

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Joy:
Ask A Sign



December 18, 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

Prelude

In Dulci Jubilo

George Lachenauer

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

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Martins

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist – Wayne Martin

One: The anticipation of the season is culminating; we come with gratitude for Christ's presence in our lives.

All: God of glory, let us find the peace of the season!

One: Open our hearts so that we will be so ready to hear your gospel word.

All: Great Redeemer, grant us hope that we will share with others.

One: Let us find unbroken praise in this hour so we may praise God throughout the week!

All: Hear our songs of faith, O God! We seek your Spirit.

***Hymn**

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

PH (red) #8

***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, we come seeking you as our faith ancestors did in the ancient near east. You have blessed us before and we offer up thanks. You have

granted us a space in which to seek, and your scriptures have endured throughout the ages. Let us find the joy divine we have sung about this morning and grant us simple peace. We dare to join the chorus of angels today, singing the triumphant song of life; hear us, Holy One, we come humbly as we await the Christ child. 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: Sometimes it is difficult to choose the path God has laid before us; we come seeking signs from God this morning. We look for the hope of the Great Creator – the one who gave us the sun, the moon, the stars, all that has been and all that will be . . .

All: No matter where we have been or who we are, we may turn to God in Christ. May we find ways to choose good this morning; with hopes for this path, 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

Matthew 1:18-25

Isaiah 7:10-16

One: Creator 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

Choose The Good

Rev. Sara M. Holland

*Hymn

Isaiah The Prophet Has Written of Old

NCH (black) #108

Those who wish to join the life and ministry of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ as members may come forward during hymn #108. If you come forward, you may sit on the front pew until the hymn concludes.

Please know that all questions you will be asked will include prompted answers and that by joining you do commit to 1-2 simple 'classes' with Pastor Holland.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Reception of New Members – see insert

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 Anthem “A Shoot Shall Come Forth Out of Jesse” by Richard Horn

This morning's offering will support the Christmas Fund of the United Church of Christ; this fund supports retired UCC pastors in need

***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** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel PH (red) #110

***Pastoral Benediction**

Choral Benediction "God of Love, Hear Our Prayer"

Postlude The Snow Lay on the Ground Susan C. Carson

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

Prayers for Eileen Torrey who is recovering and healing

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 Anna Heine, who faces many hardships and obstacles

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 18	9:30 am Advent 4: Joy, New Member Sunday 2:30 pm gingerbread houses followed by caroling
Dec 19	10:00 am Book Group
Dec 20	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Dec 21	9:30 am Lectio Divina
Dec 21	Deadline to turn in Star Child gifts or gift cards to the church office
Dec 22	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Dec 23	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Dec 24	7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

CHURCH LIFE

We invite you to join us for the annual Christmas celebration on December 24th at 7 pm. Come and listen for God's voice and await the Christ child in community.

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.

Knitting Group will pick back up in January. We will meet 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.

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.

3rd Sundays – New Members! To live more fully into God's call to be inclusive, every 3rd Sunday will be New Member Sunday. Whether people join or not, we will be ready to welcome folks every month. As people join, we will ask them faith-related questions including confirmation of their willingness to attend a simple class. We hope these efforts are fruitful – all are welcome to follow the gospel call!

FROM FINANCE: Support PCUCC with no cost to you! By choosing our church as your favorite charity through **Amazon SMILE**, 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

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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		

Email us at office@uccplymouth.org if you have a birthday or anniversary this month or next.





Poinsettia Dedications 2022



In Loving Memory of:

Loved Ones in the Pierson, Hahn, Love, & Torres families
Elizabeth W. Cheney
Loved Ones of Edie Doherty
Rick Fabian
Gerry Gontarz
Herbert Bartron
Edwine Martz & Mary Majeski
Parents, Annie & Abbott Rice, and brother James
Mac Bownes
Sara and Harold Moses & Guy Taylor
Winnie Oustecky
Our Parents
Clifford & Georgia Canfield
Harold Irving Woodward
Winnie & Joe Oustecky
Tina Leehr

In Thanksgiving of:

Family
Family and Friends
The PCUCC Congregation
Our Family Near and Far
Our 2 Children & 4 Grandchildren
Family and Friends
Family & Church Family

In Celebration of:

The family of Butch & Donna Castor

Submitted by:

Carol Hahn
Ann Thurston
Edie Doherty
Georgene Fabian
The Gontarz Family
Dawn, Jim, & Rose Shimberg
Ruth Martz & Steve Majeski
Beverly A Tedeschi
Arline Bownes
Paul Belyea
Fran & Tink Taylor
Larry & Eleanor Spencer
Mark Canfield
Rebecca Woodward
Kim Berman & Kevin Oustecky
Sara M. Holland & Libby Coley

Edie Doherty
Margot W. & Robert Swift
Ruth Martz & Steve Majeski
Rebecca Larson
Wayne & Peggy Martin
Jim & Linda LaPrad
Eileen & Bill Torrey

Butch & Donna Castor

* The White Poinsettia is a gift of our choir members to honor all who are now members of the heavenly choir.