



Celebration of Worship
December 11, 2022

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10:30 am

Third Sunday of Advent Christmas Music Sunday

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

Opening Voluntary

Noël X
Christopher Shaw, organ

Louis-Claude Daquin

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

***Call to Worship**

***Opening Hymn**

Blest Be the God of Israel

(page 9)

***Responsive Reading**

Phil. 4:4-8 NRSV

One: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

All: Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

One: And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

All: Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Anthem

“People, Look East”
from *Sing We Now of Christmas*

arr. Howard Helvey

People, look East.
The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able.
Trim the hearth, and set the table.
People, look East, and sing today:
“Love, the Guest, is on the way.”

Furrows, be glad.
Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength, the seed to nourish;
that in course, the flow’r may flourish.
People, look East, and sing today:
“Love, the Rose, is on the way.”

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen,
He for fledging time has chosen.
People, look East, and sing today:
“Love the Bird, is on the way.”

Star, keep the watch.
When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim;
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look East, and sing today:
“Love, the Star, is on the way.”

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set ev’ry peak and valley humming
with the Word, the Lord is coming.
People, look East, and sing today:
“Love, the Lord, is on the way.”

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Candle of Joy Simon & Anne Kindel

*Light the Candle

Hope is a Candle

Joy is a can-dle of mys-tery and laugh - ter, mys - tery of light that is born in the dark;
laugh - ter at hear-ing the voice of an an - gel, ev - er so near, cast-ing out fear.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics, with a change in time signature from 4/4 to 3/4 and then to 6/8.

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Anthem

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel Eli Regier, sax

arr. Timothy L. Bandy

Oh, come, oh 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.

Oh, come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations,
bind in one the hearts of all humankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our king of peace!
Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Invocation and Lord's Prayer

Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you through 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.*

Anthem

Come and Hear the Joyful Singing

Peter Buller, oboe

Eli Regier, tambourine

Hal H. Hopson

arr. Steven Strite

Come and hear the joyful singing, alleluia, gloria.
Set the bells of heaven ringing; alleluia, gloria.
God, the Lord has shown us favor, alleluia gloria.
Christ is born to be our Savior, alleluia, gloria!

Angels of his birth are telling, alleluia, gloria.
Prince of Peace, all powers excelling; alleluia, gloria.
Death and hell cannot defeat him: alleluia, gloria.
Go to Bethlehem and greet him, alleluia, gloria.

Choir and people, shout in wonder, alleluia, gloria!
Let the might organ thunder; alleluia, gloria!
Thank our God for love amazing, alleluia, gloria.
Father, Son, and Spirit praising, alleluia, gloria!

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10 DNJB

Let the desert and the dry lands be glad, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom; like the asphodel, let it burst into flower, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; then they will see the glory of Yahweh, the splendor of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees, and say to the faint-hearted, 'Be strong! Do not be afraid. Here is your God, justice is coming, divine reckoning is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame will leap like a deer and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy; for water will gush in the desert and streams in the wastelands, the parched ground will become a marsh and the thirsty land springs of water; the lairs where the jackals used to live will become plots of reed and papyrus. And through it will run a road for them and a highway which will be called the Sacred Way; the unclean will not be allowed to use it; He will be the one to use this road, the fool will not stray along it. No lion will be there, no ferocious beast set foot on it, nothing of the sort be found; it will be used by the redeemed. For those whom Yahweh has liberated will return, they will come to Zion shouting for joy, their heads crowned with joy unending; rejoicing and gladness will escort them and sorrow and sighing will take flight.

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

Dr. Robu

Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

My Soul Proclaims with Wonder

(page 10)

Invitation to Offering

Anthem

When Christmas Morn is Dawning
Eli Regier, sax

Kyle Pederson

When Christmas morn is dawning,
in faith help me to see
the child there in the manger,
a mirror, God, of thee.

A gift of grace and mercy,
of innocence and truth;
the child there in the manger
is making all things new.

Oh, keep my gaze upon thee
and may I ne'er forget
though the world is trembling
Emmanuel lives yet.

So come this Christmas morning,
when I first awake,
draw my heart to you, Lord,
and with each breath I take,
fill my soul with wonder
at the manger where you lay.

Oh, make my heart the manger,
the manger where you lay.

Sermon "A Place of Courageous Joy" Dr. Olsen
***Hymn of Departure** *He comes to us as one unknown* (page 11)
***Benediction**
Closing Voluntary *Carol of the Advent (Besançon)* arr. Rebecca Groom Te Velde
Christopher Shaw, organ

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

Plymouth Staff

Rev. Dr. Donald P. Olsen, Senior Minister
Rev. 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
Bill Berry & Ramikia Stevenson, Custodians

Blest Be the God of Israel



1. Blest be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;
2. God from the house of Da - vid a child of grace is giv'n;
3. On those who sit in dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty.
a Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heav'n.
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.



The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
God guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.



God shall ful - fill that prom - ise and bring the peo - ple peace.
the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

My Soul Proclaims with Wonder

My soul pro-claims with won - der the great-ness of the Lord,

G C Bm Am D G Bm Am7 G *Fine*

re - joic - ing in God's great - ness, my spir - it is re - stored.

G C Am7 D G C

1 To me has God shown fa - vor, to one the world thought frail,
 2 God's mer - cy shields the faith - ful and saves them from de - feat,
 3 The might - y have been van-quished, the low - ly lift - ed up.
 4 To Ab - ra-ham's de - scen - dants, the Lord will stead-fast prove,

Am E7 Am E Am Em A7 D *To refrain*

and ev - 'ry age will ech - o the an - gel's first "All hail."
 with strength that turns to scat - ter the proud in their con - ceit.
 The hun - gry find a - bun - dance, the rich, an emp - ty cup.
 for God has made with Is - rael a cov - e - nant of love.

