



Celebration of Worship

December 24, 2023

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December 24, 2023

10:30 am

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Opening Voluntary

Theme and Variations on "Noël Nouvelet"

Christopher Shaw, organ arr. Michael Burkhardt

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn

Joy to the World

(page 8)

*Responsive Reading

From Psalm 89

One: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will

proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

All: I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

One: My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his

horn shall be exalted.

All: He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my

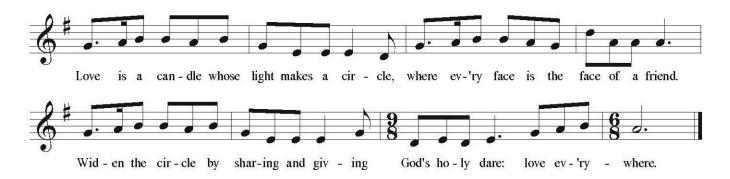
salvation!'

The Candle of Love Ken and Susan Arnold

^{*}Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Light the Candle

Hope is a Candle



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.



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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

Hush, my dear one, sleep serenely

Marianne Forman

Now, my lovely slumber deep, mother rocks you, humming lowly close your eyes now, go to sleep. Angels hover, ever nearer,

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"

*Hymn of Departure

Angels We Have Heard on High

(page 10)

Dr. Olsen

*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

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



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.

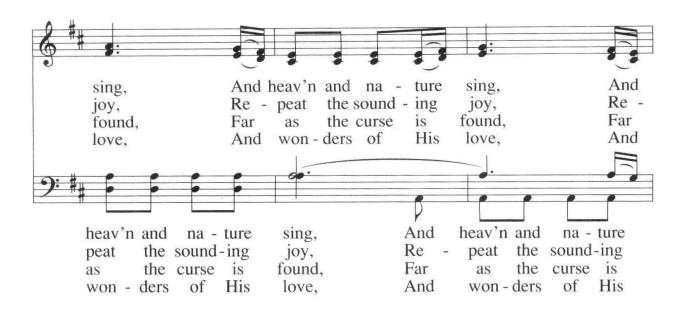
This diverse lifetime of experiences and influences now finds its way into her current art. Rather than focus on realistic replication of her subject matter, she prefers a more whimsical, and intriguing representation. She feels the creative process is about experimentation and exploration of new ways 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.

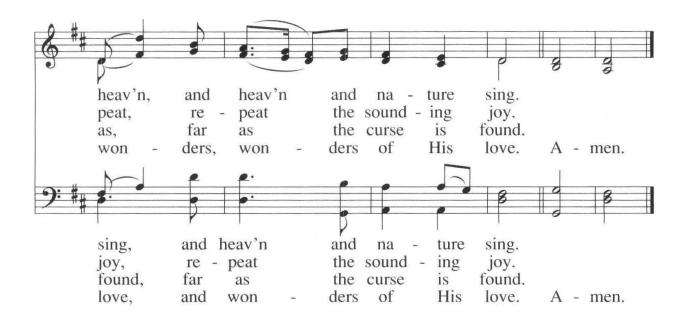
Kayann has illustrated two children's books, and her work has been published in over 25 national mixed media magazines including Somerset Studio, Cloth Paper Scissors, and more. Since 2013 she has taught numerous workshops on such varied topics as Citra Solv, art journaling, collage, and many other mixed 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 (citrasolv.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







Music: Isaac Watts, public domain; Music: ANTIOCH, attr. to George Frideric Handel, arr. by Lowell Mason, public domain.

121

Angels We Have Heard on High

Traditional French Carol French Carol Trans. from Crown of Jesus Music, London, 1862 heard on high 1. An - gels we have Sweet - ly sing - ing 2. Shep-herds, why ju - bi - lee? this Why your joy - ous 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the plains, o'er the And the moun-tains in re - ply pro - long? strains Say what may tid - ings be, the an gels sing; Come a - dore bend - ed knee, on Ech - o back their joy - ous strains. Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song. Glo Christ, the Lord, the new - born King. ri - a

10



Words: Traditional French Carol; Trans.: Crown of Jesus Music, London, 1862, public domain; Music: GLORIA, French carol, public domain.



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/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 kmcconico@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

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.



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



Given in Memory of: From:

Colleen Euson Rich Euson

Amy Neel Garry & Elaine Neel

Richard Neel

LaVonta & Ralph Gilchrist V. Jane Gilchrist & Charles Brown

Emma & Richard Brown

Charles & Doris Watson Brett & Claire Watson

Richard & Patti Shields

Doc & Melba Potts

Dorcile & Gene Beckley

Edith Howson Claire & Finley Watson

Robert & Elsie Olsen Don & Penny Olsen

Ann Goering Clifford & Corrine Depew

Ivan Goering

Linda Thalken

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

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.