

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany: The Vision Beautiful
Faithful Requirements
Health & Human Services Sunday



January 29, 2023

9:30 am, 5:30 pm

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

Do Not Despair, O Little Flock

arr. Lani Smith

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

Introit

In Thy Temple

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist – Bill Heron

One: O Holy One, you have been a great shelter – a refuge and resting place.

All: May we feel your power and spirit in this hour.

One: We come seeking your saving grace, your good news, and your hope.

All: We feel the way life is fleeting; let us find your eternal peace as we worship.

One: With our mortal voices, we call out to your divine name!

All: May we find a way to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you; for you have called us by name.

***Hymn**

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

NCH (black) #596

***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

adapted from Julian of Norwich, 1342-1419

Divine Mystery, the fullness of joy is to behold your glory in everything. You are the ground, the substance, the teaching, the teacher, the purpose, and the reward for which every soul labors. We come before you longing to be renewed by spirit and propelled with hope for the week. Let our worship be humble during this time and as our voices rise and fall together, may we be so assured that we can indeed do justice, love kindness, and walk with courage on your path. We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: We often wonder what we must do to receive redemption; we imagine that no matter how we come before God, it might never be enough. But God's promise holds us, whoever and however we come. . .

All: **Be with us this day, this week, Holy God; for we know: There is nothing – nothing here, nothing anywhere else that will separate us from the love of God in Jesus. It is for this promise and Spirit that we sing.**

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.

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 5:1-12

Micah 6:1-8

One: Spirit of life, let us feel your presence and be comforted and challenged.
We pray that the meditations of our hearts and minds will be acceptable to you.
May your Spirit move between words and hearing.

All: Amen

Message

Plead Your Case

Rev. Holland

*Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

PH (red) #391

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

Saw You Never in the Twilight

Austin C. Lovelace

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: O God, you sent Jesus as prophet, teacher, and healer to proclaim your unconditional love. Let these gifts represent such love this week and throughout the life of our beloved church. You have offered us peace and acceptance and we pray that these gifts embody such ways of being. Let these bring release to the captives, hope to the hopeless and courage to the face of fear. We pray all this for Love's sake and in Jesus' name. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn**

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

NCH (black) #573

***Pastoral Benediction**

Choral Benediction

God of Love, Hear Our Prayer

John Helgen

Postlude

Angels from the Realms of Glory by Henry T. Smart, arr. Robertson

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

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for the Coley family as Ken Coley ('Papa') is in ICU in Bridgeport, CT
Condolences and prayers for the family and friends of John Shaw, who recently passed away
Condolences and prayers for the family of Mary Conroy Payne, sister of Fran Taylor,
who recently passed away
Prayers for Bill Broadrick and his spouse, Jane
Prayers for Eileen Torrey
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. Holland 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

Jan 29	5:30 pm Sunday Evening Service
Jan 31	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Feb 1	9:30 am Lectio Divina
Feb 1	11:30 am Staff Meeting
Feb 1	6:15 pm Coffee House: "Honoring the African-American Spiritual"
Feb 2	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Feb 2	5:00 pm Meals for Many
Feb 2	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Feb 3	8:00 pm AA Meeting

CHURCH LIFE

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!

The Torreys would appreciate some simple meals delivered to their home at 28 Owl Brook Rd in Ashland on 1/29 and 1/31. To sign up for one or more dates and find out specific dietary restrictions, please email the church office.

Please sign up to help with Coffee Hour. Someone who knows the routine will always be on site to lead and guide the helper. We need someone to help prep and someone to clean up or to do both. We need a baked good, a fruit plate, and a savory snack dish. If everyone signs up to do one job twice a year, we can continue this fellowship and enhance our community! Sign up in person this Sunday or email the church office.

Sunday Evening Services: 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 and will include a substantial snack/light meal. Come one and all – let’s worship together!

Coffee House on February 1st will feature Plymouth Regional High School Music Director and Pemigewasset Choral Society Conductor, Will Gunn. His talk will focus on research and literature from Black scholars and musicians about the origins and traditions of the African-American Spiritual and how the Fiske Jubilee Singers brought them to the concert hall.

Knitting Group will meet on February 2nd and continue to 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.

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 Rev. Holland. 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.

Rev. Holland keeps sabbath on Friday.

Email: plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org

Work Cell: 336-485-5618

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Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in January and February in our Community

Rohan Magrauth	January 1	Steve Majeski	January 22
Alan Mather	January 1	Jerry Larson	January 23
Nance Ruhm	January 2	Briggs Adey-Merrithew	January 24
Janice Nielson	January 13	Marlin Collingwood	January 24
Hanna Starck	January 15	Rebecca Caron	January 25
Ashley Rose	January 16	Sophie Kelsey	January 26
Butch Castor	January 18	Peggy Martin	January 27
Sandy Larson	January 22		
Ken Howe	February 11	Beverly Tedeschi	February 26
Chris Pollock	February 11	Robert Pollock Jr.	February 28
Maris Thatcher-Forgues	February 11		

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

