



Christmas Eve December 24, 2022

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP Christmas Eve, December 24, 2022 Candlelight Service, 7:00 PM

**Prelude** 

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying O Little Town of Bethlehem Go, Tell It On the Mountain Christopher Shaw, organ arr. Aaron David Miller arr. Miller arr. Miller

# Welcome

# **Call to Worship**

Isaiah 40:1, 3-5

One: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. A voice cries out:

All: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;

One: the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

All: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

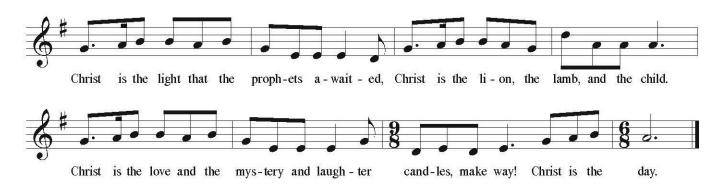
\*Carol O Come, All Ye Faithful (page 7)

# \*Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Christ Candle Sonja Bontrager & Michael Aumack

# \*Light the Candle

Hope is a Candle



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# **Prayer**

# **Anthem**

Sing We Now of Christmas from Sing We Now of Christmas

arr. Howard Helvey

Sing we now of Christmas. Sing we all noel. Of our Lord and Savior we the tidings tell. Sing we Noel, for Christ the King is born. Sing we now of Christmas. Sing we all Noel.

Angels called the shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest. Journey forth to Bethlehem. Find the Child, so blest."

Sing we Noel, for Christ the King is born.

Sing we now of Christmas. Sing we all Noel.

In Bethlehem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild, seated by the manger; watching the holy Child.

Sing we Noel, for Christ the King is born.

Sing we now of Christmas. Sing we all Noel.

From the eastern country came the kings afar; bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star.
Glory to God, for Christ the King is born.
Sing we now of Christmas. Sing we all Noel.

Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price.
There was never a stable so like paradise.
Sing we Noel, for Christ the King is born.
Sing we now of Christmas. Sing we all Noel.

First Reading John 1:1-9 Rev. Reynolds

\*Carol Helpless and Hungry/What Child Is This? (page 8 & 9)

**Second Reading** 

Luke 2:1-7

Dr. Robu

\*Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

(page 10)

# **Invitation to Offering**

**Offertory Anthem** 

Coventry Carol from Sing We Now of Christmas

arr. Howard Helvey

Lully, Iulla, Thou little tiny Child; by by Iully, Iullay.

O sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day this poor Youngling for whom we do sing, by by lully, lullay?

Herod, the King, in his raging, charged he hath this day his men of might, in his own sight, all young children to slay.

That woe is me poor Child for Thee; and ev'ry morn and day, for Thy parting neither say nor sing by by, lully, lullay!

**Third Reading** 

Luke 2:8-14

Rev. Reynolds

\*Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

(page 11)

# **Anthem**

Go, Tell it on the Mountain from Sing We Now of Christmas

arr. Howard Helvey

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born. And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

**Anthem** 

Come to Us, O Christmas Star

Victor C. Johnson

Come and kindle ev'ry star on this, the darkest night. Giver of the sun and moon, come swaddle us with light. Enter ev'ry longing heart and lead each troubled soul from the winter of despair into the spring of hope.

Come to us, O Christmas Star, upon this holy night. Savior of the nations, come, eternal light of life.

Send the blessed Morning Star to make the darkness flee. Burn within and shine without for all the world to see. Set the coldest heart aflame, bright Star of Bethlehem, with the fire of joy and peace that we may dance again.

Come to us, O Christmas Star, upon this holy night. Savior of the nations, come, eternal light of life.

