

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Third Sunday After Epiphany: Called Together
Recognize Greatness



January 22, 2023

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

We are striving to be a Racial Justice church

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

Please inquire with people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.

GATHERING

Prelude

Come, Follow Me

Franklin D Ashdown

Welcome & Announcements

Please, if you are new to our community and want to be more involved, leave your email address in the attendance pad or email us at office@ucplymouth.org. We are delighted to get to know you! We have Sunday School between mid-September & mid-June. There are bags in the narthex which the kids may find to enjoy! You may contact office@ucplymouth.org to get more information about programming for any age.

Introit

God Is in His Holy Temple

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist – Steve Majeski

One: We come together aiming to be grateful, to find peace, and to become hope.

All: Let it be so on this day!

One: The challenges in life can feel overwhelming; we are held by community.

All: Let us know we are called together!

One: Immediately, the disciples followed. Surely, we will move.

All: We *are* called together.

***Hymn**

Shall We Gather At the River

NCH (black) #597

***Passing of the Peace**

If you are at home, we invite you to send someone a note of peace today.

One: God be with you

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Unison Gathering Prayer

Creator God, we come with hearts aware that so much good is before us. In this time of worship, we want to express gratitude, pour out our deepest longings and find your presence dwelling within us. We read in the gospel that the disciples followed quickly and readily. Let us see the ways that we can move without hesitation; let us find ways to be brave and courageous. We pray all this for Love's sake and in Jesus' name. Amen.

Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Too often we only see that which disappoints us; we fail to see your divine mysteries and remember that we may be one of these, too. May we see the greatness throughout your holy creation!

All: No matter what we have done or where we have been, your love is available to us. There is neither power nor principality that can separate us from you. It is for this promise that we are called together and 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.

Message For All Ages

Children and youth are welcome to come forward during the message for all ages if they like. The message for all ages will truly be intergenerational this morning so if children want to stay in the pews that is okay too!

NCH (black) #528:

*You are the seed that will grow a new sprout,
You're the star that will shine through the day.
You are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a beacon to glow in the night.
Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all:
Messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.*

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 9:1-4

Matthew 4:12-23

One: O Great Redeemer, call us together, once again; we pray that the meditations of our hearts and minds will be acceptable to you, for you are our great foundation. May your Spirit move between words and hearing.

All: Amen

Message

Immediately

Rev. Holland

*Hymn

O Savior, Let Me Walk with You

NCH (black) #503

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

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

Response: Hear your people at prayer.

You will also be invited to offer your personal prayers from the silence of your heart.

Pastoral Prayer

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.

**We believe that God is revealed in persons of all genders and sorts; we also honor tradition.

Offertory

The Name to Which All Knees Shall Bow

George Brandon

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. Move with these gifts, prepare us for the world, and let us become your holy grace. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult NCH (black) #171

*Pastoral Benediction

Choral Benediction God of Love, Hear Our Prayer John Helgen

Postlude There's a Song in the Air, with *Sonatina op. 49 No. 2* arr. Carolyne M. Taylor

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

Keeping in Prayer:

Condolences and prayers for the family of Mary Conroy Payne, sister of Fran Taylor,
who recently passed away

Prayers for Bill Broadrick and his spouse, Jane

Prayers for Eileen Torrey

Prayers for Jaime Armstrong, niece of Marlin Collingwood,
who will be undergoing surgery for breast cancer

Prayers for Ellen who struggles with cancer,
family member of Ruth & Dale Mosher

Prayers of healing for Sue Switaj

Prayers for Alice Avery

Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family,

granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie
Prayers for Polly Bartlett, who struggles with cancer
Prayers for Mae Larson, Rebecca Larson's mother-in-law
Prayers for communities affected by war and for all immigrants
Prayers for the Masvingo UCCZ, our partner church in Zimbabwe

If you have a prayer request, you would like Rev. Holland to include in Sunday Worship, please write on the yellow card in the pews and place it in the offering tray, or send an email to plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org

