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***Celebration of Worship***  
**January 7, 2024**

# Celebration of Worship

January 7, 2024

10:30 am

## First Sunday of Epiphany

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

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### Opening Voluntary

*Brightest and the Best*  
Christopher Shaw, organ

arr. Robert Hobby

### Welcome and Announcements

### Introit

### \*Opening Hymn

*Gather Us In*

(page 8)

### \*Responsive Sentence

Isaiah 60:1-3

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**All: For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;**

One: But the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

**All: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

### \*Response of Praise

Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Come, let us join with faith-ful souls our song of faith to raise; One". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "fam - i - ly in heart are we, and one the God we praise." The lyrics are written below the notes.

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## \*Invocation and Lord's Prayer

In this new year, O God, gather us in and teach us of life's journey; lift us high and open thin places; illumine your path and smooth the rough route, that we may learn and pray as Jesus taught ... *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

Mark 8:27-36

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

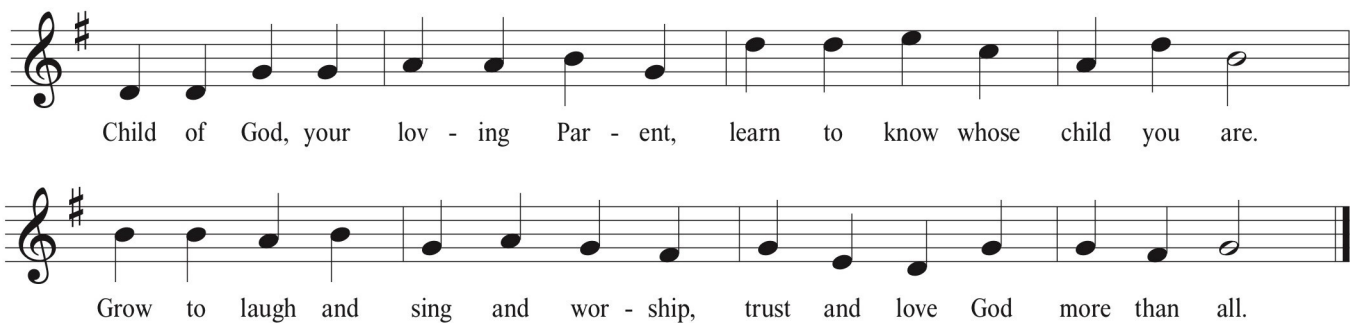
For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

## Welcoming Song

*Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

STUTTGART

(Let the children come forward.)



Child of God, your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to know whose child you are.

Grow to laugh and sing and wor - ship, trust and love God more than all.

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## A Moment with Our Children

Dr. Robu

Solo

*I Thank You, Lord*  
Ellen Sudarshan

Joseph M. Martin

Lord, when I think upon the music of my life,  
your songs of joy, your love songs in the night,  
I'm filled with wonder and with praise  
at the beauty of your grace.

I thank you, Lord, I thank you, Lord.  
And when I gather in the house, your sacred place,  
and when I sing the hymns and anthems of my faith,  
I'm filled with hope and gratitude as I lift my heart to you.

I thank you, Lord, I thank you Lord.  
O, how can I keep from singing?  
How can I keep from lifting up my voice?  
Since Christ is Lord of heav'n and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?  
How can I help but praise the Lord?

How can I keep from praising Christ, my Savior,  
when he has done so much for me?  
I will exalt his name and not be silent;  
God's love has set my music free!

Now when I think upon the blessings of this life,  
the forest deep, the glory of the skies,  
the promise of the rising sun and the moon when day is done,  
I thank you, Lord, I thank you, Lord.

And when I look into the eyes of those I love,  
or when I gaze upon the starry night above,  
my heart is filled with joyful praise, and I bless your holy name.  
I thank you, Lord, I thank you, Lord.

O, how can I keep from singing?  
How can I keep from lifting up my voice?  
Since Christ is Lord of heav'n and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?  
How can I help but praise the Lord?  
I will praise the Lord.

## Prayer Concerns

## Pastoral Prayer

## Organ Response

## Invitation to Offering

## Anthem

*O the Boundless Love of God*

Dana Mengel

O the boundless love of God,  
Ever-flowing free,  
All around me above and below,  
Flowing wide as the sea.

O the boundless love of God,  
Endless as the sky,  
Glowing brighter than all the stars,  
Clothed in glory divine.

O the love that embraces me.  
Sing my soul, set the praises free:  
Alleluia, sing for eternity!  
O how vast, O how broad is the love of God!

O the boundless love of God,  
Ever-flowing free,  
All around me above and below,  
Flowing wide as the sea.

O the boundless love of God,  
Endless as the sky,  
Glowing brighter than all the stars,  
Clothed in glory divine.

O the love that embraces me.  
Sing my soul, set the praises free,  
Alleluia! Sing for eternity;  
How vast is the love of God! Amen.

