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***Celebration of Worship***  
**December 1, 2024**

# Celebration of Worship

December 1, 2024

10:30 am

## First Day of Advent

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

Opening Voluntary

Carol of Hope  
Christopher Shaw, organ

Ron Schmoltze

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

*People Look East*

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**\*Responsive Sentences**

Cindy Perkins

One: Return, in the dimming winter light, to stories of Hope.

**All: Yes, there is suffering.**

One: Yes, there is sorrow.

**All: Yes, the weight of loss makes it hard to move.**

One: Who, today, can we meet with simple care?

**All: How can we find a moment of ease within our spirits?**

One: Return in the dimming winter light, to stories of Hope—

**All: starlight and song.**

Adapted from [Enfleshed.com](http://Enfleshed.com)

**\*Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**The Candle of Hope**  
Joyce and Joan Gedraitis

## \*Light the Candle

## *Hope is a Candle*

The musical score is written on two staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff begins in 6/8 time and contains the lyrics: "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 in 6/8 time with the lyrics: "dim in the day-light of pow-er and priv'-lege when they are gone, hope will shine on." The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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## \*Invocation and Lord's Prayer

**In you, Steadfast Liberator, we put our trust. Teach us your ancient path of love; show us your compassionate and courageous ways. Reinvigorate within us the rebellious ways of our youth—that we may not get stuck in ruts of dusty thinking; that we may not abide unjust rules; that we may imagine more expansive futures.**

**Ever-present Rhythm of Love—lead us not to resignation. When the night is long, sing to us songs of the hope of the one who prayed...**

**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.**

Invocation adapted from [Enfleshed.com](http://Enfleshed.com)

## Scripture Reading

Luke 21:25-36

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

## Scripture Reading - continued

Luke 21:25-36

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

## Welcoming Song

*Holy Child within the manger*

JOYOUS LIGHT

(Let the children come forward.)



Ho-ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us ev - er in your way, so we see in ev-'ry  
stran - ger how you come to us to - day. In our lives and in our liv - ing give us  
strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for - giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

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## A Moment with Our Children

Lindsay Miller

## Solo

*Come, Thou dear Redeemer*  
Clifton Vogt

César Franck

Come Thou, come Thou dear Redeemer.  
Come Lord Jesus to set us free,  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Hope of all the earth Thou art.  
Joy of every longing heart.

Come Thou, come Thou, dear Redeemer  
Born a Child, yet Thou art a King.  
Born to reign in us forever.  
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.  
Rule in all our hearts alone.  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne. Amen.

## Prayer Concerns

## Pastoral Prayer

adapted from Enfleshed.com

## Prayer Response

## Invitation to Offering

## Anthem

*O Come, Emmanuel*

Elaine Hagenberg

O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee  
O Israel.

O come thou Dayspring come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine Advent here,  
and drive away the shades of night,

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All people in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease,  
And fill the world with Heaven's peace.

## Sermon

“Hope: That Thing With Feathers”

## Closing Hymn

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

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## \*Benediction

## Closing Voluntary

Prepare the Royal Highway

arr. Paul Manz

Select liturgy adapted or taken from Enfleshed.com

\* Let all who are able please stand.

\*\*\* Ushers will seat late comers

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**North Entry Greeter** Cindy Perkins

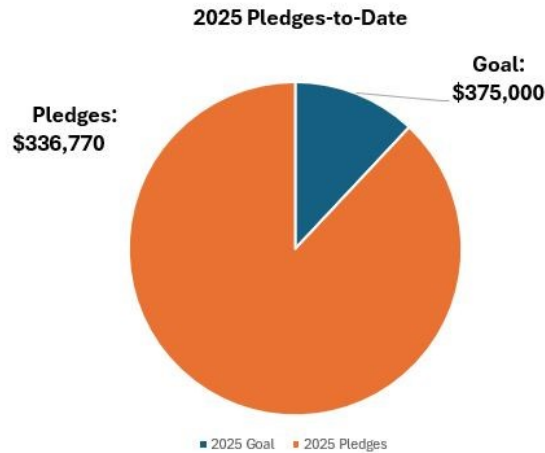
Advent Wreath Litany by Rev. Anna Blaedel

# Honoring our Heritage, Welcoming our Future Stewardship 2025

Thank you so much to those who've already pledged!

We are grateful for your generosity.

