

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Health & Human Services Sunday

January 31, 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

“God Leads Us” I

J.S. Irvine

arr. by Marilyn Ham

The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.

Call to Worship

One: We come before You, great Spirit of truth, meet us in this hour.

All: Let us hear a good word; let something from ancient days be made anew to us.
Open our ears.

One: We come before You, Holy One, let us realize You are already present.

All: Soften our hearts, make us glad, if only for a simple prayer, note or melody.
Help us to see Your peace in our humble acts of worship.

One: We come before You, God; we aim to praise Your name and be rekindled in our faith, once again.

All: Let us meet You, this hour. Let us know that we might act in great ways as have You. Let us know that we have agency and that we may dwell in the midst of Your holy Love.

Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

NCH (black) 436

Verses 1, 3, 4 & 5

The hymn is located at the end of the bulletin.

Gathering Prayer

Alcuin of York, 8th cent.

One: Eternal Light, shine into our hearts. Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil.

Eternal Power, be our support. Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us; that with all our heart and mind with all our soul and strength, we may seek thy face and be brought by thy infinite mercy to thy holy presence through Jesus Christ.

All: Eternal God, Your presence often seems temporary. Let us be ever aware of the ways that You are among us. Let us consider the simple ways You have entered our lives, and let us imagine new ways that we might enter into relationships for the sake of Your path – the one of Love. Let us be reminded in song, prayer and scripture that Your path requires both reflection and action.
Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: God, You laid Your covenant out before us, and You have remained faithful. We have stumbled. Your promise is one of constancy. Let us lean into Your redemption. Grant that this day and week, we will be able to find Your path and be renewed:

All: Let us move towards Your redemption God. Let us enter Your realm of Love and find our purpose, the greater good of Love. 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 Psalm 111, adapted Mark 1: 21-28

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 how we might enter Your love. Lead us to share such news with those we encounter. O Holy Spirit, we pray You would move in this hour.

All: Amen.

Message "Enter" Rev. Sara M. Holland

Hymn Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You NCH (black) 510
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

“Sarabande, 1st French Suite”

J.S. Bach

All: Keeper of Hope, let us embody Your Love in our actions as well as in our giving. Receive these humble gifts, O Holy God. Let us know that we have the ability to bring deep and meaningful Love, Your Love, to the world. Bless these gifts God: Take these to all the earth - to people who are displaced, disenfranchised, those forgotten. Let us place hope where despair seems to have taken hold. We pray all this, for Love’s sake. Amen.

SENDING

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love Excelling

PH (red) 228

The hymn is located at the end of the bulletin.

Benediction

Postlude

“God Leads Us” II.

G.A. Young

arr. by Marilyn Ham

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 Sue Switaj

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

Kelleanne Surine, family member of Alice O’Connor’s

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.

God of Grace and God of Glory

436

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.
 in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.
 John Hughes, c. 1907

PRAYER

510

Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You

Rae Whitney, 1991; rev. 1994

1 Grant us wis - dom to per - ceive you, hearts a -
 2 Grant us faith - ful - ness in pray - ing, strength to
 3 Grant us dil - i - gence in do - ing, pa - tience
 4 Grant us cour - age to pro - claim you; Sav - ior

wak - ened to re - ceive you, minds a - lert to
 keep our souls from stray - ing, sense to cease from
 when your truth pur - su - ing, ea - ger to re -
 of our lives we name you! May our ac - tions

thoughts that grieve you, God of mer - cy, hear us.
 dis - o - bey - ing, God of mer - cy, hear us.
 ceive re - new - ing, God of mer - cy, hear us.
 nev - er shame you; God of mer - cy, hear us.

The musical score consists of three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

This text was inspired by a prayer of St. Benedict, the founder of the Benedictine monastic order, c. 529 C.E. Rae Whitney grew up in England, but settled in Nebraska with her American husband in 1960. She is the author of some 300 hymns.

Tune: QUEM PASTORES 8.8.8.6.
 German carol, 14th century
 Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
John Zundel, 1815-1882

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all thy life re - ceive;
 4 Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less let us be;



Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All thy faith - ful mer - cies crown;
 Let us all in thee in - her - it, Let us find thy prom - ised rest;
 Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 Let us see thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in heaven we take our place,



Vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 Pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 Till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise. A - men.



This Week and More at PCUCC

Sunday - 9:30 AM Worship Service on Facebook Live
10:00 AM Virtual Sunday School
6:30 PM Worship Service airs on PBTv

Monday - 7:00 PM Feeding Our Children Together Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday - 11:30 AM - Zoom Staff Meeting
7:00 PM Midweek Prayer & Devotion via Zoom, to be recorded and uploaded to Facebook

Sunday,
February 7th - Confirmation Meeting

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:

Click this link to see our SignUp on SignUp.com: <https://signup.com/go/kEGjsBs>
and <https://signup.com/go/ACZasWm>

Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.

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!

Lenten Reflections - 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 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: February - *The Yellow House: A Memoir* by Sarah M. Broom. Our next selections will be *The Elephant Whisperer* by Lawrence Anthony, *Daughters of Erietown* by Connie Schultz, *The Woman Who Smashed Codes* by Jason Fagone and *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate.

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.

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.

Office Hours - The church office will be closed on **Tuesday, February 2nd**. The office will be open **Monday, February 1st**, and **Wednesday thru Friday, February 3rd-5th** between 9:00 AM-2:00 PM.

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.

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