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***Celebration of Worship***  
**December 18, 2022**

# Celebration of Worship

December 18, 2022

10:30 am

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

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**Opening Voluntary**

*People, Look East*  
Christopher Shaw, organ

arr. Robert Hobby

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit**

**Call to Worship**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Joy to the World*

(page 10)

**\*Responsive Reading**

One: Come to worship in hope, peace, joy, love and in the knowledge that God is always coming into the world.

**All: We will seek God, not in a long ago stable or ancient manger, but in the people we meet and the depths of our own hearts.**

One: Let the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to others; let the peace of the season pervade all that you do.

**All: We welcome the challenge of discipleship. We offer ourselves to God's way. We come to worship in hope, peace, joy, and love.**

**\* Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**The Candle of Love**  
Rylee and Rachel Dulaney

## \*Light the Candle

### *Hope is a Candle*

Love is a can - dle whose light makes a cir - cle, where ev - 'ry face is the face of a friend.

Wid - en the cir - cle by shar - ing and giv - ing God's ho - ly dare: love ev - 'ry - where.

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, which includes a change in time signature from 4/4 to 9/8 and then to 6/8.

Words: Richard Leach © 1996, Selah Publishing Co., Inc.; Music: GALLOWAY TAM, Scottish folk melody, adapt. and arr. David

## Invocation and Lord's Prayer

**Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas Sunday. As these candles are lit, light our lives with your presence. 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. Magnify your love within us that we may love our neighbor. And may we walk in the light of Christ 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.***

## Reception of New Members

Affirmation of Purpose

Invitation and Charge

Covenant of the New Member

“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 grant 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 Kingdom of God.

Reading and Prayer

The Right Hand of Fellowship

## Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 37:26-27

I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; and I will bless them and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. My dwelling place shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

## 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.

Words: Marty Haugen © 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen © 1987, GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-722558. All rights reserved.

## A Moment with Our Children

Dr. Robu

**Solo**

*Gesù Bambino*  
("The Infant Jesus")  
Ellen Sudarshan

Pietro A. Yon

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows  
Upon a winter night,  
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,  
The King of Love and Light.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang,  
The grateful earth rejoiced;  
And at His blessed birth the stars  
Their exultation voiced.

*Venite adoremus, Dominum.*  
("O come let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.")

Again the heart with rapture glows  
To greet the holy night,  
That gave the world its Christmas Rose,  
Its King of Love and Light.

Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name,  
The grateful chorus swell.  
From paradise to earth He came  
That we with Him might dwell.

*Venite adoremus, Dominum.*  
("O come let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.")

**Prayer Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Organ Response**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Anthem**

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”  
from *Sing We Now of Christmas*

arr. Howard Helvey

Infant holy, Infant lowly,  
for His bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Swift are winging angels singing,  
noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
“Christ the Babe is Lord of all.”

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.

Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
“Christ the Babe was born for you.”

**Sermon**

“Home”

Dr. Olsen

**\*Hymn of Departure**

*Hark the Herald Angels sing*

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**\*Benediction**

**Closing Voluntary**

*Lift Up Your Heads*  
Christopher Shaw, organ

arr. David Cherwien

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

**North Entry Greeter** Joe Henderson

**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  
Bill Berry & Ramikia Stevenson, Custodians



## 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.

A green poster for a Christmas Organ Concert. The top features a decorative border of holly leaves, berries, and snowflakes. Below this, the date and time are listed: "Tuesday, December 20th, 2022, 7:00 PM". The main title "Christmas Organ Concert" is written in a large, white, cursive font. Below the title, the performer's name "Christopher Shaw, organ" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Further down, the names of the guest musicians are listed: "Guest Musicians: Georgeanne Yehling, soprano" and "Joe Richey, oboe". At the bottom, the venue information is provided: "Plymouth Congregational Church" and "202 N. Clifton Ave, Wichita, Kansas". The bottom left corner of the poster features a white silhouette of a Christmas tree.

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 the interior of a church during Christmas. The scene is dimly lit, with warm light from candles and Christmas trees. The church has a high, vaulted ceiling and large windows. In the foreground, there are rows of pews. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

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

# Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir

presents

## How Can We Keep From **SINGING?**

**TOUR**

**Tom Trenney**  
conductor

**Samuel Eschliman**  
conductor and percussionist

**Anne Wilson**  
accompanist



[music.nebrwesleyan.edu](http://music.nebrwesleyan.edu)

**Wednesday, January 4 at 7 p.m.**

Plymouth Congregational Church  
202 N. Clifton Avenue, Wichita, KS

*with guest choir Goddard High School Madrigals*



## 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.



# Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns!  
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow,  
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,

Let earth re - ceive her King; let  
Let all their songs em - ploy; while  
nor thorns in - fest the ground; he  
and makes the na - tions prove the

ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
comes to make his bless - ings flow  
glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 far as the curse is found, far  
 and won - ders of his love, and

and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his

heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 as the curse is found, far  
 won - ders of his love, and

