



Celebration of Worship
December 3, 2023

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10:30 am

First Sunday of Advent

Enter in Prayer, Worship with Gratitude, Go Forth to Serve

Opening Voluntary

Divinum Mysterium
Christopher Shaw, organ

arr. Wilbur Held

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship

***Opening Hymn**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

(page 10)

*** Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

The Candle of Hope
Steve and Sally Kimball

***Responsive Reading**

From Psalm 122

One: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

All: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

One: Jerusalem built as a city that is bound firmly together.

All: To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord

*Light the Candle

Hope is a Candle

The musical score is written on two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: "Hope is a can-dle, once lit by the proph-ets, nev-er con-sumed, though it burns through the years;". The second staff continues the melody, with a change in time signature to 9/8 and then back to 6/8. The lyrics are: "dim in the day-light of pow-er and priv'-lege when they are gone, hope will shine on." The piece ends with a double bar line.

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*Invocation and Lord's Prayer

Merciful God you set your messengers and prophets to preach and prepare the way. Give us grace to heed their words and turn in a new direction, that we may celebrate aright the commemoration of this season and the coming of the one who taught us to pray ...*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.*

Scripture Reading

John 14:1-7 NRSV

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Confirmation

Reception of Confirmands

Presentation of the Bibles

Responsive Reading by mentors and students

Mentors Once you were infants dependent upon your family's love and the wisdom of others.

Youth Now we are young persons entering an adult world with increasing responsibilities for our own decision-making.

Mentors Once you belonged to an environment of faith and values outside your ability to alter or reject.

Youth Now our world has many systems and values for us to take into account.

Mentors Once you had few choices.

Youth Now our choices are many, sometimes frightening and always with long-range consequences.

Mentors Know that you are not alone. We give you our affection and concern, we stand with you and offer you our continuing love and support.

Affirmation of Purpose

Covenant of the Confirmands

"Believing in Jesus Christ, the Interpreter of God to humankind, we accept his teachings as the guiding principles of our lives and consecrate ourselves and our church to their fulfillment. We, therefore, join in covenant, one with another, to worship, work, and serve together that we may express through our church and our individual lives the love and faith taught by Jesus Christ."

Response of the Congregation

We, the members of Plymouth Congregational Church, welcome you into our communion and fellowship with joy. We pledge to you our help, our prayers, and our support, that we may evermore increase in the knowledge and love of God. God grand that loving and being loved, blessing and being blessed, serving and being served, we may be prepared while we dwell together on earth, for the building up of the Community of God.

Solo

Ave Maria
Ted Dvorak

Bach/Gounod

Translation from Latin:

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Organ Response

Invitation to Offering

Anthem

Christus Paradox

Alfred V. Fedak

You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd.
You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
You peace-maker and sword-bringer
of the way you took and gave.
You the everlasting instant;
You, whom we both scorn and crave.

Clothed in light upon the mountain,
stripped of might upon the cross,
shining in eternal glory,
beggar'd by a soldier's toss,
You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are both gift and cost.

You, who walk each day beside us,
sit in power at God's side.
You, who preach away that's narrow,
have a love that reaches wide.
You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are our pilgrim guide.

Worthy is our earthly Jesus!
Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and vict'ry.
Worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are our death and life.

(text by Sylvia Dunstan)

Sermon	“Jesus of Nazareth and the Progressive Church: No Other Name?”	Dr. Olsen
*Hymn of Departure	<i>Of the Parent's Heart Begotten</i>	(page 11)
*Benediction		
Closing Voluntary	<i>Lift Up Your Heads</i> Christopher Shaw, organ	arr. David Cherwien

***Let everyone stand in body or in spirit.**

North Entry Greeter Katy Brammer

Communion Table Flowers Katy Brammer

Plymouth Staff

Rev. Dr. Donald P. Olsen, Senior Minister
Rev. Dr. Karen Robu, Associate Minister
Dr. Henry Waters, Director of Music
Christopher Shaw, Organist
KD Keim, Administrative Assistant
Lindsay Miller, Sunday School Teacher
Tim Robu, Maintenance Engineer
Erik Breckenridge, Video Tech
John Palmer, Video Tech Assistant

Operation Holiday

Since 1961, Operation Holiday has made holidays brighter for families in need. The program distributes non-perishable food, fresh food vouchers, winter wear and blankets to low-income families and individuals.



Dec. 3—Soupy Sunday (Let's finish it off with canned soups)

Need ideas for Christmas Gifts?

How about a photo of Plymouth from the Centennial Celebration of the Sanctuary? Please contact Holly Yager at holly.yager@gmail.com if you would like a size that is not on the order form. All order forms are due in the church office by December 3rd. Proceeds will be used to promote Plymouth Congregational Church in the community.



Check out the following link to view the photos that are for sale
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1h0L-OVRBVIQEHwo6FuzkQ6IBWOeHIV2O?usp=sharing>.

Plymouth Art Gallery

This is the last week for Nicola Raadsma's artwork. A special thank you to Nicola for sharing her exhibit with us. Please let us know by Friday December 1st if you'd like to make a purchase.

New Artist for the Fine Arts Display Case

Joshua Larson has been creating pottery for over ten years. He specializes in wheel thrown pieces with a concentration on colorful, creative, and functional pieces. Joshua loves to travel, and each season gets inspired with new techniques to help his artistry evolve. Joshua especially loves visiting Mexico and gets inspired with all the color and patterns used in that part of the world. When not at pottery class Joshua can be found heading up the education program at Music Theatre Wichita or selling real estate with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices PenFed Realty.

Thank you for your support of the Fine Arts at Plymouth!

