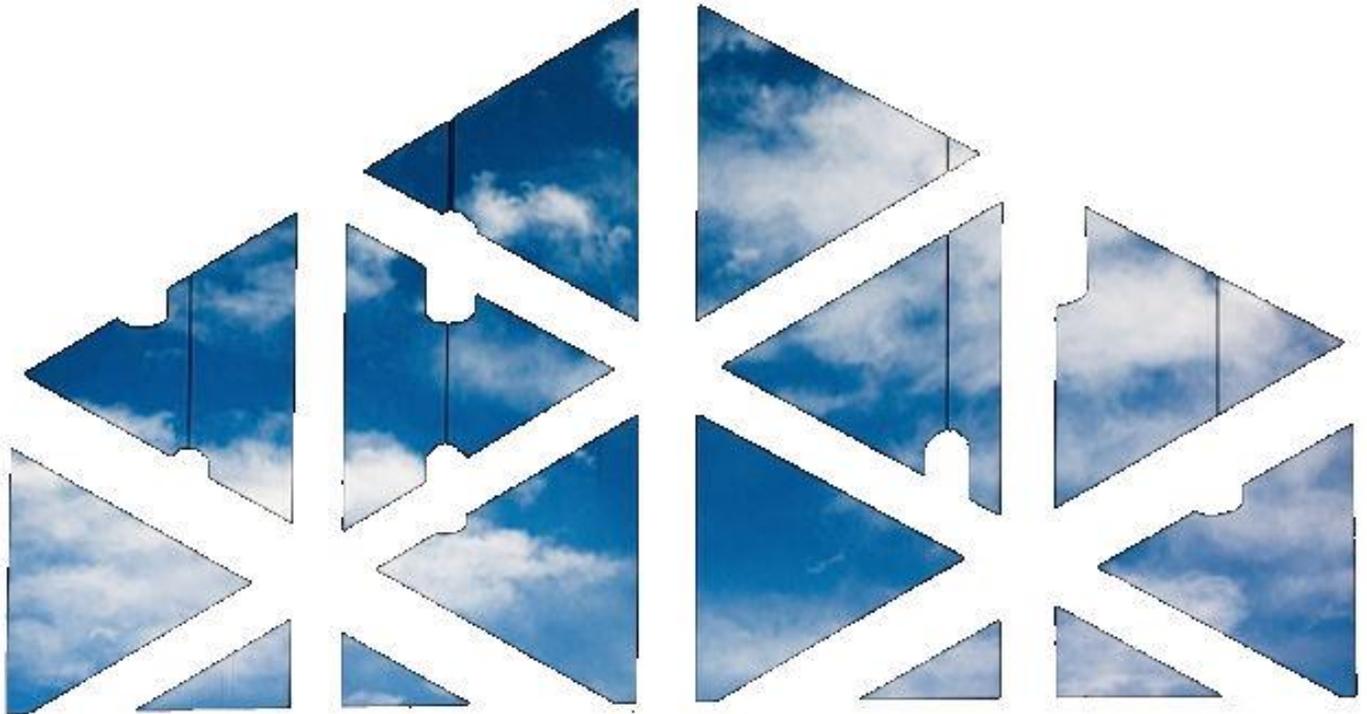


**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Third Sunday of Advent**

December 16, 2018

9:30 a.m.



A Just Peace Church
An Open and Affirming Congregation
A God is Still Speaking Congregation

Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

Welcome to Worship!

We are grateful for your presence this morning. If you are new to Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, the following information may be helpful.

- We are an Open & Affirming congregation where all people are valued and accepted regardless of sexual identity or orientation.
- We are a Just Peace church that affirms that peace is possible in human history and prays ceaselessly that peace may prevail on Earth.
- We celebrate our Christian heritage and seek to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.

A Special Word to our Visitors

- Please fill out the fellowship pads the ushers will hand out at the beginning of the worship service. We would love to get to know you better and keep you up-to-date on all the programs, events and activities offered throughout the year.
- Families with infants and children are especially welcome to our worship service. Childcare is available during the worship service in the nursery. Please speak with an usher if you need assistance to find our nursery.
- Children's bulletins, activity bags (to be returned after worship) and toys are available in the Narthex. To find out more about our Sunday school program, you may talk to our Faith Formation Director Cindy Bjerklie or visit our website.
- Our worship service can be heard in the parlor, chapel, and nursery.
- Our sanctuary is equipped with the Telecoil Loop System for the hard of hearing. For assistance on how to connect to the Telecoil, please speak to one of our ushers.
- Our building is fully accessible to all people. A small parking lot on the south side of the church is available only to persons with limited mobility or physical disability. The entrance to the parking lot is located immediately behind the Post Office, off Highland Street. An elevator connects all three levels.
- Join us for Coffee Hour in the fellowship hall downstairs immediately after the worship service.

Help us to protect the environment by dropping your bulletin in one of the recycling baskets at the two main entrances to the sanctuary. You may also download your bulletin from our website and follow the service on your own mobile device.

Large print bulletins are also available.

Transcripts of our Sunday bulletins and videos of the worship services are available on our website, www.uccplymouth.org.

Our worship service is live-streamed on our Facebook page every Sunday.

GATHERING

Prelude

The beginning of the prelude is an invitation to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

Welcome and Life of the Church

Centering Song Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh Willa Hutson

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy Eric and Julie Kelsey
Sophie, Madelyn and Tessa

One: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

All: As the Prophet Isaiah declared: "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

One: Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing."

All: Come, let us joyfully walk in God's light together.

