



Celebration of Worship

December 24, 2024

6:00 PM Service

Celebration of Worship

December 24, 2024

6:00 pm

Christmas Eve

Opening Voluntary

Angels, from the Realms of Glory
Christopher Shaw, organ

Edwin C. Johnson

Call to Worship

*Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Verses 1 & 3 Page 6

*Responsive Reading

Finley Watson

One: Like the shepherds, we come to the stable,
uncertain of what we have heard and seen,

All: longing to hear a word of peace and joy.

One: Like the magi, we have journeys to make,
gifts to offer, and hope in our hearts,

All: that this world can change for the better.

One: Here, in the stillness of a winter's night,
we gather to share the light of Christ,
a light that shines in the nightfall.

**All: We gather in the wonder of this night
to share our joy and thanks for new life.**

From "Lessons and Carols: Christmas Eve Service" United Church of Canada

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Miller Family

*Light the Candle

Christ is the Candle



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FIRST LESSON Luke 2:1-5

Murphy Miller

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Page 7

SECOND LESSON Luke 2:6-7

Dawes Watson

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Carol

Away in a Manger

Page 8

THIRD LESSON Luke 2:8-14

Finley Stevens

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

Carol

Angels We have Heard on High

Page 9

FOURTH LESSON Luke 2:15-20

Ben Miller

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Solo

Mary Did You Know?
Lindsay Miller

Buddy Greene

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Solo

Christ Child Lullaby

Dr. Robu

Christmas Blessing

Dr. Robu

***Closing Carol/Candle Lighting**

Silent Night

Page 10

***Benediction**

Please exit in silence following the benediction

Select liturgy adapted or taken from Enfleshed.com

* Please rise in body or in spirit

*** Ushers will seat late comers

Cover image: Pastel and charcoal drawing by Wichita artist, Wade Hampton

Alternative Lyrics by Jennifer Henry to *Mary Did You Know?*

Mary did you know,
that your ancient words
would still leap off our pages?
Mary did you know,
that your spirit song
would echo through the ages?

Did you know that your holy cry
would be subversive word,
that the tyrants would be trembling
when they know your truth is heard?

Mary did you know,
that your lullaby
would stir your own Child's passion?
Mary did you know,
that your song inspires
the work of liberation?

Did you know that your Jubilee
is hope within the heart
of all who dream of justice,
who yearn for it to start?

The truth will teach, the drum will sound, healing for
the pain

The poor will rise, the rich will fall. Hope will live
again

Mary did you know,
that we hear your voice
for the healing of the nations?
Mary did you know,
your unsettling cry
can help renew creation?

Do you know, that we need your faith,
the confidence of you,
May the God that you believe in,
be so true.



Poinsettias that adorn
our sanctuary are
given in honor and in memory of
our loved ones.

Given in Memory of:

Sharon Safley and Bob Arthur

Charlie and Doris Watson
Richard and Patti Shields

Bill Miller and Elijah Rashad-Ruffin

Jamie, Tom and Beloved Family

John K Nelson, brother
Christi Maurer Hoehn, friend and
former Plymouth member
Mary A Nelson, sister

Bert McCormick, Paul J. Uhlig
Edgar Turner

Hunter Wishart and Cindy Sparks

Colleen Euson

Amy Neel and Richard Neel

Ted and John Robu

Their loved ones

Their parents

Given by:

