

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

## Third Sunday after Epiphany



20<sup>th</sup> Century, Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth TX

*Icthus* (“fish” in ancient Greek) was a symbol for the early church. The letters in this acrostic signify “Iesous Xristos Theou Uios Soter,” meaning “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.”

**January 21, 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.*



**Unison Gathering Prayer** (*Richard of Chichester, 13<sup>th</sup> Cent.*)

Day by day, day by day,  
O, dear Lord, three things we pray:  
To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,  
Follow thee more nearly, day by day.  
(Repeat prayer) Amen.

**\*Bodily Confession** *From "Hand in Hand: A Litany," by Sue Downing*

(*Silence*)

**God's Promise of New Life/Our Bodily Assurance**

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.

**Word for Young People**

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**

**Scripture**      Psalm 62:5-12 (Echo Scripture)      Mark 1:14-20

One: May God bless to our understanding these words of Holy Scripture.  
All: Amen.

**Message**      "By Twos or Threes – and More"      Rev. Ruth Martz





## 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!!

**Let's Talk Gathering:** All are welcome! Sunday, January 28, following Coffee Hour, in the Chapel. We will continue some one-on-one conversations along with group sharing, in response to such questions as:

- How are you feeling about the past 4 months at church? How are things going?
- What ministry or aspect of our church life needs support or a new direction?
- Which activities (on poster board in chapel) are you willing to attend or help organize?

**Please join us,** especially if it is for the first time!

**Coffee House, February 2:** Join us in the fellowship hall at 6pm for an interactive and informative talk with Renee Rouse about why faith communities should care about racial justice and what we can do. Bring a snack to share if you can, or just bring yourself and a friend!

### **Preaching Schedule:**

January 21 – Rev. Ruth Martz

February 4 – 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](mailto: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](mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org).

**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

## FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

**Warmest thanks for your generous donations to** our Christmas Star Program, the UCC Christmas Fund, and Habitat for Humanity.

- Star Program: 9 wrapped gifts and 4 gift cards for Head Start children; 19 gift cards for Plymouth High School students. Our Mission and Outreach Committee contributed \$250.
- UCC Christmas Fund: \$585
- Habitat for Humanity (local and national): \$1,133

You have helped to make a big difference in people's lives. *Thank you!*

**Please sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall** to bring a hot lunch to the 6-10 workers at the Habitat for Humanity House on Pleasant St. in Plymouth. So far, Holderness students signed up for Saturdays in January, and Ruth Martz brought chili on January 12. These young men, along with Dale Mosher, REALLY appreciate these lunches (and they love second helpings)! Suggestions: pasta, chili, chicken pot pie, stews, soups. Additions such as bread/muffins/fruit/ dessert are optional. Some paper goods and plastic ware are on site, but please check in with Ruth for details: [ruthm.joy@gmail.com](mailto:ruthm.joy@gmail.com)/603-630-7936

### **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!

## 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	<a href="mailto:office@uccplymouth.org">office@uccplymouth.org</a>
David A. Williams, Director of Music	<a href="mailto:musicdirector@uccplymouth.org">musicdirector@uccplymouth.org</a>
Ashley Rose, Organist, Pianist	<a href="mailto:organist@uccplymouth.org">organist@uccplymouth.org</a>
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	<a href="mailto:faithformation@uccplymouth.org">faithformation@uccplymouth.org</a>
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@uccplymouth.org">treasurer@uccplymouth.org</a>

Guest Preacher: Rev. Ruth Martz

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ  
4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264  
(603) 536-2626 - [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org) - [www.uccplymouth.org](http://www.uccplymouth.org)

Celebrating Birthdays in January in our Community

If you have an upcoming birthday or anniversary, please email [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto: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		