**Sermon**            “**Jesus of Nazareth and the Progressive Church:  
Who Do You Say That I Am**”            Dr. Olsen

**\*Hymn of Departure**        *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*        (page 10)

**\*Benediction**

**Closing Voluntary**        *As with Gladness Men of Old*            arr. Robin Dinda  
   Christopher Shaw, organ

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

**North Entry Greeter** Shelley Closson

**Communion Table Flowers** Shelley Closson

**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 Congregational Church**  
Annual Corporate Meeting

Dear Plymouth Members and Friends,

**Notice of Annual Corporate Meeting**

In accordance with the Constitution of Plymouth Congregational Church, notice is hereby given of the Annual Corporate Meeting to be held in the sanctuary on **Sunday, January 28, 2023**, immediately following the regular 10:30 a.m. worship service for the purpose of:

1. Presenting annual reports of church officers and boards.
2. Presenting the John Henry Hornung Award.
3. Transacting such other business as may properly come before an annual meeting of the church membership.

Thank you for your dedication to our church.

In faith,

Judy Frick, Moderator & Sharon Fearey, Church Clerk

**John Henry Hornung Award**

Plymouth members should know the origin of the John Henry Hornung award that is presented annually to a member who has rendered outstanding service.

Rev. Dr. John Henry Hornung came to Plymouth Congregational Church as Senior Minister in 1924 and remained in that position until 1949. During his tenure Dr. Hornung oversaw a resurgence of church membership, increased financial stability and a wider representation of Plymouth in civic affairs. He was greatly respected for his preaching style and performed countless weddings and funerals that were widely admired. Dr. Hornung was a progressive leader in the ministerial community and an activist for deeper understanding and cooperation between local Protestant and Catholic churches and the Jewish community. In 1938, Dr. Hornung was a member of a ministerial coalition referred to as the Four Horsemen of Tolerance. These clergymen traveled Kansas to speak out against a pro-Nazi, anti-Semitic candidate for the U.S. Senate who was subsequently defeated: When Wichita's Jewish community needed a place of worship, Dr. Hornung made the Plymouth sanctuary available for their use until a temple was built.

In 1987, the church cabinet decided to institute an award that would be given annually to a member who had provided outstanding service to Plymouth in a variety of capacities, both in leadership and volunteer roles. Naming that award after Dr. Hornung seemed an appropriate way to link Plymouth's dynamic past with the recognition of members who have made a significant impact on our church.

# Gather Us In

1. Here in this place new light is stream-ing,  
2. We are the young— our lives are a mys-t'ry,  
3. Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter,  
4. Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing,

Now is the dark-ness van-ished a-way,  
We are the old— who yearn for Your face,  
Here we will take the bread of new birth,  
Not in some heav-en, light-years a-way,

See in this space our fears and our dream-ings, Brought here to  
We have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry, Called to be  
Here You shall call Your sons and Your daugh-ters, Call us a-  
here in this place the new light is shin-ing, Now is the

You in the light of this day.  
light to the whole hu-man race.  
new to be salt for the earth.  
King-dom, now is the day.



Gath-er us in— the lost and for - sak - en, Gath-er us in— the  
 Gath-er us in— the rich and the haugh-ty, Gath-er us in— the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, Give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for ev - er, Gath-er us in and

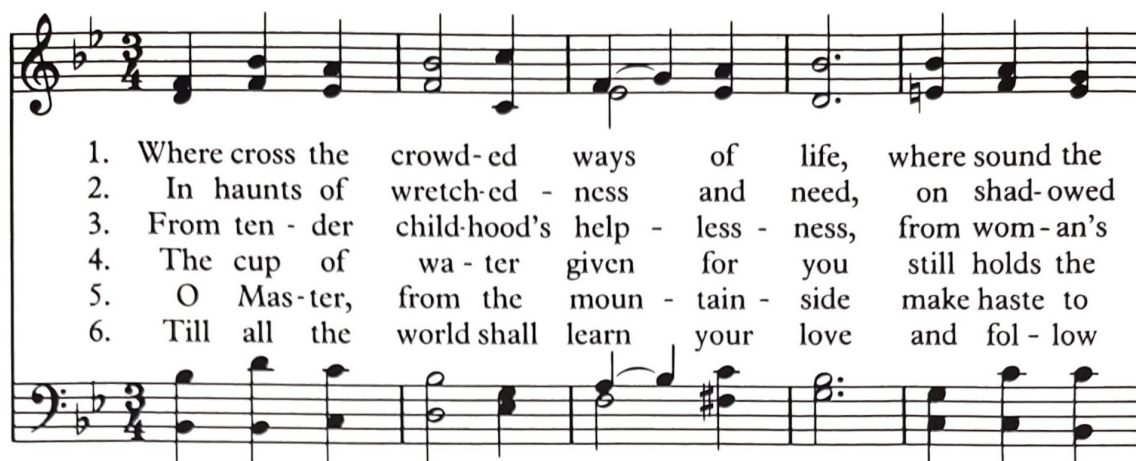
blind and the lame; Call to us now, and  
 proud and the strong; Give us a heart so  
 bread that is You; Nour - ish us well, and  
 make us Your own; Gath - er us in— all

we shall a - wak - en, We shall a - rise at the  
 meek and so low - ly, Give us the cour - age to  
 teach us to fash - ion Lives that are ho - ly and  
 peo - ples to - geth - er, Fire of love in our

