



Celebration of Worship

December 15, 2024

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December 15, 2024

10:30 am

Third Sunday of Advent

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

Opening Voluntary

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel
Christopher Shaw, organ

arr. Marilyn Biery

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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*Responsive Reading

Clifford Depew

One: As pregnant Mary sought care at Elizabeth's house,

All: we, too, gladly shelter one another.

One: As Elizabeth's baby jumped in her womb, recognizing the gift of his gestating cousin,

All: we, too, jump with delight, recognizing the Holy in one another.

One: As Mary sang a song of praise, rejoicing in God's justice and mercy,

All: we, too, sing songs of hope and liberation.

One: For God brings down rulers from their thrones and lifts up the humble.

All: God fills the hungry with good things and sends away the rich empty. Let us Glorify God!

Adapted from Enfleshed.com

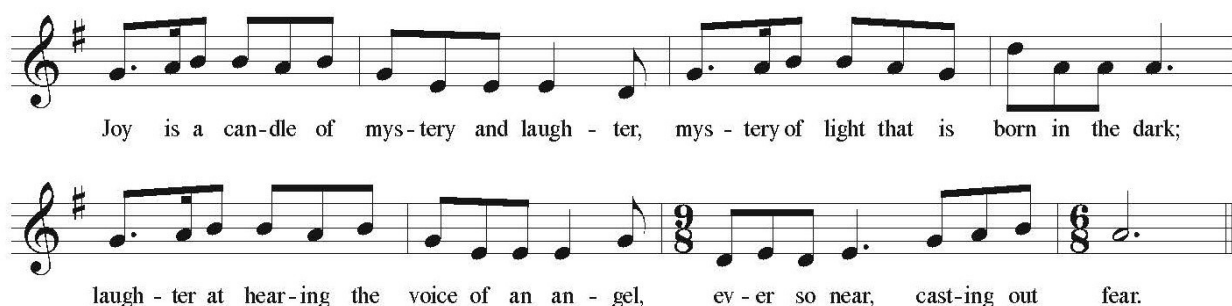
*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Candle of Joy

The Watson Family

*Light the Candle

Hope is a Candle



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*Invocation and Lord's Prayer

Mysterious and Powerful Love—shake up our old ways! Make vivid a path! Radicalize our spirits towards compassion! Align us with your anger and hope! Change our Lives! What joy, what delight to be found in co-creating beauty. What wonder to be found in the open-hearted living of the one who prayed...

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.

Invocation adapted from Enfleshed.com

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39-45

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

Welcoming Song

Holy Child within the manger

JOYOUS LIGHT

(Let the children come forward.)



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A Moment with Our Children

Lindsey Miller

Solo

Candlelight Carol
Aubrey Culver

John Rutter

How do you capture the wind on the water?
How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How can you measure the love of a mother,
Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him,
Seraphim round him, their vigil will keep;
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Saviour,
But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.

Find him in Bethlehem laid in a manger:
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay,
God-head incarnate and hope of salvation:
A child with his mother that first Christmas Day.

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.

Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

adapted from Enfleshed.com

Prayer Response

Invitation to Offering

Anthem

Sussex Carol

arr. Elaine Hagenberg

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring;
news of great joy, news of great mirth.
news of our merciful King's birth.

When sin departs before his grace
then life and health come in its place.
Angels and men with joy may sing,
all for to see the newborn King.

Then why should men on earth be sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad;
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night;
"Glory to God in highest heaven
Now and for evermore," Amen!

Sermon

Joy, Something to Sing About

*Closing Hymn

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

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*Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

arr. Robert J. Powell

Select liturgy adapted or taken from Enfleshed.com

* Let all who are able please stand.

*** Ushers will seat late comers

North Entry Greeter Cindy Perkins



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

Given in Memory of:

Sharon Safley and Bob Arthur

Charlie and Doris Watson
Richard and Patti Shields

Bill Miller and Elijah Rashad-Ruffin

Jamie, Tom and Beloved Family

John K Nelson, brother
Christi Maurer Hoehn, friend and
former Plymouth member
Mary A Nelson, sister

Bert McCormick, Paul J. Uhlig
Edgar Turner

Hunter Wishart and Cindy Sparks

Colleen Euson

Amy Neel and Richard Neel

Ted and John Robu

Their loved ones

Given by:

Abby Arthur, Tom, Michael and Robert Safley

Sue and Kurt Watson

Chris and Lindsay Miller

Jeanne Thompson

Anna and Paul Uhlig

The children of Bert McCormick

Henry Waters

Rich Euson

Elaine and Garry Neel

Tim and Karen Robu

Steve and Cathie Yager

A festive poster for holiday services. The background is dark teal with decorative holly leaves and berries in the corners. The text is in white and red. It lists three services: a Holiday Choir & Orchestra on Sunday, December 8 at 10:30 AM; a Blue Christmas Service on Saturday, December 21 from 5:30 to 6:00 PM; and Christmas Eve Services on Tuesday, December 24 at 6 PM (Family Service) and 11 PM (Candlelight Service). A large red and white graphic says 'Celebrate the Season with us!'. An illustration of three lit candles in a green wreath is on the right.

