

Celebration of Worship
December 10, 2023

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10:30 am

Second Sunday of Advent

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

Opening Voluntary

People, Look East
Christopher Shaw, organ

arr. Robert Hobby

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn

People Look East

(page 10)

*Responsive Reading

Micah 5:2-5

One: But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

All: Therefore, he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

One: And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

All: and he shall be the one of peace.

* Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Candle of Peace
Roger and Bev Douthett

*Light the Candle

Hope is a Candle



Peace is a can-dle to show us a path - way, threat - ened by gusts from our rage and our greed.



Friend, feel no en-vy for those in the shad - ows vio-lence and force their dead-end course.

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*Invocation and Lord's Prayer

May we enter your peaceable realm, doing justice, loving mercy and walking humbly in the ways of 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.*

Scripture Reading

Luke 18:18-25

A certain ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honor your father and mother.'" He replied, "I have kept all these since my youth."

When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich. Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

Confirmation

Reception of Confirmand

Presentation of the Bible

Responsive Reading by mentor and student

Mentor Once you were infants dependent upon your family's love and the wisdom of others.

Youth Now we are young persons entering an adult world with increasing responsibilities for our own decision-making.

Mentor Once you belonged to an environment of faith and values outside your ability to alter or reject.

Youth Now our world has many systems and values for us to take into account.

Mentor Once you had few choices.

Youth Now our choices are many, sometimes frightening and always with long-range consequences.

Mentor Know that you are not alone. We give you our affection and concern, we stand with you and offer you our continuing love and support.

Affirmation of Purpose

Covenant of the Confirmand

"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 grand 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 Community of God.

Solo

The Wexford Carol
Wesley Kelley

arr. Howard Helvey

Good people all, this Christmas time,
consider well and bear in mind
what our good God for us has done
in sending thy beloved Son.

With Mary holy we should pray
to God with love this Christmas time;
in Bethlehem upon that morn,
there was a blessed Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
to whom God's angel did appear,
which put the shepherds in great fear.

"Prepare and go," the angels said,
"To Bethlehem, be not afraid;
for there you'll find, this happy morn,
a princely babe, sweet Jesus, born."

With thankful heart and joyful mind,
the shepherds went the babe to find,
and as God's angel had foretold,
they did our Saviour Christ behold.

Within a manger he was laid
and by his side a virgin maid,
attending on the Lord of Life,
who came on earth to end all strife.

Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Organ Response

Invitation to Offering

Anthem *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel* arr. Timothy L. Bandy
Eli Regier, clarinet

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.

Sermon "Jesus of Nazareth and the Progressive Church: Dr. Olsen
Ecce Homo: Behold the Man"

***Hymn of Departure** *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (page 12)

***Benediction**

Closing Voluntary *Prepare the Royal Highway* arr. Robert Hobby
Christopher Shaw, organ

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

North Entry Greeter Jeanne Thompson

Communion Table Flowers Steve Kimball

Cover Attribution: <https://www.etsy.com/listing/1041857066/chinese-baby-jesus>

Poinsettias

If you would like to give a plant in honor or in memory of a loved one, please send a check for \$17 and list the name on the memo line. The names will be listed in the worship bulletin December 17th and the 24th. Please place order by Thursday, December 14th by calling the office at 684-0221 or you can email us at office@plymouth-church.net



If I Wrote the Pageant or And to Think That I Saw It in Bethlehem Town Plymouth's Annual Multigenerational Christmas Pageant

Wednesday, December 20th | 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.



Christmas Caroling

We have a fun family event coming up for the holidays. Plymouth has a party bus reserved for Monday, December 18th from 6:00-8:00pm for us to go caroling. We will start loading the bus as soon as the bus arrives, so we ask that you are at Plymouth by 5:45pm that evening. We will be caroling at several retirement homes and at the homes of some of our Plymouth members all while seeing Christmas lights around the city. The bus holds 50 carolers. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you are able to attend. Come join us in spreading Christmas cheer for all to hear!!



Fine Arts Board - Plymouth candles are back!

You may remember we created, in Oct 2022, a Plymouth candle to celebrate our 100th anniversary year in the sanctuary. We recently reordered two cases of the glass candle (12 per case) due to popular requests. Fourteen of those were spoken for.

There are 10 candles remaining with the custom Plymouth label and scent (cedar, oud, lavender). They are produced by local candle company Lola Candle Co. We are selling them for \$15 each. Stop by the glass display case to make your purchase. Thank you!

New Artist for the Fine Arts Display Case

Joshua Larson has been creating pottery for over ten years. He specializes in wheel thrown pieces with a concentration on colorful, creative, and functional pieces. Joshua loves to travel, and each season gets inspired with new techniques to help his artistry evolve. Joshua especially loves visiting Mexico and gets inspired with all the color and patterns used in that part of the world. When not at pottery class Joshua can be found heading up the education program at Music Theatre Wichita or selling real estate with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices PenFed Realty.

