

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

## Advent One: Hope Ukama Sunday



**November 28, 2021**

**9:30 am**

We Practice Just Peace: doing justice, seeking peace  
We are Open and Affirming: welcoming LGBTQ+ people  
    🌀 We Listen for the Still Speaking God  
Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

*Masks are REQUIRED in our community at this time. Masks should be worn for the entirety of the service over both mouth and nose. If you need a mask break, please take a step outside of the building.*

# GATHERING

## Prelude

All Nature Sings

by Alfred V. Fedak

*The prelude is an invitation to personal preparation for worship.*

## Welcome & Announcements

*Please, if you are new to our community and want to be involved, share your email address or phone with a greeter in the narthex. We are delighted to get to know you! There is a nursery space on the lower level if needed and activity bags in the narthex; on 1st and 3rd Sundays we have Church School. Please know we welcome wiggling worshippers.*

## Introit

In Thy Temple

L. Zanineli

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Boyer Family

\*Please note, those who are able and willing may stand.

## \*Call to Worship

adapted from Rev. Farai Chirisa, Zimbabwe

One: Lord God, we give You thanks for sending Your only Son to give us life.

**All: We sense that You are descending *and* You already reign on Earth and in our hearts.**

One: We might be tempted to despair and yet we keep hoping, knowing that You care and join us in our struggles.

**All: We seek Messiah truth; our hearts anticipate the greatness of the Christ child.**


One: At times we weep silent tears, and cry out with deep emotion. We come to You, our hope and refuge.

**All: In this hour, let us see Your simple glory. With you, O Lord, we may be troubled, but not destroyed. We will find strength!**

## \*Hymn

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

United Methodist #718



1. Lo, he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,  
2. Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him,  
3. The dear to - kens of his pas - sion  
4. Yea, A - men! Let all a - dore thee,

5

once for fa-vored sin - ners slain; thou - sand,  
 robbed in dread-ful maj - es - ty; those who  
 still his daz-zling bod - y bears; cause of  
 high on thy e - ter - nal throne; Sav - ior,

0

thou - sand saints at - tend - ing swell the  
 set at naught and sold him, pierced and  
 end - less ex - ul - ta - tion to his  
 take the power and glo - ry, claim the

4

tri - umph of his train. Hal - le -  
 nailed him to the tree, deep - ly  
 ran - somed wor - ship - ers; with what  
 king - dom for thine own. Hal - le -

8

lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le -  
 wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly  
 rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what  
 lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le -

2

lu - jah! God ap-pears on earth to reign.  
 wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
 rap - ture, gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
 lu - jah! Ev - er - last - ing God, come down!

## Passing of the Peace

*We invite you to text or email someone a note of peace today. A hand-written note will work too!*

As Pastor Sara ends this portion of our service, saying, "God be with you," we invite you to join in response with: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts **All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Unison Gathering Prayer** (Africa) from Janet Morley, *Bread of Tomorrow*, Orbis Books

**All: Holy One, enlarge my heart, that it may be big enough to receive the greatness of Your love. Holy One, stretch my heart, that it may take into it all those, who with me around the world, believe in Jesus Christ. Then stretch it again that it may take into it all those who do not know Christ, but who are my brothers and sisters because I know Him. And stretch it still, that it may take in all those who are not lovely in my eyes and those hands I do not want to touch. Enlarge my heart, O God, through Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.**

## Silence for Personal Reflection

### God's Promise of New Life

**One:** In the midst of some sadness, anguish, and desperation, great hope appears in lived experience and in scripture. With anticipation, we await the child who brings hope.

**All:** We search for God's goodness, even in the midst of our struggles. When we lack passion, we may look to Holy Spirit. Sacred texts promise us over and over – we may have new life and restoration, ultimate peace in Christ. Seeking hope, we sing together:

### Response

Ubi Caritas

Music: J. Berthier

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U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - - mor,  
u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

*Translation:* Where true charity is, there is God.

*On first and third Sundays we have a message for all ages during this time. We invite children and youth to remain in worship this Sunday if they like. There are also available 'wiggle' spaces on the sanctuary floor near the restrooms as well as on the lowest floor of the church building. We hope that families will make themselves comfortable and know that giggling kiddos are more than welcome throughout the entirety of our service!*

## HEARING THE WORD

### Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Luke 21: 25-36

One: Creator God, open our hearts to receive Your comfort and challenge. We pray Your spirit moves gently and with swiftness; we ask that You be present in our thoughts, our minds, and our hearts: for this is Your will.