HOLIDAY CHOIR & ORCHESTRA
SUN / DEC 8
10:30 AM

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
SAT / DEC 21
5:30 - 6:00 PM

Celebrate the Season with us!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
TUES / DEC 24
6 PM FAMILY SERVICE
11 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER

DEC 15: Christmas Caroling @ 5:45 pm to 7:45 pm
DEC 18: Christmas Pageant following dinner. Pageant @ 6:30 pm
DEC 19: Christmas Organ Concert @ 7 PM
DEC 21: Blue Christmas Service @ 5:30 pm
DEC 22: Winter Shelter Prep & Serve Dinner
DEC 24: Christmas Eve Services Tuesday @ 6 PM and 11 PM

JANUARY

JAN 22: Wed. Dinner @ Progressive Pilgrim's Book Club: *The Exvangelicals*
JAN 29: Wed. Dinner Guests @ Sedgwick County Zoo
JAN 31: Word & Note - JAN 31/Feb 1/Feb 2

Plymouth Staff

Rev. Dr. Karen Robu, Senior Minister
Dr. Henry Waters, Director of Music
Christopher Shaw, Organist
Julie Martin, Administrative Assistant
Lindsay Miller, Sunday School Teacher
Robert Safley, Youth Group Leader
Tim Robu, Maintenance Engineer
Erik Breckenridge, Video Tech



Don't forget about the Pando 'Giving Tree'. This holiday season, you can support this impactful program by selecting an item from the Incentive Drive Tree in Fellowship Hall. Your generosity will make a meaningful difference in a student's life!

Fine Arts Display Case

Featured Artist—Svitlana Tararuk

Welcome to Svitlana Tararuk, our display case artist for November and December. As Ukrainian artist, the tradition of decorating Easter eggs, or “pysanky,” holds a profound significance in my life and creative expression. It is a celebration of heritage, spirituality, and the cyclical nature of life. Each design is carefully considered and often inspired by traditional motifs. My artistic journey is deeply rooted in personal experiences and observations. Emotions play a pivotal role in my creative process. I believe that art is a bridge between cultures and generations. Beyond the aesthetic aspect, my work carries a deeper message about resilience and hope. In the face of challenges, the act of creating pysanky becomes a meditative process, allowing me to reflect on themes of renewal and transformation, and giving me a feeling of stability. Each egg is a symbol of new beginnings, and through my art I aspire others to



Fine Arts Hallway Display

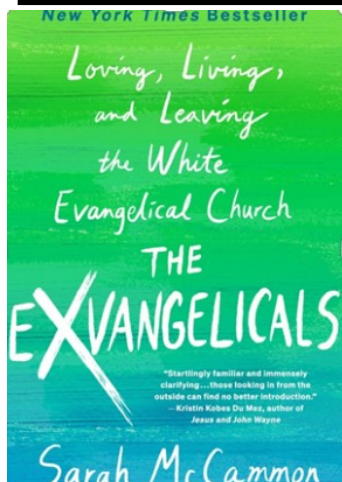
Featured Artist— Pam Bjork

Born in Wichita, Pam Bjork's creative journey has been shaped by a lifetime of rich experiences and global exploration. After attending UC Berkeley in 1968-69, she spent 26 years as a restaurateur in Colorado and Kansas, earning recognition such as the Business in the Arts Award. Her travels have taken her across five continents, where she participated in and observed diverse cultural ceremonies that deeply inform her artistic practice.

Pam's work reflects her belief in the presence of the sacred in everyday life. She finds inspiration in the objects and environments that surround us, from a pair of cloisonné lovebirds brought back from Singapore by her father to the quilt lovingly stitched by her grandmother. Through her art, she invites viewers to explore the deeper meanings and connections these items hold, reminding us that as archetypal psychologist James Hillman suggests, "All things are full of Gods."