He comes to us as one unknown



1 He comes to us as one un-known, a
2 He comes when souls in si-lence lie and
3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the
4 He comes in love as once he came by
5 He comes in truth when faith is grown - be -



1 breath un - seen, un - heard, as though with - in a
2 thoughts of day de - part, half - seen up - on the
3 o - cean's fume and foam, yet small and still up -
4 flesh and blood and birth, to bear with - in our
5 lieved, o - beyed, a - dored; the Christ in all the



1 heart of stone, or shriv - eled seed in dark - ness sown, a
2 in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a - cross the sky of
3 on the breeze, a wind that stirs the tops of trees, a
4 mor - tal frame a life, a death, a sav - ing name, for
5 Scrip - tures shown, as yet un - seen, but not un - known, our



1 pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.
2 night with - in the heart, of night with - in the heart.
3 voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.
4 ev - 'ry child of earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth.
5 Sav - ior and our Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.


Annual Multigenerational Christmas Pageant

Wednesday, December 21st | 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.

Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir

How Can We Keep From Singing?
Wednesday, January 4 at 7 pm.
Plymouth Congregational Church
With guest choir from Goddard High
School Madrigals

A green poster for a Christmas Organ Concert. The top features a decorative border with holly leaves, berries, and ornaments. The text is centered and reads: "Tuesday, December 20th, 2022, 7:00 PM" in a small font, followed by "Christmas Organ Concert" in a large, elegant script font. Below that, "Christopher Shaw, organ" is written in a clean sans-serif font. Further down, "Guest Musicians:" is followed by "Georgeanne Yehling, soprano" and "Joe Richey, oboe". At the bottom, the venue information "Plymouth Congregational Church" and "202 N. Clifton Ave, Wichita, Kansas" is listed. The bottom of the poster features a decorative border with a Christmas tree and snowflakes.

Tuesday, December 20th, 2022, 7:00 PM

Christmas Organ Concert

Christopher Shaw, organ

Guest Musicians:
Georgeanne Yehling, soprano
Joe Richey, oboe

Plymouth Congregational Church
202 N. Clifton Ave, Wichita, Kansas

A photograph of a church interior at night, decorated for Christmas. The pews are lined with lit candles, and the altar area is illuminated with warm lights. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, white, serif font.

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
December 24, 7 p.m.
Christmas Morning Service
December 25, 10:30 a.m.

Plymouth Hallway Art Gallery

Tallgrass Prairie Press Printmakers.

Founded by Doug Billings at Mark Arts Art Center in Wichita, this is a group of contemporary local artists who have chosen to focus their artistic abilities in producing hand pulled original prints.

They work primarily out of the printmaking studio at Mark Arts, producing a wide range of different printmaking processes such as: stone & poly plate lithographs, copper plate etchings, solar plate etchings & relief prints, collagraphs, wood & linoleum relief prints and monotypes & monoprints.

Their styles range from the abstract to realism, and from impressionism to modern or contemporary styles.

The object of the TPPP is to raise the visibility & interest in printmaking locally and regionally by exhibiting their prints in a wide range of different venues in and around Wichita, as well as in different places within the state of Kansas.

Currently, Doug & Marcia Scurfield are members of the Society of American Graphic Artists, who are exhibiting at this time in the Salmagundi Art Club and the Print Gallery at the MET in NY. Also, Doug Marcia & Connie Cofer are members of the American Color Print Society. Connie just recently took the 3rd Place Award at the ACPS Annual exhibition in Philadelphia; Marcia won the 2nd Place award last year in Connecticut.



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



Given in Memory of:

Colleen Euson

Amy Neel

Martha Bay Black

Richard Neel

LaVonta & Ralph Gilchrist

Emma & Richard Brown

Friends & Family

Charles & Doris Watson

Richard & Patti Shields

Boyd Mundhenke

Robert & Elsie Olsen

From:

Rich Euson

Garry & Elaine Neel

V Jane Gilchrist

& Charles Brown

Joe Henderson

Kurt & Sue Watson

Nancy Mundhenke

Don & Penny Olsen

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



Given in Memory of:

Barbara & Herb Lindsley

Betty and Bill Woods

Friends & Family

Loved Ones

Our Parents

Dr. Walter J. Vernon

Eleanor Vernon's 99th Birthday

Shirley & Stan Driver

From:

Steve & Kitchel Woods

Sarah Smith

Steve & Cathie Yager

Alan & Nancy Roskam

Uhlig Family

Jennifer King

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11 Christmas Music Sunday 10:30am Worship, (Sanctuary)	12 2pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	13 6pm Student Recital	14 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 6pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	15 2pm Plymouth Projects (Chapel)	16	17
18 9am Fine Arts Board Mtg. New Member Sunday 10:30am Worship, (Sanctuary)	19 2pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	20 7pm Christmas Organ Concert	21 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 6:30pm Christmas Pageant 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	22 2pm Plymouth Projects (Chapel) 2pm Cooking food for Shelter 5:30pm Serving at the Shelter	23	24 7pm Christmas Eve Service
25 Christmas Day 10:30am Worship, (Sanctuary)	26 Office Closed	27 5:30 pm Trustee Mtg.	28 No Wednesday Night activities 7pm Choir Rehearsal	29 2pm Plymouth Projects (Chapel)	30	31 New Years Eve

**Please join us for worship next Sunday, December 18th.
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.