

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

First Sunday after Christmas



December 31, 2023

9:30 am

We Practice Just Peace: doing justice, seeking peace
We are Open and Affirming: welcoming LGBTQ+ people

We are an Anti-Racism church

🎵 We Listen for the Still Speaking God

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

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

GATHERING

Prelude I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day with Mozart's Sonata No. 1 in C Major
arr. Carolyne M. Taylor

Welcome & Announcements

Please sign the red friendship pad as it is passed to you and return it to the center aisle noting your neighbor in the pew. You may leave your email if you would like to receive our weekly newsletter.

If you want to know more, email the office at office@uccplymouth.org.

Sunday School for all ages begins after the Message for All Ages on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays. Children are welcome to fill a bag with books and toys, which are in the narthex, to use during worship.

*Those who are able may stand.

*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Bill Heron

One: Let us rejoice in God, our Sovereign, whose salvation comes in everyday events.

All: In the face of a child God is revealed. In the babe of Bethlehem we are healed.

One: Let us give thanks with our whole hearts,

All: for God is gracious and merciful.

One: Let us worship the God of wondrous works, who offers to enter into covenant with us.

All: In the gift of Christ we receive a new name. Salvation comes and nothing is the same.

*Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

NCH (black) #145

*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

O God, distant yet near, we gather as witnesses to your promises that if we seek you with all our hearts, we will find you. Be among us now. Hear the yearnings of our hearts; help us change the narrowness of our vision and the pettiness of our living. Make us new again with your holy grace. May we accept your gifts in humility and use them with faithfulness. Grant to us your spirit that our worship may have faithfulness and enthusiasm, witnessing to your holy presence in our lives. We praise you; we give thanks to you, Eternal Presence through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Moment of Confession including Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Our own eyes have seen your salvation

All: which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

One: a light for revelation to all peoples.

All: Let us give thanks for the Light which is revealed to us and lives among us.

Response Spirit of the Living God NCH (black) #283

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Luke 2:22-40

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Amen.

Message "What Next?" Rev. Lynn Morrison

***Hymn** What Child Is This NCH (black) #148

Christmas Season Hymn Sing by request

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

Away in a Manger with Saint-Saens *Le Cygne*
arr. Carolyne M. Taylor

***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.**

***Unison Offertory Prayer**

God of eternity, and yet present with us in the Living Christ, use these gifts we offer to strengthen our church. May love, faith, hope, truth, and peace flow from this sacred space and bring a little more justice, a little more kindness, and a little more goodness into the lives of all God's children. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People

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

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

Response: Hear your people at prayer.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*debts/ debtors*)

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.

SENDING

***Hymn** Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing NCH (black) #77

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude Hark the Herald Angels Sing with Handel's Largo
arr.Carolynne M. Taylor

The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us into the world where our true service begins.
Feel free to let the music lead you out, or stay to listen, however the Spirit moves you.

Please join us downstairs after worship for refreshments and fellowship!
Coffee Hour today is hosted by Edie Doherty and Jim Preston

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for Alice Carey, friend of Alice O'Connor,
who will be undergoing radiation therapy

Prayers for Kristin, friend of Alice O'Connor, who has recently been diagnosed with cancer

Prayers of healing for Beverly McClain, longtime friend of Eleanor Spencer

Prayers for Paulette Brace's son, Shawn Cassington, for ongoing medical issues

Prayers for Claire Pirnie, daughter of Diane Arsenault and Peter Pirnie and her son Micah
as she continues through the process of divorce

Prayers for the family of Tony Amodeo, friend of the LaPrads, who recently passed away

Prayers of comfort and strength for Ruth & Dale Mosher

Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family, granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie

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

Prayers of healing for Sue Switaj

Prayers for our partner church in Zimbabwe, Masvingo UCCZ

*If you have a prayer request 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

Tuesday, January 2

7:00 pm AA Meeting

Wednesday, January 3

11:00 am Lectio Divina

Friday, January 5

6:00 pm Coffee House: Elizabeth Brochu of CADY

Friday, January 5

8:00 pm AA Meeting

Monday, January 8

10:00 am Book Group

CHURCH LIFE

Poinsettias: Feel free to take one of the poinsettias that are not on the ledge above the chancel if you'd like one at home or to bring to a friend.

Coffee House: Please join us for coffee, snacks, and an informal talk presented by Elizabeth Brochu of Plymouth's Communities for Alcohol- and Drug-free Youth (CADY) on Friday, January 5 at 6pm. Elizabeth will talk about what restorative justice looks like at CADY as well as all the wonderful things they do for our community. Bring a snack to share if you can! We understand that evening winter driving is not fun. Please email the office if you'd like to arrange to carpool: office@uccplymouth.org.

Book Group is reading The Exceptions: Nancy Hopkins, MIT, and the Fight for Women in Science by Kate Zernike during the month of January. Join the discussion on Monday January 8 and 22 at 10am. Contact Kathy Henning for more information: henkat52@gmail.com.

Lectio Divina: All are invited to gather Wednesday mornings from 11 a.m. to noon for a Bible study modeled on Lectio Divina, the sacred reading of scripture. We'll begin with the Gospel of Mark, the first gospel written, and read through it listening for God's Still Speaking voice. Please join us. Rebecca Larson will lead us.

Sunday School focuses on Bible lessons, outreach projects, and family activities. The children will learn how to use the gifts God gave them to positively impact their community. Volunteers are always welcome! Please contact Jennifer for more details at faithformation@uccplymouth.org.

FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

Request from Pemi Valley Habitat for Humanity: Dale Mosher has asked if any church members or groups would be willing to bring a hot lunch for the volunteers working at 61 Pleasant St, Plymouth. The volunteers work on Thursday, Friday (max: 8 people), and Saturday (max: 4 people). Suggestions are a hearty soup, stew, pasta, chili, chicken pot pie... Lunch should be delivered between 12 and 12:30 p.m., along with paper plates, plastic utensils, and napkins. "Cooks" are welcome to stay for lunch with the crew. The students at Holderness Academy have volunteered to bring a hot lunch on Sat. Dec 9, and each Saturday in January. Please sign up by contacting Ruth Martz (ruthm.joy@gmail.com or 603-630-7936). Thank you!

FROM FINANCE

Support PCUCC with 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

If you have a family emergency and want to talk with a pastor, please call Rev. Ruth Martz at 603-630-7936 or you may call Eileen Torrey at 603-252-7513.

Alison Thatcher, Office Administrator	office@uccplymouth.org
David A. Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
Ashley Rose, Organist, Pianist	organist@uccplymouth.org
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org
Guest Preacher: Rev. Lynn Morrison	
Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ 4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264 (603) 536-2626 - office@uccplymouth.org - www.uccplymouth.org	

Celebrating Birthdays in January in our Community

If you have an upcoming birthday or anniversary, please email office@uccplymouth.org

Rohan Magraith	January 1	Steve Majeski	January 22
Hanna Starck	January 15	Sophie Kelsey	January 26
Ashley Rose	January 16	Peggy Martin	January 27
Butch Castor	January 18		

