please call 1-929-205-6099.

Lenten Reflection Book - As we dwell in this season of Epiphany looking for the ways that God's presence is made known to us, the season of Lent slowly but surely approaches. The two weeks before Lent this year, we'll be producing a Lenten reflection book by and for our community. **We invite you, whoever you are, to contribute. If we do not receive 40 submissions, we'll pad what we do receive with pieces from theologians, artists, poets, etc. So, calling all artists and contemplatives in this community! Here is your invitation to submit a piece for the greater good. Express in prose, poetry, prayer, picture, some visual piece or photo with caption what Lent means to you. We ask that whatever you contribute be one page or less. Higher quality jpgs are appreciated if you choose to send in any sort of image. These need not be perfect. With God's guidance, we'll join in the season of Lent. The deadline for submission is Monday, February 8th.**

Janet Taylor turns 95! Janet is long time PCUCC member. If you would like to send birthday wishes, Janet is at 111 Golden View Health Care, 19 NH Rte. 104, Meredith, NH 03253! Happy Birthday, Janet!

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

Grief Support Groups - Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice will be offering a new set of online grief support groups via Zoom:

- **Living with Grief** - beginning in January on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM & Thursdays at 2:00 PM
- **Parent Circle** - monthly on 2nd Tuesdays starting February 9th at 6:00 PM

If you are witnessing needs for other forms of grief support in our community, please be in touch to share what you see. Peace be with you, Dan Kusch, Bereavement Coordinator, 603-524-8444, www.centralvna.org

Whole Village Family Resource - The Mobile Food Pantry will take place on **Saturday, January 30th**, from **12:00-2:00 PM** at the **Newfound Memorial Middle School** located at 155 North Main Street in Bristol, NH. **This is a FREE drive-thru event open to all!** You may be able to collect up to 2 additional boxes for anyone who is unable to attend (while supplies last). Please share this info far & wide!

Pemi-Baker Literacy - As 2021 kicks off, we wanted to spread the word that Pemi-Baker Literacy is open and available to help adults in our community improve their literacy skills. We can assist adults in studying to take the HiSET (High School Equivalency Test), improve their English language skills and even improve their digital literacy. We are able to offer all of these services both in person or online, depending on the student's level of comfort. And best of all...our services are completely **FREE!** Please call 603-536-2998 or email pemibakerliteracy@gmail.com for additional information.

Pastor's Office Hours

During this time of "physical distancing" and working remotely, Rev. Sara will be at the church for office hours **Monday 10:00 AM-3:00 PM, Tuesday & 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.

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John Anderson, Liturgist

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