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***Celebration of Worship***  
**December 24, 2023**



## \*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, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The second staff includes a 9/8 time signature change and a 6/8 time signature change.

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, as these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with joy that knows no bounds. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts and minds for a journey of transformation, that we may walk in the light 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 1:26-38 DNRSV

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a young maiden engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The young maiden's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a young maiden?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

## 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

*Sweet was the Song the Virgin Sang* arr. David N. Johnson  
Jennifer King

Sweet was the song the Virgin sang;  
To Bethlehem she came  
And was delivered of a son:  
Lo, Jesus was his name.  
"Ah, lullaby my joy!"  
Singing, "Lullaby my Baby Boy."  
She was delivered of a son:  
Lo, Jesus was his name.

"Sweet Babe," sang she so tenderly,  
With love, and joy, and mirth,  
In awe and wonder gazed on him,  
God's Son now come to earth.  
"Ah, he is born, God's Son!"  
Singing, "He is born, God's Holy Son."  
In awe and wonder gazed on him,  
God's Son now come to earth. Amen.

## Prayer Concerns

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Organ Response**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Anthem**

*A Christmas Lullaby*  
Emily Son, solo

Marianne Forman

Hush, my dear one, sleep serenely  
Now, my lovely slumber deep,  
mother rocks you, humming lowly  
close your eyes now, go to sleep.

Angels hover, ever nearer,  
looking on your smiling face.  
I will hold you, close enfold you  
Close your eyes now, go to sleep.

May you slumber e'er so softly,  
dream of visions wondrous fair,  
I will hold you, close enfold you,  
close your eyes and go to sleep.

Lovely darling, I will guard you,  
keep you from all woe and harm.  
Softly, gently I will rock you,  
resting sweetly on my arm.

Mary rocks you, humming slowly,  
Son of God, go to sleep, lullaby.

**Sermon**

“Jesus of Nazareth and the Progressive Church:  
By Whose Authority”

Dr. Olsen

**\*Hymn of Departure**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

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**\*Benediction**

**Closing Voluntary**

*Hark! The Herald Angel Sing*  
Christopher Shaw, organ

arr. David Cherwien

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

**North Entry Greeter** Joe Henderson

## **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 Staff**

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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





## **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](http://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.

## Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re-  
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let men their  
 3. No more let sin and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks,  
 fest the ground; He comes to make His  
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of His

pare Him room, And heav'n and na - ture  
 hills, and plains Re - peat the sound - ing  
 bless - ings flow Far as the curse is  
 right - eous - ness, And won - ders of His

And  
 Re -  
 Far  
 And



sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And  
 joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -  
 found, Far as the curse is found, Far  
 love, And won - ders of His love, And

heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
 won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His

heav'n, and heav'n 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. A - men.

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 love, and won - ders of His love. A - men.

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## Angels We Have Heard on High

Traditional French Carol

Trans. from *Crown of Jesus Music*, London, 1862

French Carol

1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing  
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous  
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the

o'er the plains, And the moun - tains in re - ply  
 strains pro - long? Say what may the tid - ings be,  
 an - gels sing; Come a - dore on bend - ed knee,

Ech - o back their joy - ous strains. Glo -  
 Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song.  
 Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

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.



# 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](https://bit.ly/Pandowalmart)



[bit.ly/pandotarget23](https://bit.ly/pandotarget23)



[bit.ly/pandoamazon23](https://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](mailto:kmconico@pandokids.org)

## OTHER WAYS TO DONATE



Monetary donations can be made online or mailed. Scan this code or visit [pandokids.org/donate](https://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](mailto:dmorford@pandokids.org)

## Progressive Pilgrims book club gathering

Our next gathering of the Progressive Pilgrims Book Club will be Sunday, January 7th at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Jane Gilchrist. We will be discussing the book *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. Watermark Books and Barnes and Noble have copies in their store.

## 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](mailto: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/>



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Erik Breckenridge, Video Tech

John Palmer, Video Tech Assistant

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



*Given in Memory of:*

*Colleen Euson*

*Amy Neel*

*Richard Neel*

*LaVonta & Ralph Gilchrist*

*Emma & Richard Brown*

*Charles & Doris Watson*

*Richard & Patti Shields*

*Doc & Melba Potts*

*Dorcile & Gene Beckley*

*Edith Howson*

*Robert & Elsie Olsen*

*Ann Goering*

*Ivan Goering*

*Linda Thalken*

*Bob Arthur*

*From:*

*Rich Euson*

*Garry & Elaine Neel*

*V. Jane Gilchrist & Charles Brown*

*Brett & Claire Watson*

*Claire & Finley Watson*

*Don & Penny Olsen*

*Clifford & Corrine Depew*

*Abby Arthur & Tom Safley*



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



*Given in Memory of:*

*From:*

*Our Parents*

*Steve & Kitchel Woods*

*Friends & Family*

*Sarah Smith*

*Loved Ones*

*Steve & Cathie Yager*

*Our Parents*

*Alan & Nancy Roskam*

*Eleanor Vernon*

*Uhlig Family*

*Shirley & Stan Driver*

*Jennifer King*

*Bert McCormick*

*His Children*

*Cindy Sparks*

*Henry Waters*

*Hunter Wishart*

*Mr. & Mrs. Frank A. Sprole*

*Jared Sprole*

*Mr. & Mrs. Robert N. Blakelsee*

*Our Parents*

*Bernie & Alberta Nichols*

# December 2023/ January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>24</b> 10:30am Sunday Worship  7pm Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>  Office Closed	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b> 2pm Humankind Winter Shelter  No Wednesday Night Activities  No Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>New Years Eve</b>  10:30am Sunday Worship	<b>1</b> <b>New Years Day</b>  Office Closed	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner  No Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>  10:30am Sunday Worship  2pm HumanKind Winter Shelter  6:30pm Progressive Pilgrims Book Club	<b>8</b> 5:30pm Cabinet	<b>9</b> 5:30pm Growth Steering	<b>10</b> 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner  6:15pm Facilitator Training  7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>

**Please join us for worship next Sunday, December 31st.  
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.