**Homily** "Christmas TV Dinners" Dr. Robu

\*Carol Silent Night, Holy Night (page 12)

Postlude Silent Night, Holy Night! Neil Harmon

Christopher Shaw, organ

Please exit in silence after the Postlude

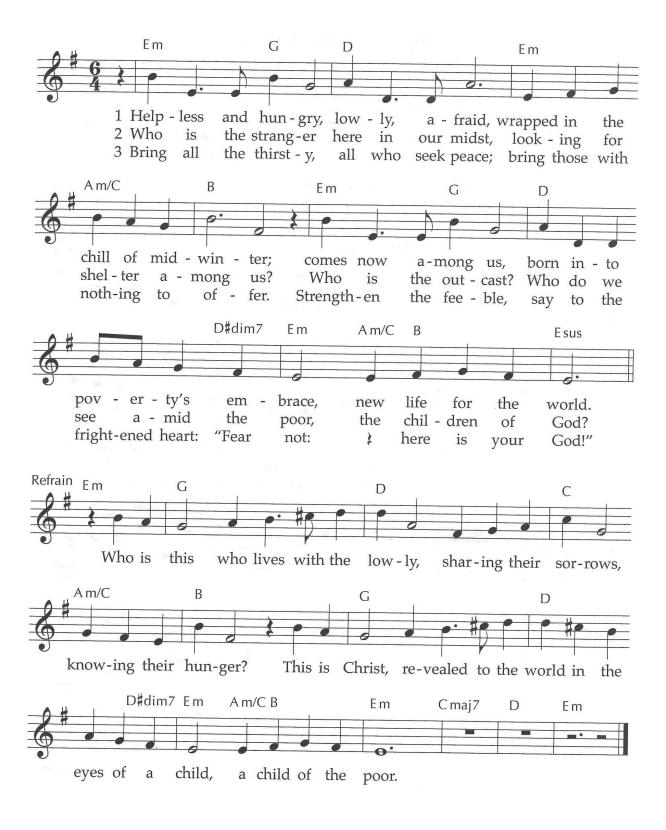
# O Come, All Ye Faithful



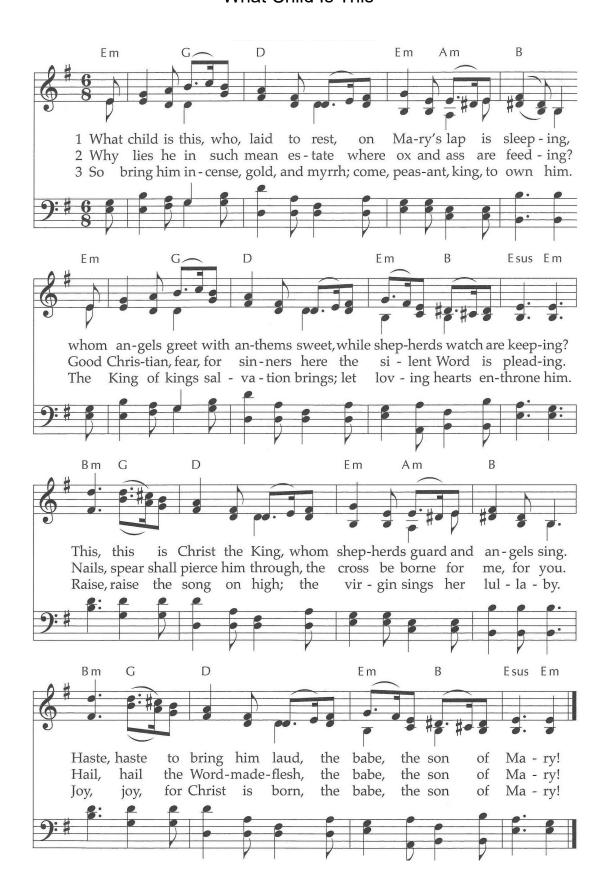
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# Helpless and Hungry

"Helpless and Hungry," verse 1, followed by "What Child Is This," verse 1; "Helpless and Hungry," verse 2, followed by "What Child Is This," verse 2; Both sung simultaneously on verse 3, Northside sing "Helpless and Hungry" Southside sing "What Child Is This"