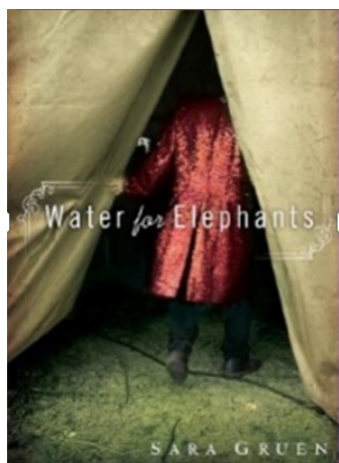


The year ahead includes great book selections for the **Progressive Pilgrim's Book Club**, and inspiring words and music in this year's **Word & Note**. Mark your calendars!



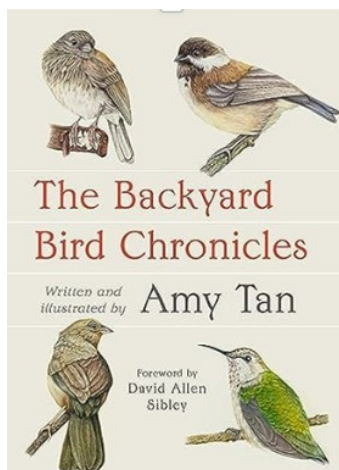
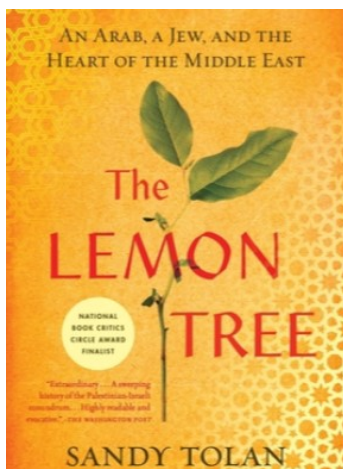
JAN 22:
The Exvangelicals

FEB 26:
Demon Copperhead



MAR 26: Water for Elephants

APR 30:
The Lemon Tree



MAY 21: The Backyard Bird Chronicles

FRI/JAN 31 - SUN/FEB 2

Word & Note

The Divine Arts of Knowledge and Exultation

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

7 - 8 PM

Sarah McCammon

"My Exvangelical Journey: Loving, Living and Leaving the Church that was Home"

.....

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

10 AM to Noon

Sarah McCammon

"Faith, Politics, and the 2024 Election"

Noon - 1 PM

**Lunch at Plymouth
or nearby restaurant**

1 to 2:00 PM

Mark A. Miller

"Worship & Music in a Time of Crisis"

7 PM

Mark A. Miller

"Songs of Justice & Joy"

.....

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

10:30 AM

Sarah McCammon

"New Life in the Wilderness"

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

2r

Words: trans. by J. M. Neale, 1851, public domain; Music: VENI EMMANUEL, ad. by Thomas
 Helmore, public domain.

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

SUO GAN 8.7.8.7 D

D Em7 A7 Bm D/A

1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon-light now be - gin to
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of

Em A7 D Bm F#m Em/G A7

grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten
 drift a - way. Dia - mond bril-liance through the dark-ness
 wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra-grance

Bm D/F# Em A7 D G

to the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of prom - ise, deep - ly
 shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of
 hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the

D Bm F#m Em7 A7 Bm F#m



plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -
 splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em - ber
 strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view: child who comes to

Em/G A7 Bm D/F# Em A7 D

neath the frost-line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
 fans to full-ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
 grace the man-ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

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December / January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15 9:00 AM Fine Arts Board 10:30 AM Worship Service 5:45 pm Christmas Caroling Bus Tour	16 8 AM Aerobics 2pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	17 6:30 PM Spinning Boots 6:30 pm Investment Club	18 8 AM Aerobics 5:30 pm WED Night Dinner + Christmas Pageant 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	19 11:30 am Lunch & Walk! 12:30 pm Plymouth Projects 7:00 PM Organ Recital Christopher Shaw	20 8 AM Aerobics	21 5:30 pm Blue Christmas Service
22 10:30 AM Worship Service 2 pm—6:30 pm Prepare and Serve Dinner: Humankind Winter Shelter	23 8 AM Aerobics 2pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers Preschool CLOSED	24 6 pm Family Christmas Service 11 pm Candlelight Christmas Service Preschool CLOSED	25 CHRISTMAS DAY CLOSED 	26 11:30 am Lunch & Walk! 12:30 pm Plymouth Projects 1:30 pm Women's AA Coffee Group	27 8 AM Aerobics	28
29 10:30 AM Worship Service with Lay Speaker, Abby Arthur	30 8 AM Aerobics 2pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	31 New Year's Eve	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! CLOSED 	2 11:30 am Lunch & Walk! 12:30 pm Plymouth Projects 1:30 pm Women's AA Coffee Group	3 8 AM Aerobics	4

Join us for Worship next Sunday, December 22nd.

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.