

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Second Sunday in Advent: Peace
Communion Sunday – Vision of Peace



December 4, 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 working to become a Racial Justice Church
Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

Please inquire to 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.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Stewart Family

*Those who are able may stand.

*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Rev. Sara M. Holland

One: Prepare your hearts for the way of God; in our worship, we make space for the holy.

All: The glory of God shall be revealed; blessed is the child that comes with divine hope and peace.

One: Come, receive the peace of the Savior, the one whose glory surrounds us. This is a glory of simplicity and deep truth.

All: With our minds and imaginations, we lift our eyes towards divine peace.

One: At a sacred table, one of reconciliation, peace will be revealed.

All: In unity, rather than uniformity, we seek the peace of the Christ child.

*Hymn

Comfort, Comfort O My People

NCH (black) #101

*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

Holy One, the prophets of ancient days spoke of a peace that would surpass all understanding. We seek such peace, today. We pray that we will see grand visions of your love here on earth. Let our minds be so opened and our hearts be touched. During our worship, let us find such deep comfort that we will be strengthened. In our being strengthened, let us dare to change the world for Your Love's sake and so that all people may find Your peace. Amen.

Moments for Confession and Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: God who meets us where we are; come to us, once again. Sometimes we think we are completely alone; we simply forget your abiding presence.

All: We come for your promise, O God. Grant us the blessings and assurances of your deep promise – that we will be called, that we will find comfort and that we will move with your holy challenges. We sing for your peace:

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.

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:38-48

One: Great Creator, we pray that the meditations of our hearts and minds will be acceptable to you, for you are our rock and redeemer. We pray that your voice moves between words and hearing.

All: Amen

Message “Wrong Answer, Right Question” Rev. Scott Jamieson
***Hymn** Watcher, Tell Us of the Night NCH (black) #103

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing Communion

The Ushers will guide twelve participants at a time to the front to share Communion. Each person will be given a simple bread and juice cup as Pastor Sara offers simple words of blessing: “This is the bread of heaven and the cup of the new covenant.”

After each participant receives the elements, the group of 12 will take and eat. You will then be invited to return to your seats and the next group of twelve will take your place.

****The bread is gluten & nut free and the juice is non-alcoholic.****

Communion Music

Prayer of Thanks in Unison

Holy One, by coming to your table, we receive from your great abundance during this Advent season; we receive your peace. We give thanks for Jesus Christ, through whom we receive life and in whom we are bound in covenant. Renew us, we pray, so that we may serve as Christ’s Way shows us we should. Amen.

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: Holy Mystery of Love, we give You thanks for the gift of Your outpouring Spirit, for the courage of Mary, for Joseph's willing heart, for glad tidings of comfort and joy. Receive the gifts we offer that Your light may shine among us and Your love may be re-born in the world. With Christ, in Christ, and through Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all power and possibility are Yours, God most Holy. Amen.

Prayers of the People

You are 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.

SENDING

***Hymn** Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence PH (red) #107

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude

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

Keeping in Prayer:

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 5	10:00 Book Group
Dec 6	7:00 AA Meeting
Dec 7	9:30 Lectio Divina
Dec 7	6:15 Coffee House: Don We Now Our Gay Apparel!
Dec 9	8:00 AA Meeting
Dec 11	5:00 Sunday Neters Potluck & Yankee Swap
Dec 14	7:00 Blue Christmas Service
Dec 15	1:00 Knitting Group

CHURCH LIFE

Coffee House: Have you ever wondered what all those letters in the LGBTQ alphabet soup stand for? Are you unsure of which terms you should avoid, and which terms are preferred? Have you wanted to learn more about LGBTQ lingo while wearing a Christmas sweater and listening to live holiday music? Then this is the event for you! Come with your Christmas attire, a holiday snack to share, and an open mind!

Book Group will be meeting at 10:00 on the first and third Mondays in December to discuss Walking the Bible by Bruce Feiler. In January we will meet on the 9th and 23rd to discuss Afterlife by Julia Alvarez.

Sunday Nitters this month will be hosted by Arlene Bownes at 36 Parker St in Plymouth. Please bring a dish to share and a wrapped gift if you'd like to participate in the Yankee swap. Everyone is welcome, whether a long-time member or a recent visitor, whether single or partnered, whether young or in your golden years!

Knitting Group meets every other Thursday at 1:00 in the parlor. Come with your knitting, knitting questions, or just for some fellowship!

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 of 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

Work Cell: 336-485-5618

Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor	plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org
Alison Thatcher, Office Administrator	office@uccplymouth.org
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Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org
<p>Guest Preacher: Rev. Scott Jamieson Guest Musician: Alex Ellsworth, cello</p>	
<p>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</p>	

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in December in our Community

Sara Holland	December 4	David Williams	December 25
Tucker Magrath	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