Pledge cards are available in our office. We'll be happy to send you one by mail, as well. Questions about pledging? Contact one of the Stewardship co-chairs:



## Plymouth Congregational Church Blood Drive

Sunday, December 1st 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

We're celebrating 30 years of FRIENDS with exclusive merch! Come to give blood at Plymouth for 2 pairs of custom FRIENDS + Red Cross socks, while they last! Keep a pair, gift a pair & ask a friend to be there for patients too! Giving is better with FRIENDS

**To make an appointment to donate blood or call 1-800-RED CROSS (733-2767). Photo ID or Red Cross Donor Card required.**



**HOLIDAY CHOIR &  
ORCHESTRA  
SUN / DEC 8  
10:30 AM**

**BLUE CHRISTMAS  
SERVICE  
SAT / DEC 21  
5:30 - 6:00 PM**

**Celebrate the Season with us!**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

**TUES / DEC 24**

**6 PM FAMILY SERVICE**

**11 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**



## DECEMBER

- DEC 4: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal following dinner**
- DEC 8: Christmas Music Sunday**
- DEC 11: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal following dinner**
- DEC 15: Christmas Caroling @ 5:45 pm to 7:45 pm**
- DEC 18: Christmas Pageant following dinner. Pageant @ 6:30 pm**
- DEC 19: Christmas Organ Concert @ 7 PM**
- DEC 21: Blue Christmas Service @ 5:30 pm**
- DEC 22: Winter Shelter Prep & Serve Dinner**
- DEC 24: Christmas Eve Services Tuesday @ 6 PM and 11 PM**

## JANUARY

- JAN 29: Wed. Dinner Guests @ Sedgwick County Zoo**
- JAN 31: Word & Note - JAN 31/Feb 1/Feb 2**

## Plymouth Staff

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

## Fine Arts Display Case

Welcome to Svitlana Tararuk, our display case artist for November and December. As Ukrainian artist, the tradition of decorating

Easter eggs, or “pysanky,” holds a profound significance in my life and creative expression. It is a celebration of heritage, spirituality, and the cyclical nature of life. Each design is carefully considered and often inspired by traditional motifs. My artistic journey is deeply rooted in personal experiences and observations. Emotions play a pivotal role in my creative process. I believe that art is a bridge

between cultures and generations. Beyond the aesthetic aspect, my work carries a deeper message about resilience and hope. In the face of challenges, the act of creating pysanky becomes a meditative process, allowing me to reflect on themes of renewal and

transformation, and giving me a feeling of stability. Each egg is a symbol of new beginnings, and through my art I aspire others to embrace their own journeys of growth and discoveries.



## Welcome Svitlana Tararuk

## Fine Arts Hallway Display

Born in Wichita, Pam Bjork's creative journey has been shaped by a lifetime of rich experiences and global exploration. After attending UC Berkeley in 1968-69, she spent 26 years as a restaurateur in Colorado and Kansas, earning recognition such as the Business in the Arts Award. Her travels have taken her across five continents, where she participated in and observed diverse cultural ceremonies that deeply inform her artistic practice.

Pam's work reflects her belief in the presence of the sacred in

everyday life. She finds inspiration in the objects and environments that surround us, from a pair of cloisonné lovebirds brought back from

Singapore by her father to the quilt lovingly stitched by her grandmother. Through her art, she invites viewers to explore the deeper meanings and connections these items hold, reminding us that as archetypal psy-

chologist James Hillman suggests, "All things are full of Gods."



## Welcome Pam Bjork



## People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more  
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the  
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more  
 5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are  
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to  
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are  
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y  
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look

a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.  
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.  
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.  
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.  
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

east and sing to - day:

Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 Love, the Bird, is on the way.  
 Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo - ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)

# 218 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7 D

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (Em/D) (A) (D) (A) (D)  
 F C F Gm/F C F C F

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy  
 2 Come, thou u - ni - ver - sal Sav - ior; come, re - deem the  
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and

(Em/G) (A) (D) (A) (D) (Em/D) (A)  
 Gm/Bb C F C F Gm/F C

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,  
 hu - man race. Life and joy spring from thy fa - vor;  
 yet a king; born to reign in us for - ev - er,

(D) (A) (D) (Em/G) (A) (D) (F#m) (Bm7) (Em7)  
 F C F Gm/Bb C F Am Dm7 Gm7

let us find our rest in thee: Is - rael's strength and con - so -  
 cheer each soul in need of grace. Still we wait for thine ap -  
 now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

Words: Charles Wesley, public domain: Music: STUTTGART, *Psalmodia Sacra*, Gotha, 1715, attr. to Christian F. Witt, public domain.

