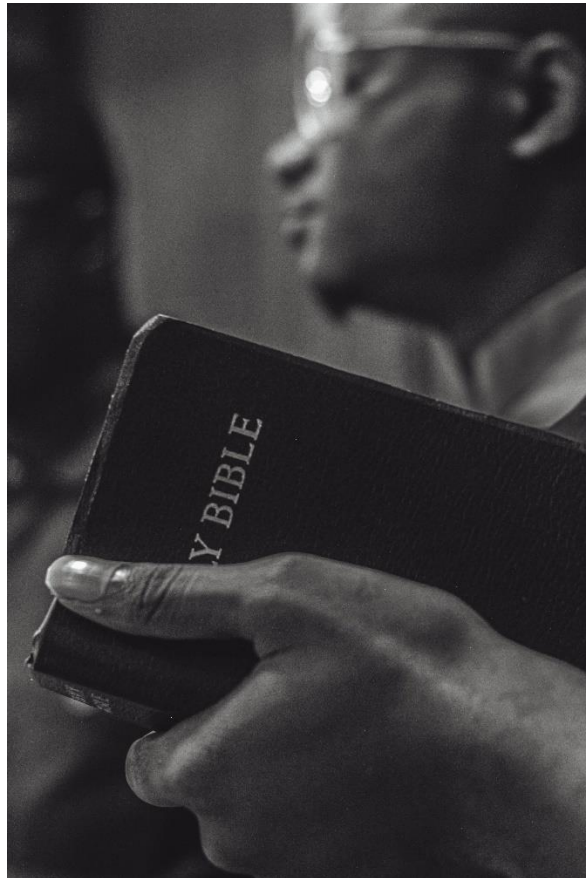


Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Second Sunday after Epiphany



January 14, 2024

9:30 am

We Practice Just Peace: doing justice, seeking peace
We are Open and Affirming: welcoming LGBTQ+ people
We are an Anti-Racism church
🎵 We Listen for the Still Speaking God
Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

Please inquire with people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.

GATHERING

Prelude God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman with Chopin's Prelude in B Minor
arr. Carolyne M. Taylor

Welcome & Announcements

Please sign the red friendship pad as it is passed to you and return it to the center aisle noting your neighbor in the pew. You may leave your email if you would like to receive our weekly newsletter.

If you want to know more, email the office at office@uccplymouth.org.

Sunday School for all ages begins after the Message for All Ages on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays. Children are welcome to fill a bag with books and toys, which are in the narthex, to use during worship.

Introit We Have Found the Messiah John Ferguson

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship** Liturgist – Bev Newton

One: The search for truth is challenging.
It is not always clear which path is right.

All: We have lost our way many times.

One: And yet, our steps have led us here today,
gathered in one body.

**All: We listen for God's voice,
but don't always know what God is saying.**

One: Here in this sanctuary
may we quiet our minds and lay down our own wills.

**All: We listen for the Still Speaking God,
we claim God's will as our own,
and we walk together
towards God's realm of justice and peace.**

***Hymn** You Are Salt for the Earth, O People NCH (black) #181

*Passing of the Peace

If you are at home, we invite you to send someone a note of peace today.

One: The Peace of Christ be with you

All: And also with you.

Unison Gathering Prayer

God of liberation and justice,

we give thanks for this community, called together by Christ's love.

Bless our gathering, that we may hear your voice and be led on your path.

Strengthen us for the journey that is Jesus's radical way of love,

that we may walk in solidarity with prophets throughout the ages.

In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Confession including Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: Though the way may be hard, though our guiding light be faint, though our steps may falter; it is never too late to commit to the work of realizing God's just kingdom on earth.

All: Each mistake is an opportunity to learn and grow.

In solidarity and faith, following the light of Christ's love,

we shall overcome all that stands in the way of God's kingdom.

Response **Angels from the Realms of Glory (verse 3)** **NCH (black) #126**

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;

Seek the great Desire of Nations, guided by Christ's natal star:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship God, give thanks and sing.

Message for All Ages

Response **You Are the Seed** **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

Readings Excerpt from Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

One: Emmanuel, may we feel your message of justice and mercy through these readings.

All: Amen.

Message "With This Faith" Alison Thatcher

***Hymn** We Shall Overcome NCH (black) #570

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory Lo, the Star Which They Saw 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.**

***Unison Offertory Prayer**

**God, we offer these gifts happily and hopefully.
May they be used to lift up the oppressed,
inspire compassion in the privileged,
and unleash waves of liberating justice and mercy over this land.
In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

You will also be invited to offer your personal prayers from the silence of your heart.