sing,  
 joy,  
 found,  
 love,

and re - heaven and na - ture  
 far as the sound - ing  
 and won - ders of his

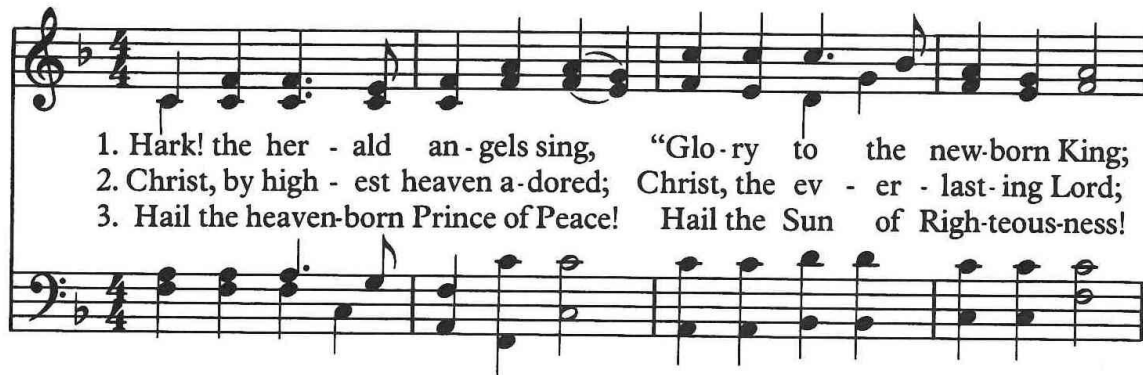
heaven, and heaven, and na - ture sing.  
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 as, far as the curse is found.  
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

sing,  
 joy,  
 found,  
 love,

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719, public domain; Music: ANTIOCH, G. F. Handel, 1742, public domain.



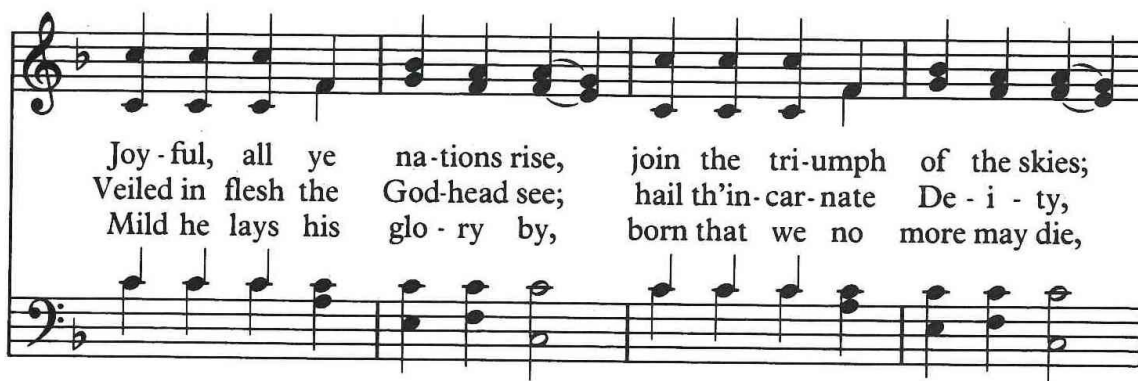
## Hark the Herald Angles Sing



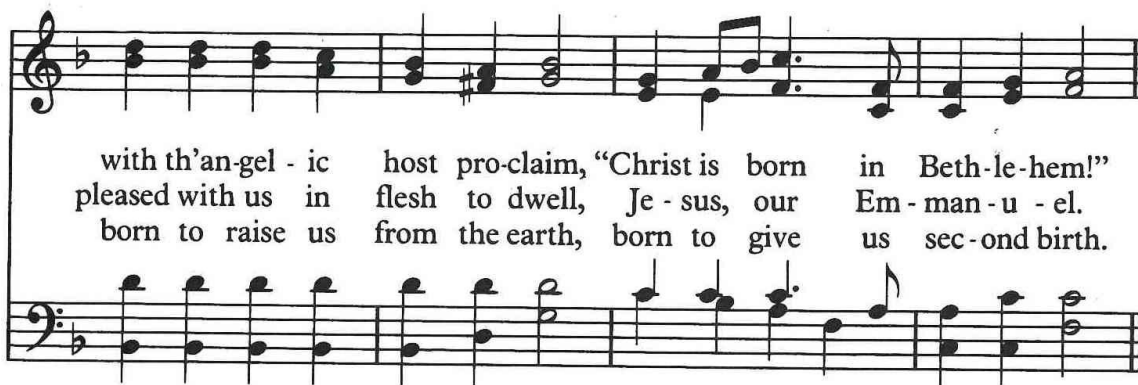
1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;  
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored; Christ, the ev - er - last-ing Lord;  
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer-cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on-ciled!"  
late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir-gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na-tions rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in-car-nate De - i - ty,  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with th'an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec-ond birth.

*Refrain*

Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, public domain; Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1840, public domain.



*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 & Family*

*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*

*Bert McCormick*

*Cindy Sparks*

*From:*

*Steve & Kitchel Woods*

*Sarah Smith*

*Steve & Cathie Yager*

*Alan & Nancy Roskam*

*Uhlig Family*

*Jennifer King*

*His Children*

*Henry Waters*

## December 2022/ January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>18</b> 9am Fine Arts Board Mtg.  New Member Sunday  10:30am Worship, (Sanctuary)	<b>19</b> 2pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	<b>20</b> 7pm Christmas Organ Concert	<b>21</b> 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner  6:30pm Christmas Pageant  7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b> 2pm Plymouth Projects (Chapel)  2pm Cooking food for Shelter  5:30pm Serving at the Shelter	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7pm Christmas Eve Service
<b>25 Christmas Day</b>  10:30am Worship, (Sanctuary)	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> No Wednesday Night activities	<b>29</b> 2pm Plymouth Projects (Chapel)	<b>30</b>	<b>31 New Years Eve</b>
<b>1 New Years Day</b>  10:30am Worship, (Sanctuary)	<b>2</b> Office Closed	<b>3</b> 5:30pm Cabinet Mtg	<b>4</b> 6pm Wednesday Night Dinner  7pm Nebraska Wesleyan Choir Concert	<b>5</b> 2pm Cooking food for Shelter  5:30pm Serving at the Shelter	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

**Please join us for worship next Sunday, December 25th.  
Dr. Robu 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.