

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

First Sunday of Advent - Hope:  
Stay Alert



November 27, 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 an Anti-racist 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

## 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! Sunday School runs from mid-September to mid-June. Feel free to gather toys, books, and children's bulletins, which can be found in the narthex, for your children to enjoy during their time in worship or use the nursery downstairs.*

*You may contact office@uccplymouth.org to get more information about programming for any age.*

## Introit

In Thy Temple

L. Zanineli

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Thibeault Family

\*Those who are able may stand.

### \*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Bill Heron

One: Holy Spirit, pour out your mercy and might that we may be empowered.

**All: We want to be ready for your Love, always.**

One: God of Grace, we seek the rest you have promised to your faithful; let us find your peace.

**All: We aim to offer glory, praise, and honor to your name.**

One: You are one of new beginnings and so we come with our hopes and our fears; let us be found in the shadow of your wings.

**All: We pray, sing, and create community this morning; let us find your Love written in the chapters of our lives.**

### \*Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

NCH (black) #43

### \*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

**God of many names, we come before you with hearts of gratitude; many of us have been fed well this week. Some of us have deep hopes for the life of our church and for our families. This new church year gives us an**

opportunity for a new beginning; we may dwell in the possibility of your grace and mercy during this service and throughout our week. God hear your people in humble prayer, joyful song, and as we come with our fears and dreams. Grant us a sure step as we anticipate the arrival of the Christ child and let us know that we may be alert to how we might carry the gospel in our lives. 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: Spirit of Truth, we often forget how much we matter. Some part of us imagines that our existence is of little importance, and we need the promise of our belovedness; we come before you, seeking renewal today.

All: May we know that there is nothing that can override the grace you provide to us; let us be assured of your mercy time and time again. Seeking this mercy, we sing together:

#### **Response**

Ubi Caritas

Music: J. Berthier

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.

#### **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 2:1-5

Matthew 24:36-44

One: Prince of peace, 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

On Alert

Rev. Sara M. Holland

## \*Hymn

Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

United Methodist #718

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

fa - vored sin - ners slain; thou - sand, thou - sand  
dread - ful maj - es - ty; those who set at  
daz - zling bod - y bears; cause of end - less  
thy e - ter - nal throne; Sav - ior, take the

saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his  
naught and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the  
ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -  
power and glo - ry, claim the king - dom for thine

train. Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
 own. Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

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

## 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

Come, My Light

Anne Krentz Organ

*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: Thank you, God, for our faith family here in church and those scattered throughout the nation and world. While we wait for Christ's coming, we give thanks for the love you have promised. For tomorrow, we pray love will come in the form of smiles, handshakes, hugs, and food offered to those in need. As we prepare for Christ's presence, help us share the gospel with others and strengthen us to love as you love. Holy Presence, we trust that your love will remain in our lives and we pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **SENDING**

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

## **\*Pastoral Benediction**

**Choral Benediction**              God of Love, Hear Our Prayer                      John Helgen

## **Postlude**

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

### **Keeping in Prayer:**

Prayers for Winnie Oustecky  
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, who would love to receive cards at:  
Genesis Rehabilitation, 175 Blueberry Ln, Laconia NH 03246  
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 an end to gun violence, in the spirit of Isaiah 2:4  
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 email her at [plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)*

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

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Nov 27 | 4:00 Organ Dedication                          |
| Nov 29 | 7:00 AA Meeting                                |
| Nov 30 | 9:30 Lectio Divina                             |
| Dec 2  | 8:00 AA Meeting                                |
| Dec 5  | 10:00 Book Group                               |
| Dec 7  | 6:15 Coffee House: Don We Now Our Gay Apparel! |

**Would you like to light a candle on the Advent wreath this season?** Please contact Pastor Sara or the church office if you are interested in lighting a candle on Sunday, December 11 or Sunday, December 18.

### **FROM MISSION & OUTREACH**

**Please donate to Plymouth Area Community Closet** this month so that our community members can "keep the heat on" this winter. PACC has already been overwhelmed with applications for fuel assistance and it is only the beginning of November! Mission & Outreach has given \$500, and you can join the effort too. You can find a basket of donation envelopes in the Sanctuary near the narthex. Thank you for your generous support; your donation has a profound impact on our community.

**Star Child Program:** Once again this Advent you can help children in need through the Star Child program. Simply choose a star or heart from the Christmas Tree in the narthex. The Stars are for the little ones in Head Start who are in need warm winter clothing. The hearts are for high schoolers at Plymouth Regional and we give them Walmart gift cards. In order to be fair to all, the value of each gift is \$50. If this seems high to you, do as Pastor Sara did last year and pair up with another to reach the goal. Please turn in your gifts to the church office by Wednesday, December 21.

**HOPE Fund:** The HOPE Fund supports families at risk who need assistance paying for rent, heating, electricity, and medications. 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.

### **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](mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org)

Work Cell: 336-485-5618

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|--|--|
| Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor   | <a href="mailto:plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org">plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org</a> |
| Alison Thatcher, Office Administrator  | <a href="mailto:office@uccplymouth.org">office@uccplymouth.org</a>                 |
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Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in November and December in our Community

|                 |             |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Ivan Bass       | November 1  | Sara Holland    | December 4  |
| Leif Magrauth   | November 2  | Tucker Magrauth | December 9  |
| Nick Zwald      | November 5  | Lucas Hyde      | December 13 |
| Michael Conklin | November 11 | Eileen Torrey   | December 15 |
| John Shaw       | November 13 | Sylvia Shaw     | December 17 |
| Georgene Fabian | November 18 | Frank Tedeschi  | December 19 |
| Cameron Brand   | November 21 | David Williams  | December 25 |
| Marian Sawicki  | November 28 | Natalie Boyer   | December 26 |
| Ruth Martz      | November 29 | Robert Stewart  | December 27 |
| Ann Thurston    | November 29 | Wilma Hyde      | December 29 |
| Jane Merrithew  | November 30 | Judy Johnson    | December 29 |

Margot W. and Robert F. Swift celebrate 60 years of marriage on November 24<sup>th</sup>

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