Pastor: O God, in your grace and mercy . . .

Response: Hear your people at prayer.

Pastoral Prayer

This Week and More at PCUCC

Monday, January 15	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Tuesday, January 16	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, January 17	11:00 am Lectio Divina
Thursday, January 18	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, January 19	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Monday, January 22	10:00 am Book Group

CHURCH LIFE

A note from our accompanist, Ashley Rose:

Dear Church Family,

It is with both sadness and joy that I write this. I want to inform you all that Sunday, January 21st will be my final Sunday as the organist/accompanist at PCUCC. This has been a supportive, inviting, spiritual and nurturing church community for the last almost five years, but it is time for me to turn my focus more firmly towards other areas of my life. Hopefully we will see each other in the future when I return to substitute. I wish you all the best and thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kind words regarding my music, your friendliness and care towards Lorelei and Benjamin, and a big thanks especially to David and the choir.

With love,

Ashley

Our deep appreciation to Donna and Butch Castor for taking down the Christmas decorations. Donna organized the storage room off the balcony, marked all the decor and neatly stored them in the storage room. A big, big thank you!!

Church Snow Policy: If the Sunday morning Worship service is cancelled due to snow and/or ice, notification will be announced by 7:00 a.m. in the following ways:

1. An all-church email sent out
2. The church Facebook page
3. WMUR closings announcement

Preaching Schedule:

January 14 – Alison Thatcher

January 21 – Rev. Ruth Martz

January 28 – Rev. Campbell Lovett

February 11 – Alison Thatcher

Book Group is reading The Exceptions: Nancy Hopkins, MIT, and the Fight for Women in Science by Kate Zernike during the month of January. Join the discussion on Monday January 22 at 10am. Contact Kathy Henning for more information: henkat52@gmail.com.

Lectio Divina: All are invited to gather Wednesday mornings from 11 a.m. to noon for a Bible study modeled on Lectio Divina, the sacred reading of scripture. We'll begin with the Gospel of Mark, the first gospel written, and read through it listening for God's Still Speaking voice. Please join us. Rebecca Larson will lead us.

Sunday School focuses on Bible lessons, outreach projects, and family activities. The children will learn how to use the gifts God gave them to positively impact their community. Volunteers are always welcome! Please contact Jennifer for more details at faithformation@uccplymouth.org.

FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

January and February Mission Focus: Masvingo congregation, Zimbabwe

The Mission and Outreach Committee invites everyone to join us in writing cards, drawing/painting pictures, and gathering photos that our congregation will send to the good people of our partner church in Masvingo, Zimbabwe. Deadline: Sunday, February 25. Children, youth and adults are also encouraged to sign up for a personal pen pal. Please let Ruth Martz know or sign up on the sheet next to the collection box. **THANK YOU!**

Request from Pemi Valley Habitat for Humanity: Dale Mosher has asked if any church members or groups would be willing to bring a hot lunch for the volunteers working at 61 Pleasant St, Plymouth. The volunteers work on Thursday, Friday (max: 8 people), and Saturday (max: 4 people). Suggestions are a hearty soup, stew, pasta, chili, chicken pot pie... Lunch should be delivered between 12 and 12:30 p.m., along with paper plates, plastic utensils, and napkins. "Cooks" are welcome to stay for lunch with the crew. The students at Holderness Academy have volunteered to bring a hot lunch on Sat. Dec 9, and each Saturday in January. Please sign up by contacting Ruth Martz (ruthm.joy@gmail.com or 603-630-7936). Thank you!

FROM FINANCE

Support PCUCC with 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

If you have a family emergency and want to talk with a pastor, please call Rev. Ruth Martz at 603-630-7936 or you may call Eileen Torrey at 603-252-7513.

Alison Thatcher, Office Administrator	office@uccplymouth.org
David A. Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
Ashley Rose, Organist, Pianist	organist@uccplymouth.org
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Guest Preacher: Alison Thatcher

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
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(603) 536-2626 - office@uccplymouth.org - www.uccplymouth.org

Celebrating Birthdays in January in our Community

If you have an upcoming birthday or anniversary, please email office@uccplymouth.org

Rohan Magrauth	January 1	Steve Majeski	January 22
Hanna Starck	January 15	Sophie Kelsey	January 26
Ashley Rose	January 16	Peggy Martin	January 27
Butch Castor	January 18		