All: Amen.

### Message

“Looking For Signs of Hope”

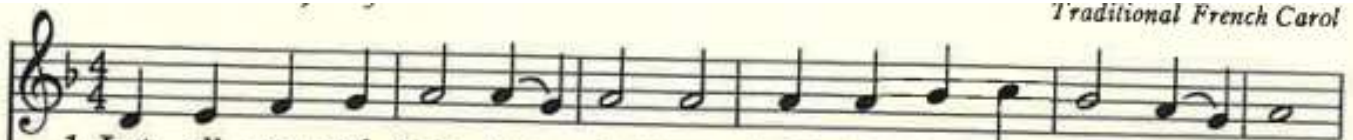
Rev. Sara M. Holland

### \*Hymn

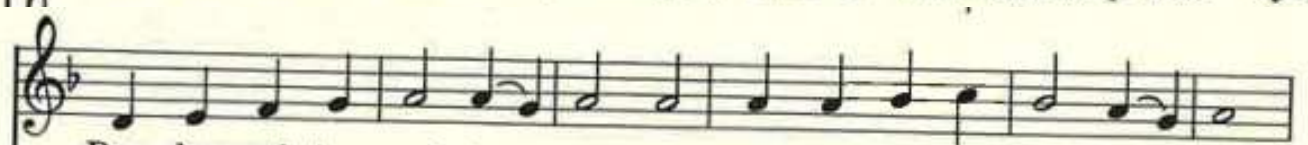
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PH (red) #107

*Traditional French Carol*



1 Let all mor-tal flesh keep si-lence, And with fear and trem-bling stand;  
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar-y, As of old on earth he stood,  
3 Rank on rank the host of heav-en Spreads its van-guard on the way,  
4 At his feet the six-winged ser-aph; Cher-u-bim, with sleep-less eye,



Pon-der noth-ing earth-ly - mind-ed, For with bless-ing in his hand,  
Lord of lords, in hu-man ves-ture, In the bod-y and the blood,  
As the Light of light de-scend-eth From the realms of end-less day,  
Veil their fa-ces to the pres-ence, As with cease-less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de-scend-eth, Our full hom-age to de-mand.  
He will give to all the faith-ful His own self for heav-en-ly food.  
That the powers of hell may van-ish As the dark-ness clears a-way.  
Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Lord Most High! A-men.

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## Prayers of the People

Pastor: O God, in Your grace and mercy . . .

All: **Hear Your people at prayer**

You will also 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 Anthem**      Come, Jesus, Holy Child      arr: Healey Willan (1880-1968)

*We invite you to remember your support for the ministry of PCUCC.*

Anthem tune *Puer nobis nascitur* 1609

Text:

Come, Jesus, holy child, to me,  
Close tight my heart to all but Thee  
And with Thy Holy Spirit's grace  
Make me, dear Lord, Thy dwelling  
place.

And leave me not, Thou welcome Guest  
A promise in Thy Word expressed  
With Thee alone will always be  
All joy and blessedness for me.

With joy and love I wait for Thee  
To come with Thy good gifts to me,  
Stay close to me through all my days  
Then let me sing in heav'n Thy praise.

*O Jesu, heiliges Kindelein* Leipzig, 1672  
translated: Paul Strodach, 1928

## \*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** (Zimbabwe) from Maren Tirabassi's Gifts of Many Cultures  
**All: God of all good, our gifts we bring to you. May they be multiplied and blessed, as the fish and the loaves were. Little though our offering may be, but meaningful in love, may it be. May these be received as tokens of our love, those which show the Christ child to the world anew. Amen.**

## SENDING

**\*Hymn** Come, O Long-Expected Jesus NCH (black) #122



1 Come, O long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set all peo-ple free;  
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;  
 3 Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you came to reign!  
 4 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us as your own;

From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true lib - er - ty.  
 Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long - ing heart.  
 Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to us a - gain.  
 By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your cross and crown.

