



**Plymouth United Church of Christ** Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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# Plymouth United Church of Christ

November 29, 2020

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## The Family of God Gathers

**Prelude** *Please let the prelude be a signal to prepare for worship.*

### Advent Candle Lighting—Hope ✠ §

Reader 1: It was the night when Hope was born. And just as now the world was in turmoil, but just as now God was watching and present in the world to make all things calm and to brighten the world with holy light.

Reader 2: *We call to people all around the world: let us unite and we will show how Hope can change us, and how Hope can help us grow into faithful disciples of Jesus, whose nativity we await.*

Reader 1: We enter this season of Advent—the season of waiting—by lighting this first candle, the candle of Hope, anticipating the coming light of the star that shone over Bethlehem for all to see.

Reader 2: *God of our future, we open ourselves to hear your call today; the call to keep hope alive no matter the troubles we face. Help us to never lose hope and to offer it to all around us—making our lives, our families, our communities, and our world a brighter place.*

Reader 1: Let us pray:

**All: Fill us with your light and your spirit of hope, a time of silent holiness, that will make the world calm and bright. Amen.**

### Music

“The First Noel”

### Prayer of Confession ✠ §

**You, God of hushed surprises, humbled yourself to join us as a baby boy, Emmanuel, God with us, to bring us your words and signs of hope. Forgive us our unquiet ways that replace your hope with worldly cynicism, and which cause division and strife in our families, between us and our neighbors, and between nations. Forgive us when we let the anxiety in our hearts and minds overcome the hope we know we should feel. Pacify our troubled hungers to live more fully into the hope of your love.**

**We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon §

L: Having offered to God some of the chaos of our lives, go forward with God in confidence and joy, because in Jesus’ name, you are forgiven!

### The Sign of Peace

*Now please take a moment and share the peace with those in your household and/or offer a moment to send prayers of peace to those you love who are not with you.*

### Centering Music

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

## The Service of the Word

### Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19

L: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

P: **You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.**

L: Stir up your might, and come to save us!

P: **Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

L: O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

P: **You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

L: You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

P: **Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

L: But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

P: **Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.**

L: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;

P: **let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

### Gospel

Mark 1:1–8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

### Sermon

### Musical Offering

“O Come, O Come Immanuel”

*Please mail your offerings and **pledge cards** to the church or drop them off at the office.*

## The Response to the Word

### Prayers of the People

### Lord's Prayer

**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, for ever. Amen.**

## Carol

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” (refrain)

## Benediction †§

L: On this pilgrimage of uncertainty,

**P: may we remember God has walked this road many times before.**

L: As we live through these endless moments,

**P: may we remember Jesus shares hope with us every day.**

L: in this season filled with isolation from others,

**P: may we remember that the Spirit knows our loneliness and cradles us in love. Amen.**

## Musical Benediction

“On Come All Ye Faithful”

## Postlude

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† <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>

§ Modified/written by Rev. David Huber

## Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. David Huber • Ministers: All the people of Plymouth • Pianist: Lynn McFadyen • Liturgist: Lil Savage

*We of Plymouth extend to you our hand of fellowship and an invitation to become a member. If you are interested, or have any questions, please speak with or send a note to Pastor David or our Moderator, Barb Kleist. Our table always has room for more.*

## This Week at Plymouth

**Sunday, November 29**

***1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent***

**Tuesday, December 1**

9:00 A.M. Coffee & Conversation

**Thursday, December 3**

3:30 P.M. Coffee & Conversation

**Sunday, December 6**

***Community Table offering***

***Cross illumination for November is sponsored by Mimi Pederson in loving memory of her sister Trudy Brewer.***

### **We pray for:**

- Our families and friends, our church, and ourselves.
- Paul Holmen dealing with health concerns
- The Jaenke family dealing with health concerns
- Paul Gilbertson dealing with health concerns.

***Coffee and Conversation*** is a virtual gathering via Zoom for folks who miss the Sunday morning coffee time at church. There is no set topic of conversation, and it's a nice way to keep in touch while we have to maintain social distance. Pastor David hosts the gatherings and posts the link on the church Facebook page. Check it out!  
<https://tinyurl.com/y2e87nmn>

### ***Who we are...***

*Plymouth UCC is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, since we are all created in God's image. We welcome into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ persons of every race, ethnic background, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socio-economic background, marital status and background. We welcome all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, humor, and blessings of participation in our congregation.*

## ***Spiritual Care Package***

### ***Question for Reflection***

The weeks leading to Christmas are often filled with much activity. This reading from Mark counsels us to be awake to, to pay attention to, what is most needful for our well-being and the well-being of the world: God's presence, God's appearing among us. Here at the beginning of Advent, how will you "keep alert" for God in the midst of so many responsibilities and distractions?

### ***Household Prayer: Morning***

Thank you, God, for the gift of life today. I give thanks that your face shines upon me—for you are my salvation. Lead me like a shepherd through this day. Strengthen me for whatever lies ahead. Grant me the spiritual gifts of peace, patience, kindness, and gentleness, for I want to show your love, in word and deed, to others. In Christ's name. Amen.

### ***Household Prayer: Evening***

Though you have told us to keep awake, O God, you have also blessed us with rest and sleep. Grant me such rest in the hours ahead that I awaken with eager longing for a new day, ready for you to be revealed in mundane moments and ordinary encounters. By your grace prepare me, whether awake or asleep, to greet you: in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn. All times are in your hands, and I, too, am in your hands, faithful God. In Jesus' name I rest and pray. Amen.

# **God is still speaking,**