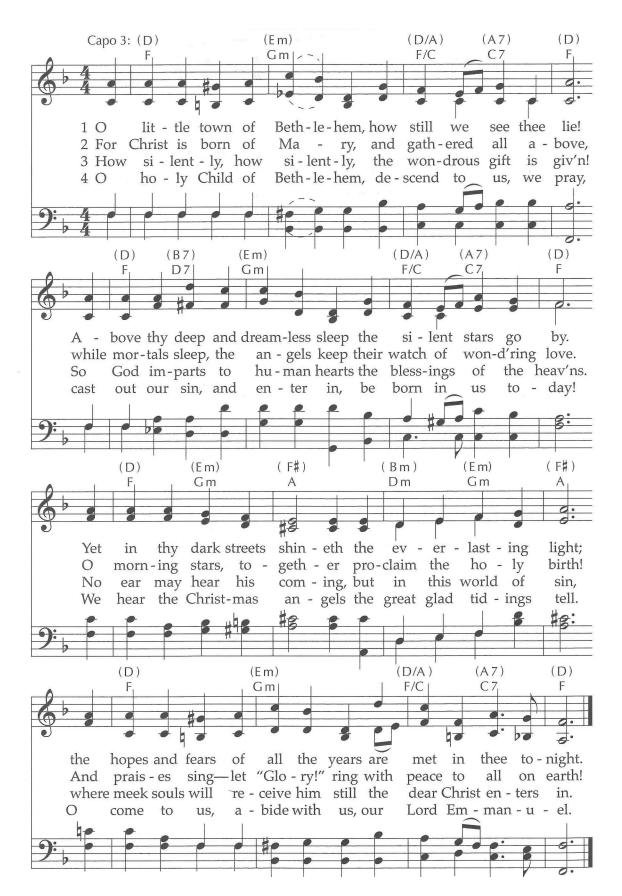


# What Child Is This



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### O Little Town of Bethlehem



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

# Angels We Have Heard on High



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# Silent Night, Holy Night



**Special thanks** to Rev. Craig Reynolds for joining us this evening.

Select litergy from "Enfleshed" Liturgy Library

# **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

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



Given in Honor & Memory of: From:

Colleen Euson Rich Euson

Amy Neel Garry & Elaine Neel

Martha Bay Black

Richard Neel

LaVonta & Ralph Gilchrist V. Jane Gilchrist & Charles Brown

Emma & Richard Brown

Friends & Family Joe Henderson

Charles & Doris Watson Kurt & Sue Watson

Richard & Patti Shields

Boyd Mundhenke & Family

Robert & Elsie Olsen Don & Penny Olsen

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



Given in Honor & Memory of: From:

Barbara & Herb Lindsley Steve & Kitchel Woods

Betty and Bill Woods

Friends & Family Sarah Smith

Loved Ones Steve & Cathie Yager

Our Parents Alan & Nancy Roskam

Dr. Walter J. Vernon Uhlig Family

Eleanor Vernon's 99th Birthday

Shirley & Stan Driver Jennifer King

Bert McCormick His Children

Cindy Sparks Henry Waters

December 2022/January 2023										
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday				
9am Fine Arts Board Mtg. New Member Sunday 10:30am Worship, (Sanctuary)	2pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	7pm Christmas Organ Concert	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	7pm Christmas Eve Service				
25 Christmas Day 10:30am Worship, (Sanctuary)	26 Office Closed	27	28 No Wednesday Night activities	29 2pm Plymouth Projects (Chapel)	30	31 New Years Eve				
New Years Day 10:30am Worship, (Sanctuary)	2 Office Closed	3 5:30pm Cabinet Mtg	4 6pm Wednesday Night Dinner 7pm Nebraska Wesleyan Choir Concert	5 2pm Plymouth Projects (Chapel) 2pm Cooking food for Shelter 5:30pm Serving at the Shelter	6 7pm Folk Concert	7				

Please join us for worship tomorrow 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.





# Celebration of Worship

**December 25, 2022** 

# **Celebration of Worship**

**December 25, 2022** 

10:30 am

# **Christmas Day**

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

"In the end, we'll all become stories." - Margaret Atwood

**Opening Voluntary** 

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Christopher Shaw, organ

arr. Neil Harmon

# **Welcome and Announcements**

Introit

**Call to Worship** 

\*Opening Hymn

The First Nowell

(page 7)

# \*Responsive Reading

From Enfleshed

One: We come together and remember:

All: through all things, the love of God holds us.