This Week and More at PCUCC

Jan 22	5:30 pm Sunday Evening Service
Jan 23	10:00 am Book Group
Jan 24	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Jan 25	9:30 am Lectio Divina
Jan 25	11:30 am Staff Meeting
Jan 26	5:00 pm Meals for Many
Jan 26	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Jan 27	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Feb 1	6:15 pm Coffee House: "Honoring the African-American Spiritual"
Feb 2	1:00 pm Knitting Group

CHURCH LIFE

The Torreys would appreciate some simple meals delivered to their home at 28 Owl Brook Rd in Ashland on 1/25, 1/29, and 1/31. To sign up for one or more dates and find out specific dietary restrictions, please email the church office.

Please sign up to help with Coffee Hour. Someone who knows the routine will always be on site to lead and guide the helper. We need someone to help prep and someone to clean up or to do both. We need a baked good, a fruit plate, and a savory snack dish. If everyone signs up to do one job twice a year, we can continue this fellowship and enhance our community! Sign up in person this Sunday or email the church office.

Sunday Evening Services: On January 22nd Pastor Holland is launching a Sunday evening service. This service will take place on the lower level at 5:30 pm each week until mid-June (reconvening in September). It will be casual and use some components of the Sunday morning service but be a different setting and atmosphere, and will include a substantial snack/light meal. Come one and all – let's worship together!

Book Group will meet at 10:00 on January 23rd to further discuss Afterlife by Julia Alvarez. Contact Peggy Martin for more information: pmartin03223@yahoo.com.

Coffee House on February 1st will feature Plymouth Regional High School Music Director and Pemigewasset Choral Society Conductor, Will Gunn. His talk will focus on research and

literature from Black scholars and musicians about the origins and traditions of the African-American Spiritual and how the Fiske Jubilee Singers brought them to the concert hall.

Knitting Group will meet on February 2nd and continue to meet every other Thursday at 1:00 in the parlor. Come with your knitting, knitting questions, or just for some fellowship! Contact Linda LaPrad for more information: llaprad297@gmail.com.

FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

Our HOPE Fund and Little Food Pantry are in desperate need of your support!

The HOPE Fund supports families at risk who need assistance paying for rent, heating, electricity, and medications. Right now, with rising fuel, electricity, and rent prices, the need is greater than ever. To give to the HOPE Fund, 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. Our Little Food Pantry in front of the church is always in great need of being filled. You can put items right in the pantry or bring them to the church office. Our Little Food Pantry serves many people in need in our community.

FROM FINANCE

Support PCUCC with no cost to you! By choosing our church as your favorite charity through **AmazonSMILE**, Amazon will donate to the charity you designate at no cost to you. Purchase a **Hannaford Gift Card** in the amount of \$100, \$250, or \$500 by contacting Linda LaPrad or Ann Thurston. For every card purchased from the Finance Committee, the church receives 5% with no additional cost to you.

We will offer the option of meeting digitally indefinitely. You may also catch our services (one week delayed) on Sunday nights on PBTv at 7:00 pm. (Local channel 1302.) Please check Constant Contact and the Facebook page for ongoing updates.

Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday 9:00-2:00

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday – Wednesday 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM or by appointment.

Pastor Sara keeps sabbath on Friday.

Email: plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org

Work Cell: 336-485-5618

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Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in January in our Community

Rohan Magrauth	January 1	Steve Majeski	January 22
Alan Mather	January 1	Jerry Larson	January 23
Nance Ruhm	January 2	Briggs Adey-Merrithew	January 24
Janice Nielson	January 13	Marlin Collingwood	January 24
Hanna Starck	January 15	Rebecca Caron	January 25
Ashley Rose	January 16	Sophie Kelsey	January 26
Butch Castor	January 18	Peggy Martin	January 27
Sandy Larson	January 22		

If you have a birthday or anniversary this month or next, please email to:
 office@uccplymouth.org

