

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Christmas Day: Beauty All Around



December 25, 2022

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

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@uccplymouth.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@uccplymouth.org to get more information about programming for any age.

Prelude

Solstice and Sussex Carol

Traditional

Peggy Martin & Ashley Rose, flute duet

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

PCUCC Staff

*Those who are able may stand.

*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Larry Spencer

4th century Christmas Processional, Prudentius, adapted

One: By the word all was created

All: It was commanded, and it was done.

One: Earth and sky and boundless ocean, universe of three in one,

All: All that sees the moon's soft radiance, all that breathes beneath the sun.

One: Evermore and evermore. O how blest that wondrous birthday.

All: Evermore and evermore.

*Hymn

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

PH (red) #129

*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

Mechtild of Magdeburg, 1210-1294

O Holy One, we celebrate the birth of your love, once more! We come with hearts full of hope for a better tomorrow and longing to be sure of

your presence. Hear our songs in this hour and prepare us to move as people of the word. We imagine the congregations gathered throughout the world celebrating the birth of the savior. Indeed, let there be peace on earth! Amen.

Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: It is easy to ignore the glorious mystery of God's presence and being.

But you have come to us, once again. Give us a deeper understanding of your love on this very day.

All: Your beauty is available to us no matter how we come before you.

Your redemption has come as a simple child, as Christ; glory be to God! We sing for God's grace together:

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.

On most Sunday mornings 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 wiggling kiddos are more than welcome throughout the entirety of our service!

***Hymn** Friendly Beasts NCH (black) #138

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12) Isaiah 52:7-10

One: Merciful God, we pray that the meditations of our hearts and minds will be acceptable to you, for you are our rock and redeemer. May your Spirit move between words and hearing.

All: Amen

Message A Beautiful Mystery Rev. Sara M. Holland

***Hymn** Angels We Have Heard on High NCH (black) #125

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

Some Children See Him

arr. by Carolyne M. Taylor

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: Tender God, in your wisdom you reveal yourself to us in a tiny baby. In Jesus' humble birth, we remember our own opportunity to care for strangers in our midst. In Jesus' vulnerability, we remember our own dependence on your love. In Jesus' humanness, we remember that all your creation is sacred. For the mystery of incarnation and for your gift of holy love, we give thanks and we re-commit to following your Way. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn

Joy to the World!

NCH (black) #132

*Pastoral Benediction

Postlude

Carol of the Bells

arr. by James Christensen

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

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for Georgene Fabian who is recovering and healing
Condolences and prayers for friends and family of Winnie Oustecky
Condolences and prayers for Alice O'Connor and the friends and family of
her cousin, Joe Gaultney, who recently passed away
Prayers for Eileen Torrey
Prayers for Paulette Brace for a speedy recovery from surgery
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. Sara 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

Dec 27	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Dec 29	5:00 pm Meals for Many
Dec 30	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Jan 5	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Jan 9	10:00 am Book Group
Jan 11	9:30 am Lectio Divina

CHURCH LIFE

Knitting Group will start back up on January 5 and will 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.

Book Group will be meeting at 10:00 on January 9th and 23rd to discuss Afterlife by Julia Alvarez. Contact Peggy Martin for more information: pmartin03223@yahoo.com.

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. Come one and all – let's worship together! Periodically, pizza will be served.

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

Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor	plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org
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 Musicians: Peggy Martin, flute & Ashley Rose, flute

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
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Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in December in our Community

Sara Holland	December 4	David Williams	December 25
Tucker Magrauth	December 9	Natalie Boyer	December 26
Lucas Hyde	December 13	Robert Stewart	December 27
Eileen Torrey	December 15	Wilma Hyde	December 29
Sylvia Shaw	December 17	Judy Johnson	December 29
Frank Tedeschi	December 19		

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