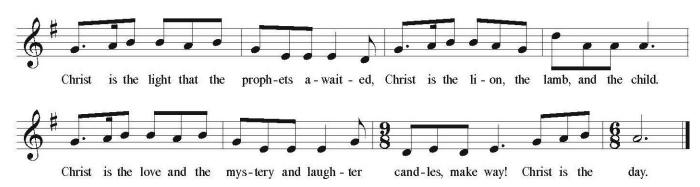
One: We come together and proclaim:

All: we are holy and beloved.
One: We come together and seek:

All: make us rich in love that is tender and just, O God. Let us give thanks, for God will not lead us astray.

# \*Response of Praise

# Hope is a Candle



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Spirit of compassion, be near to our hearts. We long to build community that is rich in love and endures through conflict and the slog of the ordinary. Guide us, O God, in learning to bear with one another and in practicing patience with ourselves. May it be so among us 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.

Solo

"Christmas Lullaby" from Songs For A New World Karen Robu Jason Robert Brown

I'll never have the power to control the land
Or conquer half the world
Or claim the sun
I'll never be the kind who simply waves her hand
And has a million people do
The things I wish I'd done

But in the eyes of heaven
My place is assured
I carry with me heaven's grand design
Glory, Oh,
Glory I will sing the name of the Lord
And He will make me shine

And I will be like Mother Mary
With a blessing in my soul
And I will give the world my eyes
So they can see
And I will be like Mother Mary
With a blessing in my soul
And the future of the world inside of me

In the eyes of heaven
My place is assured
I carry with me heaven's grand design
Glory, Oh,
Glory I will sing the name of the Lord
And He will make me shine

And I will be like Mother Mary
With a blessing in my soul
And I will give the world my eyes
So they can see
And I will be like Mother Mary
With a blessing in my soul
And the future of the world inside of me

And I will be like Mother Mary With the power in my veins To believe in all the things I've yet to be And I will be like Mother Mary And I'll suffer any pains For the future of the world For the future of the world Inside of me

# **Prayer Concerns**

Pastoral Prayer From Enfleshed

\*Hymn Response Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (page 8)

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Anthem Home on Christmas Day arr. Mac Huff as recorded by Kristin Chenoweth

And now that winter's here, [And today is] Christmas. I see your face so clear, though you're far away. Your home is in my heart; it's ev'rywhere I go, and I'll be waiting here 'til you're home to stay.

I think of winters past; we were all together.
The sweetest memories all come into play.
Your voice rings in my ear just to let me know that you'll be here with me, home on Christmas day.

Angels calling from up high will bring a starry sky to light the frosted ground below, so you will know your way back home tonight.
A candle burns so bright to show the way.

I'll make a silent wish, just for you, this Christmas, to keep you safe and warm, never led astray, that ev'rywhere you go you're sheltered from the storm, and that my Christmas wish is with you ev'ry day.

Angels calling down to say they'll always know the way to lift you 'til you soar so high that I will see you in the sky above, my Christmas gift of love will guide you by.

And now I promise you with all my heart, this Christmas, that all the love we've shared will never go away. Your spirit's ev'rywhere, and I hope you know that you are always here, home on Christmas day.

# **Scripture Reading**

Luke 2:1-20

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. 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.

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!" 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.

\*Hymn of Preparation Angels, from the Realms of Glory (page 9)

**Sermon** "I Lied to Santa and Other Christmas Memories" Dr. Robu

\*Hymn of Departure There's a Star in the East (page 10)

\*Benediction

Closing Voluntary In Dulci Jubilo arr. Norman Dello Joio Christopher Shaw, organ

<sup>\*</sup>Let everyone stand in body or in spirit.