Abby Arthur, Tom, Michael
and Robert Safley

Sue and Kurt Watson

Chris and Lindsay Miller

Jeanne Thompson

Anna and Paul Uhlig

The children of Bert McCormick

Henry Waters

Rich Euson

Elaine and Garry Neel

Tim and Karen Robu

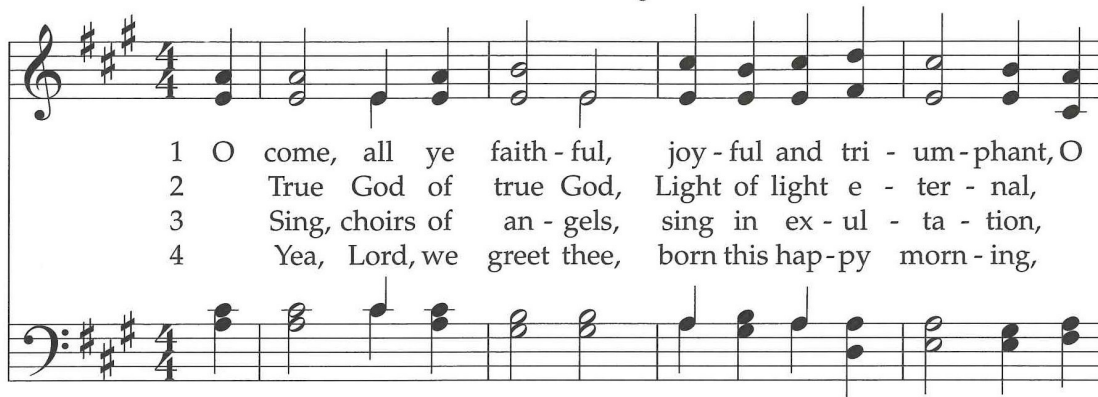
Steve and Cathie Yager

Bernie and Alberta Nichols

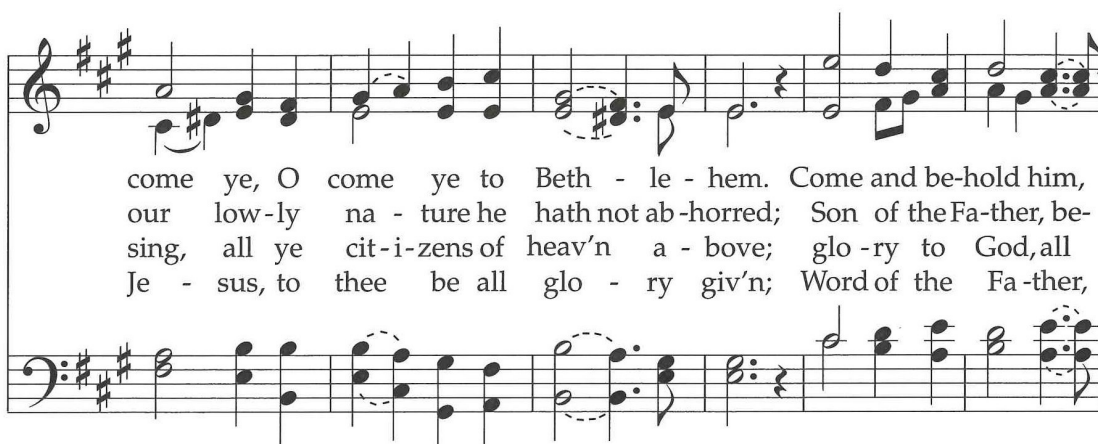
Verses 1 and 3

O come, all ye faithful

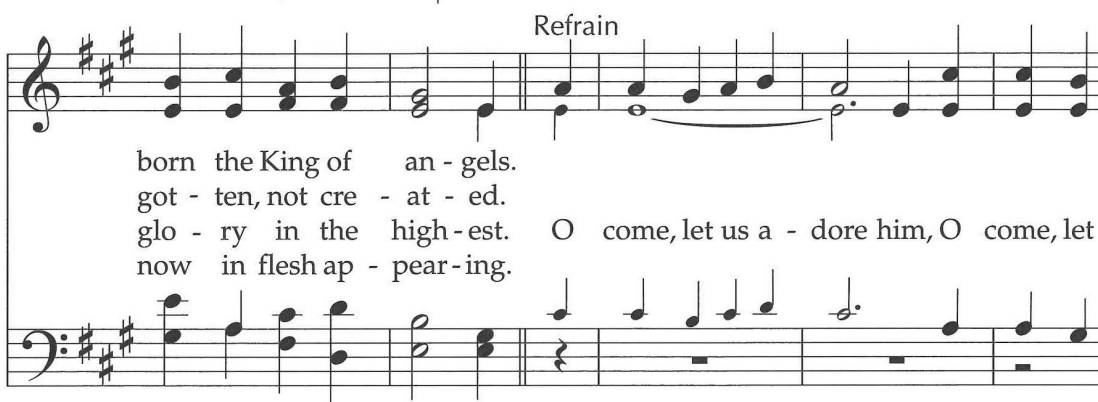
ADESTE FIDELES Irregular



1 O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O
2 True God of true God, Light of light e-ter-nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap-py morn-ing,



come ye, O come ye to Beth-le-hem. Come and be-hold him,
our low-ly na-ture he hath not ab-horred; Son of the Fa-ther, be-
sing, all ye cit-i-zens of heav'n a-bove; glo-ry to God, all
Je-sus, to thee be all glo-ry giv'n; Word of the Fa-ther,



Refrain
born the King of an-gels.
got-ten, not cre-at-ed.
glo-ry in the high-est. O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let
now in flesh ap-pear-ing.



us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore him, Christ the Lord.

Words: John Francis Wade, 1743, trans. by Frederick Oakeley, 1841, public domain: Music: ADESTE FIDELES, John Francis Wade, 1743, public domain.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.


Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Words: Phillips Brooks, c. 1868, public domain; Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1868, public domain.


Away in a Manger

Capo 3: (D) F (G) B \flat (D) F




1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

(A7) C7 (D) F




the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

(G) B \flat (D) F



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

(A7) C7 (D) F (Em) Gm (A7) C7 (D) F



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

Words: Anon. (Luke 2: 7), public domain; Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1887, public domain.