**\*Pastoral Benediction**

**Choral Benediction** Amen, Amen arr. Nelsie T. Johnson

**Postlude** Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers by David Christensen

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

**Rev. Sara will be happy to greet you outside the church as you leave.**

**Keeping in Prayer:** Prayers for Georgene Fabian as she is recovering  
 Love and sympathy to the family of Marjorie Glidden  
 Love and sympathy to Alice Avery and the Avery family  
 Prayers for Kathy Henning's nephew, Colin Slocomb  
 McPhee

Susan Wei, whose sister, Bonny passed away  
 Love and sympathy for the family of Tommy Hadley who passed  
 away recently, a close friend of the Kelsey's  
 Love and sympathy for Janice, Jeff, Christopher and Maresa  
 Nielson, the family of Joe Pedrin who passed away recently  
 Bill Larsen's recovery and for his family  
 Dianne Anderson, sister of Donna Castor  
 Love and sympathy for the family of Sid Lovett  
 Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family  
 Lynda & Len Swenson, parents of Megan Magraith  
 Aaron, Jess and all who struggle with addiction  
 Charlie & Wendy Scouras  
 Prayers for healing for Valerie, a dear friend of Sally Jensen  
 Prayers for healing for Brian Paine  
 Thoughts & prayers for Terry Cote  
 Prayers & healing for Ruth Munroe  
 Mae Larson, Rebecca Larson's mother-in-law  
 Bob, Georgene Fabian's brother and his wife, Joan  
 Dick & Paulette Brace  
 Annie Rice, Bev Tedeschi's mother  
 Sue Switaj

Prayers for those administering and receiving COVID-19 vaccines and boosters.  
 All those who are sick or have family member/s who have passed during the pandemic.  
 If you have a prayer request, you would like Rev. Sara to include in Sunday Worship,  
 please email her at [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org).

### **This Week and More at PCUCC**

Today	9:30 AM	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, Ukama Sunday
	11:00 AM	Decorating of the Star Child Tree and more!
	7:00 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv
Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 AM	Book Group
	4:00 PM	Music Committee Meeting via zoom
Nov. 30 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	Racial Justice group meeting
Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup>	7:00 PM	Council Meeting via zoom
Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 AM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent
	10:35 AM	Blessing of the Little Free Food Pantry (5m in front of church)
	10:45 AM	Decorating the sanctuary for Advent—please come and help
Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	Vivaldi Concert
Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup>	3:00 PM	All Church Caroling
Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	'Blue' Christmas Service, making space for grief
Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service



**Decorating of the Star Child Tree** – Please join us for decorating the Star Child Christmas Tree in the narthex on November 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM, right after Worship ends. The Star Child Tree is for children in Head Start & High School students that need a little extra help during the holidays. Look for the stars on the tree in the narthex. Contributions can be made to Missions & Outreach. See Rebecca Larson for further details.

**Decorating of the sanctuary on December 5<sup>th</sup>: We need your help** to decorate the sanctuary and add wreaths to the front door. Please stay after church to help finish our decorating for advent. Questions may be directed to Eileen Torrey – [eileen@weisshouse.net](mailto:eileen@weisshouse.net).

**Turkey Vouchers** – We still have vouchers! If you or anyone you may know would benefit, we have \$15 vouchers. Please email [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org) or call the office at 603-536-2626. Please leave a voicemail if we do not answer.

**Huge thanks to Peggy Martin and Paulette Brace** for adorning our amazing chapel with nativity scenes from around the world. We encourage you to spend some time in the chapel one Sunday after worship or some other time during Advent.

**Good News From Mission & Social Outreach:** We are happy to report that everything is going well for the refugee family Gale Adams-Davis is hosting. Six-year-old Kimberly is doing great in school, acclimating well and making lots of friends. She has an hour each day of ESL at school giving her some extra help. Mateo will begin Head Start in January when he turns three. Chris is attending a weekly ESL class in Plymouth. If you are interested in helping there are several ways including transportation, babysitting, and providing friendship and activities. Let Linda LaPrad know if you can help.

**Welcome to church families!** Activity bags are hanging in the Narthex and toys are made available, please ask an usher if you cannot find them. If your child needs more space during worship, please feel free to use the parlor on the sanctuary level or downstairs in our nursery and fellowship area. We have Sunday school in person, with masks on, the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Volunteers are always welcome, please contact Jennifer or Julie for more information at [faithformation@uccplymouth.org](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org).