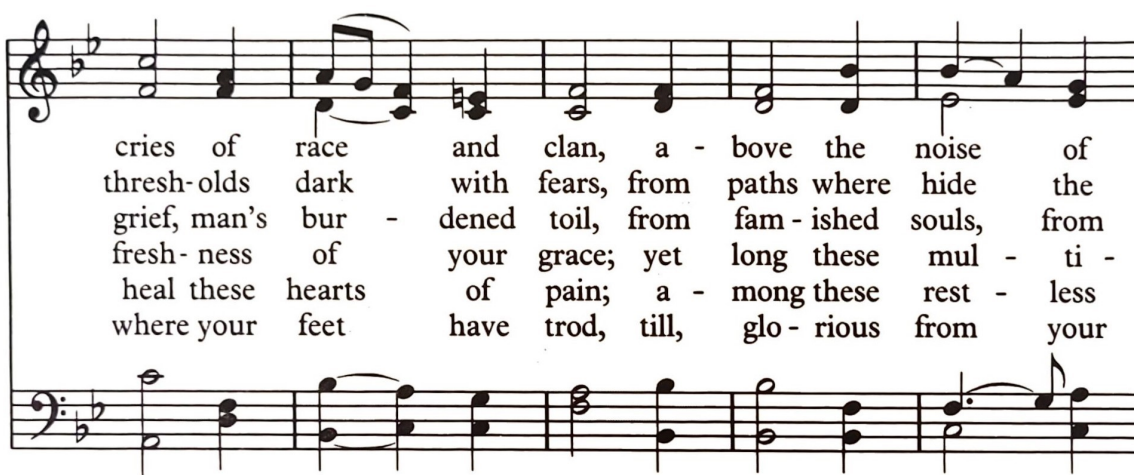
sound of our name.  
 en - ter the song.  
 hearts that are true.  
 flesh and our bone.

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## Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life



1. Where cross the crowd-ed ways of life, where sound the  
2. In haunts of wretch-ed - ness and need, on shad-owed  
3. From ten - der child-hood's help - less - ness, from wom-an's  
4. The cup of wa - ter given for you still holds the  
5. O Mas-ter, from the moun - tain - side make haste to  
6. Till all the world shall learn your love and fol - low



cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of  
thresh-olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the  
grief, man's bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from  
fresh-ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -  
heal these hearts of pain; a - mong these rest - less  
where your feet have trod, till, glo - rious from your



self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of man.  
lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.  
sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.  
tudes to view the sweet com - pas - sion of your face.  
throughs a - bid; O tread the cit - y's streets a - gain,  
heaven a - bove, shall come the cit - y of our God!

## Adult Sunday School

**Beginning Sunday, January 7**  
**9 - 10 am in the Turner Room (upper level)**

We will be using the Great Courses video series "African American History: From Emancipation through Jim Crow." This course consists of 12 videos each approximately 35 minutes long. We will watch one video a week leaving time for 25 minutes of discussion following the video.

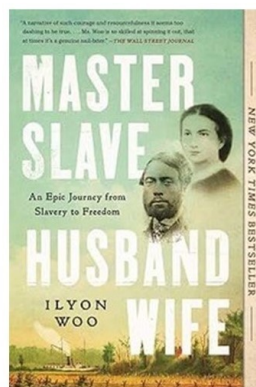
## Progressive Pilgrims Book Club gathering

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.

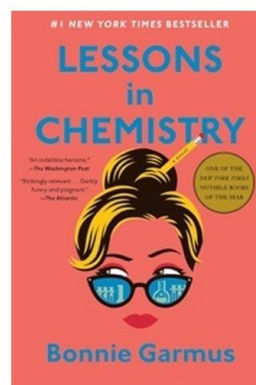
## Progressive Pilgrims Book Club

Have you considered joining the PP Bookclub, but it takes you more than one month to make it through a book? Or, are you someone who likes to read ahead? Or, maybe you'd like to share the book with others. For all those reasons we are announcing the next three month's books! Specific date and meeting location coming soon.

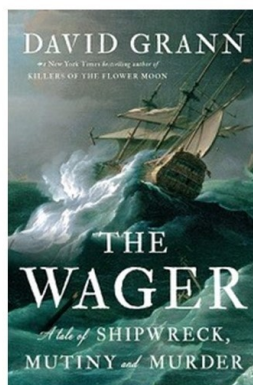
**February**



**March**



**April**



# January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>7</b> 9am Adult Sunday School  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>
<b>14</b> 9am Adult Sunday School  10:30am Sunday Worship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 5:30pm Investment Club	<b>17</b> 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner  6:15pm Facilitator Training  7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 5:30 pm CE	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9am Adult Sunday School  10:30am Sunday Worship	<b>22</b> 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	<b>23</b> 5:30pm Trustee Mtg	<b>24</b> 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner  7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 5pm Wine & Cheese Fundraiser

**Please join us for worship next Sunday, January 14th.  
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.