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad-some ti - dings be which in-spire your heaven-ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Words: Traditional French Carol; Trans.: *Crown of Jesus Music*, London, 1862, public domain; MUSIC: GLORIA, French carol, public domain.

Silent Night, Holy Night!

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818, public domain; Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1818, public domain.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31



7 - 8 PM Sarah McCammon

"My Exvangelical Journey: Loving, Living and Leaving the Church that was Home"

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1



10 AM - Noon Sarah McCammon

"Faith, Politics, and the 2024 Election"

Noon - 1 PM Lunch at Plymouth or nearby restaurant

1 - 2 PM Mark A. Miller

"Worship & Music in a Time of Crisis"

7 PM Mark A. Miller

"Songs of Justice & Joy"

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2



10:30 AM Sarah McCammon

"New Life in the Wilderness"

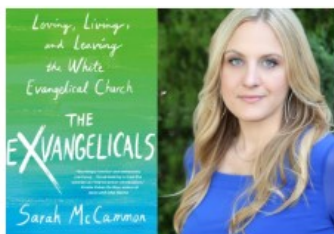


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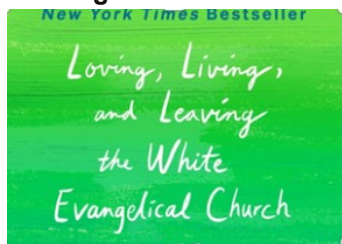
WED JAN 22 5:30



Progressive Pilgrims' Book Club

Our 2025 season kicks off on Wednesday, January 22nd, with "The Exvangelicals", by author Sarah McCammon, an American journalist and a National Correspondent for [NPR] National Public Radio focusing on political, social and cultural divides in America Sarah is also our keynote speaker for this year's Word & Note, January 31 through February 2, 2025.

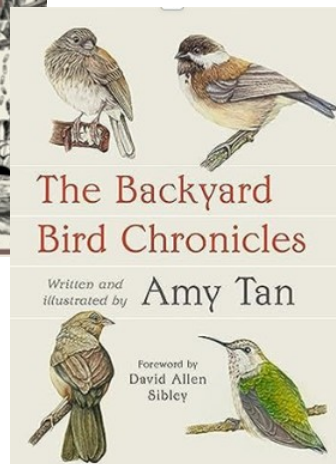
JAN 22:
The
Exvangelicals



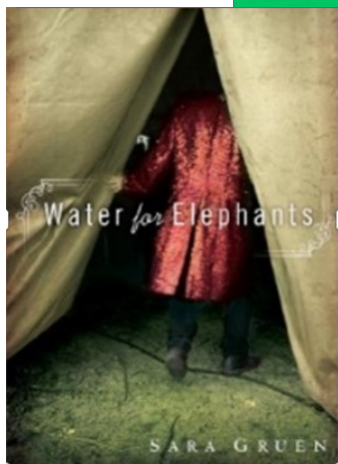
FEB 26:
Demon
Copperhead



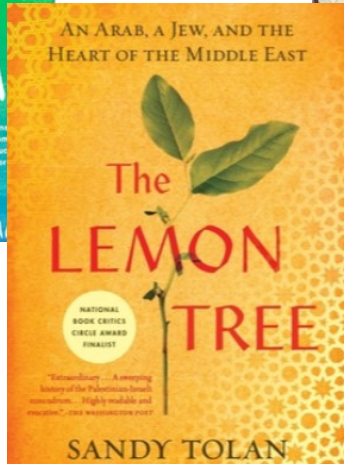
MAY 21:
The Backyard
Bird
Chronicles





MAR 26:
Water for
Elephants



APR 30:
The Lemon
Tree



December / January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22 10:30 AM Worship Service 2 pm—6:30 pm Prepare and Serve Dinner: Humankind Winter Shelter	23 8 AM Aerobics 2pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers Preschool CLOSED	24 6 pm Family Christmas Service 11 pm Candlelight Christmas Service Preschool CLOSED	25 CHRISTMAS DAY CLOSED 	26 11:30 am Lunch & Walk! 12:30 pm Plymouth Projects 1:30 pm Women's AA Coffee Group	27 8 AM Aerobics	28
29 10:30 AM Worship Service with Lay Speaker, Abby Arthur	30 8 AM Aerobics 2pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	31 New Year's Eve	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! CLOSED 	2 11:30 am Lunch & Walk! 12:30 pm Plymouth Projects 1:30 pm Women's AA Coffee Group	3 8 AM Aerobics	4
5 10:30 AM Worship 2 pm—6:30 pm Prepare and serve dinner: Humankind Winter Shelter	6 8 AM Aerobics 2pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	7 6:30 PM Spinning Boots	8 5:30 pm WED Night Dinner	9 11:30 am Lunch & Walk! 12:30 pm Plymouth Projects 1:30 pm Women's AA Coffee Group	10 8 AM Aerobics	11

Join us for Worship next Sunday, December 29th.

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.