***Hymn** "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" Blk#117
**Indicates congregation standing*

Prayer of the Day

One: Let us bring our lives to the One who comes to give us hope and life, in this and in every season, as we pray together, saying,

All: Source of all light and love, as we anticipate the Light of the World, draw us more deeply to this Season of Advent. Draw our eyes to the pleasant glow of a life that has depth and meaning. Draw our hearts out into the larger love that is your way in the world. When we are discouraged by the brokenness around us, help us to claim joy daily, as those who are welcoming the Christ Child. We pray in the name of the one who is, himself, good news of great joy for all people. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: As plain as the heart in our chests, the good news is this: God is our hope. God is our life. God is our future.

All: We will sing aloud, our voices at full throttle. We are a forgiven, forgiving community of grace! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (vs.1) Blk#43

Sign of Peace

One: We will not be afraid, for we are children of light and love.

All: Use us to bring life, joy, grace, and peace to all in this season of promises fulfilled.

One: Let us greet one another with signs of peace.

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Lessons

One: Listen for the Word of God

Hebrew Lesson

Isaiah 12:2-6

OT p.596

Epistle Lesson

Philippians 4:4-7

NT p.1024

One: May God bless our reading, hearing, and doing of God's holy word.

All: Amen

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

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.**

Offertory

Gift of Music

Hark, the Glad Sound

David Thorne

***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.

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

All: Radiant light and our eternal joy, because of the gifts you have brought daily into our lives, we dedicate ourselves to giving as constantly as we receive. Bless these humble gifts, along with us, and all those who have served in ministries of compassion and peace. Grant that we each may be bearers of your joy in this season, knowing that in Emmanuel, you are always drawing near. Amen.

The Children's Pageant

"Come to the Stable"

By Cynthia Cowen

Starring: PCUCC Kids with Tucker MacGrath as "Manny"

Narrators: Sophie Kelsey and Natalie Boyer

Please add your voice to the singing of the carols throughout the pageant.
The words to these familiar carols are located on the flyer in the bulletin.

SENDING

***Benediction**

One: Let us journey into the world with our God,

All: to rebuild shattered hearts with hope.

One: Let us spend each day with Jesus,

All: mending brokenness with love.

One: Let us share our hearts with the Spirit,

All: so we may be with those who are waiting for peace.

Choral Benediction

Let Us Go Forth Gladly

Postlude

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

Keeping in Prayer

Bethany	Jesse Armstrong	Sheri Stanley
Bill Borden	Dick Brace	Rob Coonan
Colin Robinson	Barbara LaShier	Annie Rice
Susan & Adam Messinger	Fred Paulsen	Lynn Anderson
Eileen Greenwood	Jeff Caron	Marilyn Wixson
Ann Thurston	Steven French	Belinda
Robert Heal	Tom Clark and Michelle Clark	

If you have any prayer requests, please fill out a prayer card located in the pew rack and drop it in the offering plate.

Save these dates

Today – Grace Templeton Piano Recital at PCUCC at 3:00 PM
December 23rd – Special Choir Presentation, “A Garland of Carols”
December 24th – Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 PM
January 10th – Winter Kitchen Clean-up

Announcements

Hospitality Committee – Following the service **today**, be sure to join us in the Fellowship Hall for holiday goodies. We will be serving a selection of beverages, snacks and cookies. You may sign up on the Will-U-Tree poster on the table by the door to bring snacks or on the bulletin board near the kitchen pass-through window to help in the kitchen. During the months December through March, there are open spaces to reserve a date. If you have any questions, you may contact Chris Pollock at 603-674-8590 or e-mail at rpollock@metrocast.net. Thank you from the Hospitality Committee!

Friendly Reminder – The Poinsettias Order Forms are due next **Tuesday, December 18th**.

Mission Committee – During the month of December, there will be two special collections. On Sunday, **December 23rd**, the collection is the Christmas Fund with special envelopes being available. The Habitat for Humanity collection is Christmas Eve, Monday, **December 24th**.

Christmas Cards - We are making a board for you to add a Christmas card to for the church family. Bring one nice card, sign it and we will post it on the board. If you would like to make a donation to Feed the Children, please include your donation with a note in the memo. Thanks everyone from Carole Curry!

Please sign the Christmas greeting cards for some of our members who can't be with us. Bev Tedeschi will have the cards arranged on a table in the Fellowship Hall just waiting for you to sign after worship.

Family Photos – Some of the pictures in the Sanctuary need a brief description. If you have not forwarded this, please send to the church office. Thank you!

Donations – During the month of December, each sale of the *Fresh* cookbook from Hannaford's will generate a \$5.00 donation to support PCUCC's Feeding Our Children Together. Thank you from Susan Wei!



Advent & Christmas at PCUCC

December 23rd – Special Choir Presentation, “A Garland of Carols”

December 23rd – “Christmas Fund” Special Offering

December 24th – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 PM

December 24th – “Habitat for Humanity” Special Offering

The Rev. Dr. Michael Carrier, Bridge Pastor
Deborah Healey, Church Office Administrator
Cindy Bjerklie, Director of Faith Formation
David Williams, Director of Music
Erin Tellier, Accompanist
Larry Spencer, Church Treasurer
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling

pastor@uccplymouth.org
office@uccplymouth.org
faithformation@uccplymouth.org
musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
organist@uccplymouth.org
treasurer@uccplymouth.org
gracecounseling@uccplymouth.org

Bill Heron, liturgist
Sharon Beaty, accompanist
, flute

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
4 Post Office Square, PO Box 86
Plymouth, NH 03264

(603)536-2626 ♦ office@uccplymouth.org ♦ www.uccplymouth.org