

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Advent Four: Joy An Unrehearsed Life of Freedom Paper bag Pageant Sunday!



December 19, 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

Gesu Bambino

by Pietro Alessandro Yon

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. Today is a special day for our wiggling worshippers – thanks for being here!

The Light of Christ

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Kelsey Family

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

*Call to Worship

One: God of many names, surely you will be born once again to us, as joy and love for all.

All: We are here for joy, let us sing!

One: Move in our worship, Holy Spirit, come with grace and peace.

All: We are here to usher in our Savior, born in a manger, let us sing!

*Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

NCH (black) #116

Verses 1 & 2

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel". It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first two verses. The lyrics are: "1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, and". The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "ransom captive Israel That mourns in lonely or - der all things far and night; To us the path of".

ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Unison Gathering Prayer

Hildegard of Bingen, 1098-1179

**All: To the trinity be praise!
God is music, God is life
that nurtures every creature in its kind.
Our God is the song
of the angel throned
and the splendor of secret ways
hid from all of humankind,
But God our life is the life of all. Amen.**

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Even in hard times, we may turn to God; God holds our mistakes. We are made whole in God's grace and love.

All: We come as we are today, God. Let us find Your hope, peace, love and joy this day and always. With faith, we sing together:

Response

Ubi Caritas

Music: J. Berthier

© Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Communauté, 71250 TAIZE, FRANCE

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.

Hearing the word

Theresa E. Cho

Listen for God’s voice in this year’s paper bag pageant!

On first and third Sundays we sometimes 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!

*Hymn

Joy To The World
Verses 1 & 3

NCH (black) #132

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth its
2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

prais - es bring; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Christ room,
songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
na - tions prove The glo - ries of God's righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
and won - ders of God's love, and won - ders of God's

and heaven and na - ture sing, and
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
and won - ders of God's love, and



Scripture Readings

Luke 2:46-49

Message

“In The Temple”

Rev. Sara M. Holland

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

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 Hosanna to the Son of David

Healey Willan

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: For the love You have shown in the gift of the Christ child, for the ties that bind us together as holy family and community, we thank You. Accept our offerings and let Holy Spirit take these to those most in need. We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn** Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old NCH (black) #108
Verses 1 & 2

1 I - sa - iah the proph-et has
2 The moun-tains and hills shall break
writ-ten of old how God's new cre - a - tion shall come. In - stead of the
forth in - to song, the peo - ples be led forth in peace; The earth shall be
thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow; the wolf shall lie down with the
filled with the knowl-edge of God as the wa - ters cov - er the
lamb, the lamb, the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.
sea, the sea, as the wa - ters cov - er the sea.

***Pastoral Benediction**

Choral Benediction

Postlude I Saw Three Ships arr. by Carolyne M. Taylor

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 as you leave the sanctuary.

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for the Malone family who are grieving
Prayers for Kathy, a friend of a community member who is struggling.
Thoughts and Prayers for Terry Cote's daughter Lynn Bowers
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
Love and Sympathy for 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 Magrauth
Charlie & Wendy Scouras
Prayers for Healing for Valerie, a dear friend of Sally Jensen
Prayers for Healing for Brian Paine
Prayers & Healing for Ruth Munroe
Mae Larson, Rebecca Larson's mother-in-law
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.

This Week and More at PCUCC

Today	9:30 AM	4th Sunday in Advent: Joy, Paper Bag Nativity
	7:00 PM	'Blue' Christmas Service
	7:00 PM	Worship service airs on PBTv
Dec. 22 nd	11:30 AM	Staff Meeting
Dec. 24 th	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 26 th	9:30 AM	First Sunday after Christmas

Many thanks and appreciation to all our youth and adults who decorated the sanctuary, narthex and doors of our church so beautifully for advent and Christmas! Please notice the new winter scenes paintings on the walls of our sanctuary. You all helped to bring joy and inspiration to all as we journey to Christmas and the coming of the Christ Child!

We want to extend a sincere and heartfelt thanks to Eileen Lovett and her support, Campbell! The children, youth and adults who decorated gingerbread houses had such a good time. Also, it was tasty too!

As some in our community have found out, Courtney Crosato has accepted a more full time job in the lakes region. We will miss her spirit, care, and outstanding efforts terribly. She brought incredible 'pizazz' to the office. Please wish Courtney well as she ventures to a new beginning. Thank you, Courtney!!!

Save the date – March 13th is the next New Member Sunday

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: Our Star Child program is well underway and the deadline for getting your gifts for the little ones to the church is Sunday, Dec. 19th. A big THANK YOU to all who participated. And it's not too late to support the gift cards for the teens, make your check payable to PCUCC with Star Child in the memo line. Please be sure to check out our Little Free Pantry to the left of the church's main entrance. You can help stock it but please keep in mind that items in either glass jars or cans are subject to freezing. Personal care items are particularly needed: soap, toothpaste, shampoo, diapers, toilet paper, and tampons. Shelf-stable food items that can withstand weather: ramen noodles, peanut butter in plastic jars, tuna in foil packets, cereal, etc. At our monthly meeting on Dec. 15th, we voted to send \$750 from our discretionary fund to the UCC Disaster Relief Fund for the recent victims of the tornadoes in the south and Midwest.

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.

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 fall, we supported people in need of rent, security deposits and transitional housing. 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 or Pastor Sara if you are considering ways to get involved in these important efforts.

Book Group: The next book group will be on December 20th at 10 AM. All are welcome! Any questions please contact Peggy Martin at pmartin03223@yahoo.com or Kathy Henning at 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. 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 - 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Wednesday - 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Thursday – 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Friday - 9:00 AM – 2:00 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 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

plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org
office@uccplymouth.org
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organist@uccplymouth.org
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treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Special Musicians: Beverly Tedeschi and Peggy Martin
Acolyte: Wesley Ball

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Celebrating Birthdays in December in our Community:

December 4	Rev. Sara Holland
December 9	Tucker Magrauth
December 12	Linda LaPrad
December 13	Lucas Hyde
December 15	Eileen Torrey
December 17	Sylvia Shaw
December 19	Frank Tedeschi
December 25	David Williams
December 26	Natalie Boyer
December 27	Rob Stewart

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