Poinsettia's

If you would like to give a plant in honor or in memory of a loved one, please send a check for \$17 and list the name on the memo line. The names will be listed in the worship bulletin December 17th and the 24th. Please place order by Thursday, December 14th by calling the office at 684-0221 or you can email us at office@plymouth-church.net



Fine Arts Board - Plymouth candles are back!

You may remember we created, in Oct 2022, a Plymouth candle to celebrate our 100th anniversary year in the sanctuary. We recently reordered two cases of the glass candle (12 per case) due to popular requests. Fourteen of those were spoken for.

There are 10 candles remaining with the custom Plymouth label and scent (cedar, oud, lavender). They are produced by local candle company Lola Candle Co. We are selling them for \$15 each. Stop by the glass display case to make your purchase. Thank you!

Christmas Caroling

We have a fun family event coming up for the holidays. Plymouth has a party bus reserved for Monday, December 18th from 6:00-8:00pm for us to go caroling. We will start loading the bus as soon as the bus arrives, so we ask that you are at Plymouth by 5:45pm that evening. We will be caroling at several retirement homes and at the homes of some of our Plymouth members all while seeing Christmas lights around the city. The bus holds 50 carolers. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you are able to attend. Come join us in spreading Christmas cheer for all to hear!!



Annual Multigenerational Christmas Pageant

Wednesday, December 20th | 5:30 pm Dinner | 6:30 pm Pageant

Christmas cookies in Fellowship Hall following the performance.
There will be a collection that evening to benefit the Plymouth Fine Arts Series.

Wichita
CHAMBER CHORALE

Sounding Joy:
**Christmas
Gift**

RAYVON T. J. MOORE, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

**9
DEC**

7PM

**PLYMOUTH
CONGREGATIONAL**

**10
DEC**

3PM

**ALDERSGATE
UNITED METHODIST**

The holidays are here and we're ready to brighten your spirits with the gift of music. Please join the Wichita Chamber Chorale for the 2023 "Sounding Joy: Christmas Gift" performance, Saturday, Dec 9th at 7pm, Plymouth Congregational Church. Tickets may be purchased online at <https://www.wichitachamberchorale.org/buy-tickets> or at the door. Thank you for your support.

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates;
 2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart;
 3. Re - deem - er, come, with us a - bide;
 4. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it lead us on

be - hold, the King of glo - ry waits;
 make it a tem - ple, set a - part
 our hearts to thee we o - pen wide;
 un - til our glo - rious goal is won;

the King of kings is draw - ing near;
 from earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy,
 let us thy in - ner pres - ence feel;
 e - ter - nal praise, e - ter - nal fame

the Sav - ior of the world is here!
 a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 thy grace and love in us re - veal.
 be of - fered, Sav - ior, to thy name!

Words: Georg Weissel, 17th century, trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1855, public domain; Music: TRURO, from *Psalmodia Evangelica*, T. Williams, 1789, public domain.

Of the Parent's Heart Begotten

1 Of the Par - ent's heart be - got - ten when the worlds were yet to be,
 2 By this Word was all cre - a - ted, by this Word were all things done:
 3 Bless - ed dawn - ing of sal - va - tion as the Word is breathed in grace
 4 Now be - hold the One whom proph - ets have fore - told for a - ges long
 5 Depths and heights break forth in sing - ing, an - gels, saints make mel - o - dy,

One there was with no be - gin - ning, One who is e - ter - nal - ly—
 Land and air and deep - est o - cean, har - mo - ny of three in one,
 In - to earth - ly flesh re - ceiv - ing— God in - car - nate tak - ing place;
 On the faith - ful page of scrip - ture, seers and sag - es in their song;
 All do - min - ions, ev - ery power sing, make new psalms of ec - sta - sy,

Source and End - ing of all things that have been,
 And all grow - ing in the lu - - - mi - nance
 Now the light of God re - vealed
 Now the Prom - ised One shines forth!
 Let no heart re - frain from prais - - - ing God,

and all things that are to be, for - ev - er and for - ev - er.
 shed forth from the moon and sun, for - ev - er and for - ev - er.
 through the Child of hu - man face, for - ev - er and for - ev - er.
 Let all earth its praise pro - long for - ev - er and for - ev - er.
 cel - e - brate in har - mo - ny, for - ev - er and for - ev - er.

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 7am Blood Drive 10:30am Confirmation Sunday Worship	4 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	5 5:30pm Cabinet / Trustee Mtg	6 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 6pm Pageant rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	7 11:30am Walk & Lunch 2pm Plymouth Projects	8 7pm WCC Concert Rehearsal	9 7pm WCC Concert
10 10:30am New Member Sunday Worship	11 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	12 5:30pm Growth Steering	13 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 6pm Pageant rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	14 11:30am Walk & Lunch 2pm Plymouth Projects	15	16
17 10:30am Christmas Music Sunday Worship 11:30 am Pageant rehearsal	18 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	19 5:30pm Investment Club	20 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 6:30pm Christmas Pageant 7pm Choir Rehearsal	21 11:30am Walk & Lunch 2pm Plymouth Projects 5:45pm CE 7pm Christmas Organ Concert	22	23

**Please join us for worship next Sunday, December 10th.
Dr. Olsen will be Preaching.**

The Plymouth Covenant

Believing in Jesus Christ, the Interpreter of God to humankind, we accept His teachings as the guiding principles of our lives and consecrate ourselves and our church to their fulfillment. We therefore join in covenant, one with another, to worship, work, and serve together that we may express through our Church and our individual lives the love and faith taught by Jesus Christ.