Thank you for your support of the Fine Arts at Plymouth!





Plymouth Gallery Dec 2023 and Jan 2024 - Kayann Ausherman -- Artist Statement

Kayann Ausherman is a self-taught mixed media artist from Haven, a small town near Wichita. She has always had a creative take on life even though her art career didn't start until her children were grown. She grew up in rural Kansas with parents who were scientists, and with whom she did a fair bit of traveling. A degree in anthropology was followed by working for a free lance graphic designer. Her next occupation was laying out computer schematics, first as a draftsman and then as a cad operator. A large family of adopted and biological children kept her busy for the next couple of decades until she returned to her childhood love of art in 2013.

This diverse lifetime of experiences and influences now finds its way into her current art. Rather than focus on realistic replication of her subject matter, she prefers a more whimsical, and intriguing representation. She feels the creative process is about experimentation and exploration of new ways to express the familiar, hopefully evoking an emotional connection. She often uses repurposed and unusual materials in her artwork like wrappers, envelopes, postage stamps, and "found" papers.

Kayann has illustrated two children's books, and her work has been published in over 25 national mixed media magazines including Somerset Studio, Cloth Paper Scissors, and more. Since 2013 she has taught numerous workshops on such varied topics as Citra Solv, art journaling, collage, and many other mixed media related topics, both in Kansas and elsewhere. Citra Solv-sponsored art contests have awarded her recognition a number of times, and she is one of the Citra Artists listed on their website (citrastolv.com).

When not making art, Kayann enjoys time with her husband and ever-growing family. They enjoy camping in the mountains of Colorado and are currently busy building a studio and tiny home to downsize into. She and her husband spend summers traveling to art fairs.

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 Him 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 - 'ry peak and val - ley

a - ble, Trim the hearth and set the
 nour - ish, That in course the flow'r may
 fro - zen He for fledg - ing time has
 weath - er, Bright as sun and moon to -
 hum - ming With the word, the Lord is

Peo - ple look East and sing to -

ta - ble.
flour - ish.
cho - sen.
geth - er.
com - ing.

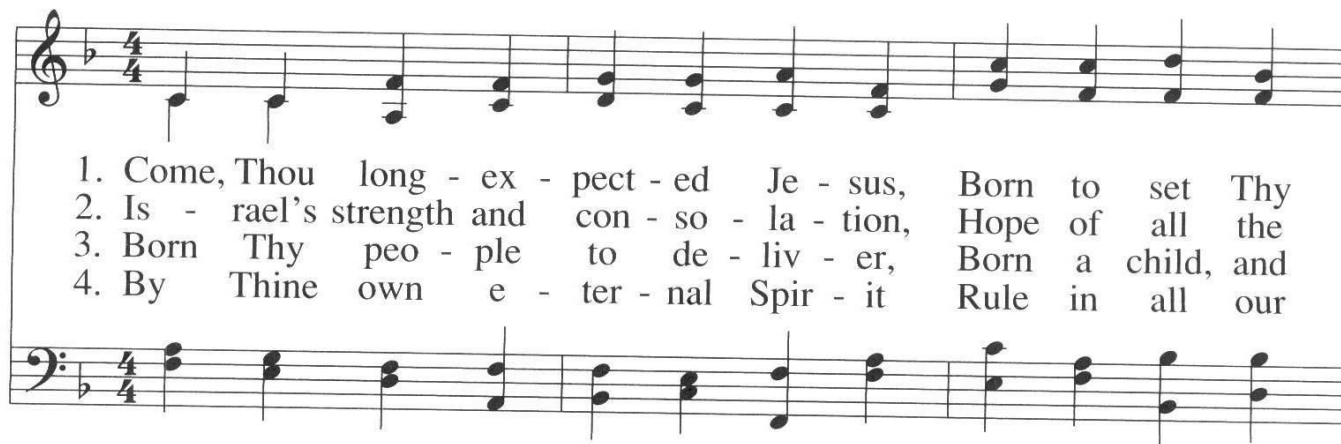
Peo - ple look East:

Peo - ple look

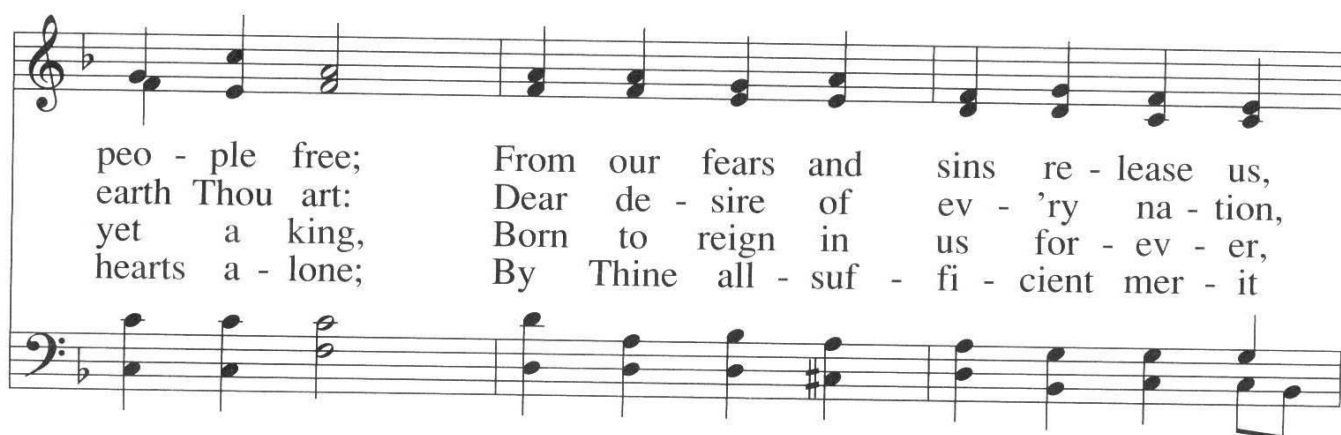
day:

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.
East: Love is on the way.

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1. Come, Thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy
2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the
3. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child, and
4. By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our



peo - ple free; From our fears and sins re - lease us,
earth Thou art: Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion,
yet a king, Born to reign in us for - ev - er,
hearts a - lone; By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it



Let us find our rest in Thee.
Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne. A - men.



Christmas Organ Concert

CHRISTOPHER SHAW

**Guest Musicians:
Greg Nickel, tuba
Nancy Johnson, violin**

**Thursday, December 21, 2023, 7:00 PM
Plymouth Congregational Church
202 N. Clifton, Wichita**



INCENTIVES & ESSENTIALS drive

November 21 - December 31

REWARD PANDO STUDENTS FOR MEETING GOALS & HELP PROVIDE BASIC NEEDS

The Pando Incentive program was developed to empower and encourage students to reach their greatest potential for academic achievement, behavioral control, and personal growth by positively reinforcing their efforts to reach their goals. Students set goals, discuss incentives, and then work towards meeting those goals. Once goals are met, students receive the incentive.



Pando also supplies basic needs to students and families. These essential items can include deodorant, hair care, clothing and outerwear, other hygiene items, and more.

Help Pando provide incentives and basic needs to students this holiday season. Donate to the Pando Incentives & Essentials Drive!

PURCHASE FROM OUR WISH LISTS AND HAVE IT DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO PANDO!



bit.ly/Pandowalmart



bit.ly/pandotarget23



bit.ly/pandoamazon23

NOT SURE WHAT TO DONATE? GIFT CARDS ARE GREAT!



Physical gift cards can be mailed to Pando. Email digital cards to kmconico@pandokids.org

OTHER WAYS TO DONATE



Monetary donations can be made online or mailed. Scan this code or visit pandokids.org/donate

Donations may be mailed to:
The Pando Initiative
412 S Main
Wichita, KS 67202

For additional details about Pando's Incentives & Essentials Drive, contact Daniel at dmorford@pandokids.org

Plymouth Receives Recognition from HumanKind Ministries

Plymouth made the HumanKind Ministries Community Spotlight. Check out the article at the website below.

<https://www.humankindwichita.org/community-spotlight-plymouth-congregational-church/>

Upcoming Events at Plymouth

Plan to join us for a **Winter Wine & Cheese** event on **Saturday, January 27, 2024 from 5:00-7:00pm**. This event will include a wine tasting with remarks by a guest wine specialist, gourmet charcuterie boards, silent auction, music and FUN. Tickets are \$25. Tickets may be purchased online or through the church office. Proceeds will be used to promote Plymouth Congregational Church in the community. All auction items will be donated by the congregation. If you would like to donate an item for the silent auction, please contact Holly Yager at holly.yager@gmail.com.



An Evening with John McCutcheon

February 24th at 7pm.

General admission \$30

Student tickets available at the door with current student ID \$10

Find out more about John McCutcheon at <https://mikegreenassociates.com/roster/john-mccutcheon-bio/>



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

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 10:30am New Member Sunday Worship	11 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	12 5:30pm Growth Steering	13 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 6pm Pageant rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	14	15	16
17 10:30am Christmas Music Sunday Worship 11:30 am Pageant rehearsal	18 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	19 5:30pm Investment Club	20 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 6:30pm Christmas Pageant 7pm Choir Rehearsal	21 5:45pm CE 7pm Christmas Organ Concert	22	23
24 10:30am Sunday Worship 7pm Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day	26	27 No Wednesday Night Activities	28	29	30

**Please join us for worship next Sunday, December 17th.
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.