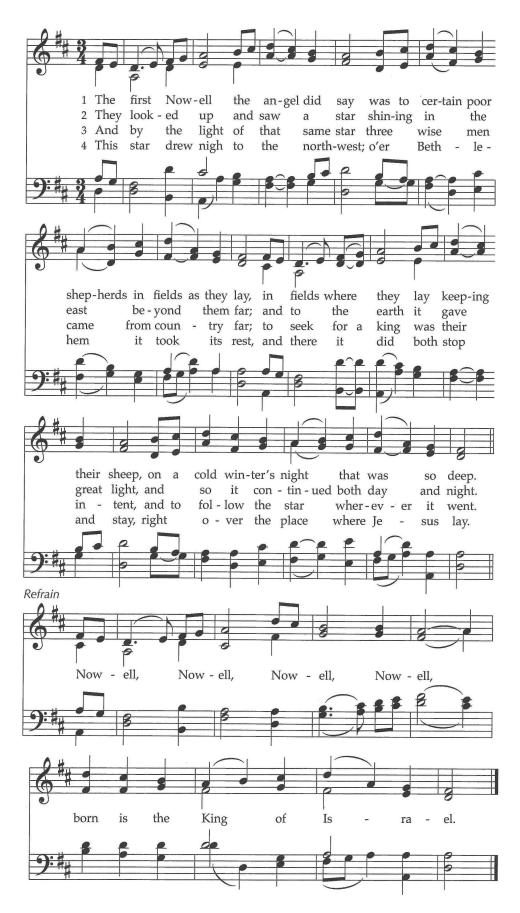
# North Entry Greeter Katy Brammer

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# **Plymouth Staff**

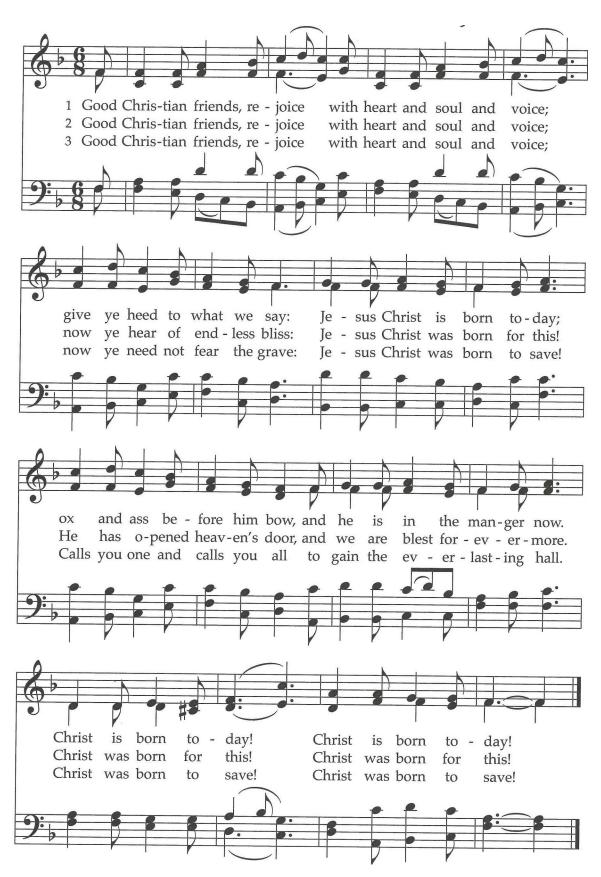
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John Palmer, Video Tech Assistant
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# The First Nowell



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# Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



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# Angels, from the Realms of Glory



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# There's a Star in the East



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

Given in Honor & Memory of: From:

Colleen Euson Rich Euson

Amy Neel Garry & Elaine Neel

Martha Bay Black Richard Neel

Lallanta & Dalah Cilah

LaVonta & Ralph Gilchrist V. Jane Gilchrist & Charles Brown
Emma & Richard Brown

Friends & Family Joe Henderson

Charles & Doris Watson Kurt & Sue Watson

Richard & Patti Shields

Robert & Elsie Olsen Don & Penny Olsen

Barbara & Herb Lindsley Steve & Kitchel Woods

Betty and Bill Woods

Friends & Family Sarah Smith

Loved Ones Steve & Cathie Yager

Our Parents Alan & Nancy Roskam

Dr. Walter J. Vernon Uhlig Family

Eleanor Vernon's 99th Birthday

Shirley & Stan Driver Jennifer King

Bert McCormick His Children

Cindy Sparks Henry Waters

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8 10:30am Worship, (Sanctuary)	9 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	10	5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 7pm Choir Rehearsal	2pm Plymouth Projects	13	14					

# Please join us for worship next Sunday, January 1st Dr. Robu will be Preaching.

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