(A7) (D) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus)(A) (D) (Em7)  
 C7 F Dm Gm7 Csus C F Gm7

la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of  
 pear - ing— make our sense - less strug - gles cease. Guide us from our  
 Spir - it, rule in all our hearts a - lone. By thine all - suf -

(D) (A) (D) (G) (D/A) (A7) (D)  
 F C F Bb F/C C7 F

ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
 wea - ry wand - 'ring in - to paths of per - fect peace.  
 fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

# December 2024

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday                                      | Saturday   |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Dec 1</b><br><b>10:30 AM</b><br><b>Worship Service</b><br><br><b>8:30—1:30 pm</b><br><b>Red Cross Blood Drive</b> | <b>2</b><br><b>8 AM</b><br><b>Aerobics</b><br><br><b>2pm</b> <b>Prairie Wind Folk Dancers</b>  | <b>3</b><br><b>5:30 PM</b><br><b>Cabinet Meeting</b><br><br><b>6:30 PM</b><br><b>Spinning Boots</b>        | <b>4</b><br><b>8 AM</b><br><b>Aerobics</b><br><br><b>5:30 pm</b><br><b>WED Night Dinner / Pageant Rehearsal</b><br><br><b>7:00 pm</b><br><b>Choir Rehearsal</b>  | <b>5</b><br><b>11:30 am</b><br><b>Lunch &amp; Walk!</b><br><br><b>12:30 pm</b><br><b>Plymouth Projects</b><br><br><b>1:30 pm</b><br><b>Women's AA Coffee Group</b>  | <b>6</b><br><b>8 AM</b><br><b>Aerobics</b>  | <b>7</b>   |
| <b>8</b><br><b>10:30 AM</b><br><b>Worship Service</b><br><br><b>***HOLIDAY***</b><br><b>ORCHESTRA &amp; CHOIR</b>    | <b>9</b><br><b>8 AM</b><br><b>Aerobics</b><br><br><b>2pm</b> <b>Prairie Wind Folk Dancers</b>  | <b>10</b><br><b>6:30 PM</b><br><b>Spinning Boots</b>   | <b>11</b><br><b>8 AM</b><br><b>Aerobics</b><br><br><b>5:30 pm</b><br><b>WED Night Dinner / Pageant Rehearsal</b><br><br><b>7:00 pm</b><br><b>Choir Rehearsal</b> | <b>12</b><br><b>11:30 am</b><br><b>Lunch &amp; Walk!</b><br><br><b>12:30 pm</b><br><b>Plymouth Projects</b><br><br><b>1:30 pm</b><br><b>Women's AA Coffee Group</b> | <b>13</b><br><b>8 AM</b><br><b>Aerobics</b> | <b>14</b>  |
| <b>15</b><br><b>10:30 AM</b><br><b>Worship Service</b><br><br><b>5:45 pm</b><br><b>Christmas Caroling Bus Tour</b>   | <b>16</b><br><b>8 AM</b><br><b>Aerobics</b><br><br><b>2pm</b> <b>Prairie Wind Folk Dancers</b> | <b>17</b><br><b>7 PM</b><br><b>Organ Recital Chris Shaw</b><br><br><b>6:30 PM</b><br><b>Spinning Boots</b> | <b>18</b><br><b>8 AM</b><br><b>Aerobics</b><br><br><b>5:30 pm</b><br><b>WED Night Dinner + Christmas Pageant</b><br><br><b>7:00 pm</b><br><b>Choir Rehearsal</b> | <b>19</b><br><b>11:30 am</b><br><b>Lunch &amp; Walk!</b><br><br><b>12:30 pm</b><br><b>Plymouth Projects</b><br><br><b>1:30 pm</b><br><b>Women's AA Coffee Group</b> | <b>20</b><br><b>8 AM</b><br><b>Aerobics</b> | <b>21</b><br><b>5:30 pm</b><br><b>Blue Christmas Service</b> |

**Join us for Worship next Sunday, December 8th for Holiday Music!!**

## 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.