**AmazonSMILE** - By choosing our church as your favorite charity, Amazon will make a donation to the charity you designate at no cost to you. Please let Ann, Linda or the office know if you need help setting PCUCC up as your favorite charity on AmazonSMILE.

**PREPAID HANNAFORD CARDS** - For every card purchased from the Finance Committee, the church receives 5% without any additional cost to you. Denominations of \$100, \$250 and \$500 are available by contacting Ann or Linda after services on Sunday, by phone or email. Thank you for your continued support!

**HOPE Fund:** The HOPE Fund supports families at risk who 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. If you know of someone who is in need, please put them in touch with the church office or Pastor Sara. *The Hope Fund of our church continues to touch the lives of people in the Lakes Region. This summer we purchased food for people, assisted families who needed back to school supplies, assisted folks with rental expenses as well as utilities. When we assisted families in preparation for school, we were able to meet a few of the children impacted; they were immensely grateful.*

*We have deep gratitude for all of those who have contributed money and time related to the Hope Fund.*

**Racial Justice Exploration:** We are continuing these explorations this fall.

We welcome new attendees and we pray you'll reach out to Alison Thatcher at [Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com](mailto:Baker.AlisonT@gmail.com) or Pastor Sara if you are considering ways to get involved in these important efforts. This group is currently involved in taking Harvard University's Implicit Bias test online; we urge you to consider doing so!

**Book Group:** The next book group will be on December 6th at 10 AM. All are welcome! Any questions please contact Peggy Martin at [pmartin03223@yahoo.com](mailto:pmartin03223@yahoo.com) or Kathy Henning at [henkat52@gmail.com](mailto:henkat52@gmail.com)

**Please continue to be aware of COVID-related concerns when on site. Please do not assume old friends are okay with physical contact - always ask out of respect for the other person and be empathetic to anxieties anyone might have on the basis of the pandemic (or otherwise).**

**We want to encourage all community members (who are able) to get a COVID-19 vaccine and booster. We hope that this will ensure the health and well-being of our most vulnerable community members.**

**We will offer the option of meeting digitally indefinitely (Facebook).** You may also catch our services (one week delayed) on Sunday nights on PBTv at 7:00 pm. (Local channel 1302.) Please check for Constant Contact and the Facebook page for ongoing updates. **Small, in person meetings are allowed if all people in groups agree to such a format. Zoom, google meet, Skype, phone, etc. may still be used! Please consider care for creation and reducing greenhouse emissions when scheduling in person meetings.**

### **Office Hours**

Tuesday - 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM  
Wednesday - 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM  
Thursday – 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM  
Friday - 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

### **Pastor's Office Hours**

Pastor Sara is generally at the church for office hours Monday – Wednesday 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM; please reach out to make an appointment. She keeps sabbath on Friday. 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.

The Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor  
Courtney Crosato, Office Administrator  
David A. Williams, Director of Music  
Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist  
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation  
Ann Thurston, Treasurer

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faithformation@uccplymouth.org  
treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Liturgist: Bill Heron

Advent Wreath readings and support from the Boyer family. Many thanks to them.

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Celebrating Birthdays in November in our Community:

November 1 Ivan Bass  
November 2 Leif Magrauth  
November 5 Nick Zwald  
November 11 Michael Conklin  
November 13 John Shaw  
November 18 Georgene Fabian  
November 21 Cameron Brand

\*\*If you have a birthday or anniversary this month or next month that you would like listed,  
please email us at [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org)

# Poinsettia Order Form

is due Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>



Please print this order form and forward to the Church Office.



## Poinsettias Order Form

Poinsettias will again grace our sanctuary for Christmas.

This is also the time that we replenish the Hope Fund.

The Hope Fund is used by our pastor to help those in need. The Hope Fund is a separate account from the Flower Fund, so please circle if you want to donate to that fund.

Thank you for contributing to this effort!

### CIRCLE YOUR CHOICE

Single Stem \$15.00

Double Stem \$25  
minimum

HOPE Fund \$15

If you would like to support the HOPE Fund, please write a separate check to the Plymouth Congregational UCC with HOPE Fund in memo line.

In Loving Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please print all names.*

Make check payable to Plymouth Congregational UCC and return form to church office or place in offering plate. In order for dedication to appear in the bulletin, please **place your order before December 14<sup>th</sup>**. Print this form and send with donation.