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***Celebration of Worship***  
**December 21, 2025**

# Celebration of Worship

December 21, 2025

10:30 am

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

### Opening Voluntary

*The Holly and the Ivy*  
Marisa Callan, piano

arr. Joseph M. Martin

## Welcome and Announcements

### Introit

*He Came Down*

arr. John Bell

He came down that we may have hope; hallelujah for evermore.  
He came down that we may have peace; hallelujah for evermore.  
He came down that we may have joy; hallelujah for evermore  
He came down that we may have love; hallelujah for evermore

## Call to Worship

### \*Opening Hymn

*Love Has Come*

Page 7

### \*Responsive Reading

Michael Aumack

One: With hope and anticipation, we await the birth of Christ

**All: Eager and expecting, we tend and prepare**

One: God will dwell among us, incarnate in stranger and kin

**All: God will be with us, in struggle and in joy**

One: Come, Holy One, and make your home with us

**All: Come, Love, and let us build the world anew**

### \*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**The Candle of Love**  
The Menefee Family

## \*Light the Candle

*Hope is a Candle*

GALLOWAY TAM



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.

## Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

**Emmanuel, our Companion. What a moment for your advent. There is so much ache on the planet. There are so many uncertainties before us. There is so much evil on the loose. We long for your presence in the heart of it all. As Teacher. As Guide. As Wisdom. As Friend. Come and meet us here, as we 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

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

**Welcoming Song**      *Holy Child Within the Manger*  
(Let the children come forward)

JOYOUS LIGHT

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.

**A Moment with Our Children**

Lindsay Miller

**Solo**

*The Work of Christmas*  
Jennifer King, soloist

Dan Forrest

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among each other,  
To make music in the heart.

**Prayer Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Prayer Response**

## Invitation To Offering

### **Anthem**

*How Great Our Joy*  
Christopher Shaw & Marisa Callan, piano  
Brett Callan, djembe

arr. Mark Grizzard

While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright.

*Chorus:* How great our joy! Praising the Savior in heaven on high!

There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a child today. *Chorus*

There shall the child lie in a stall, this child who shall redeem us all. *Chorus*

This gift of God we'll cherish well, that ever joy our hearts shall fill. *Chorus*

### **Sermon**

*"A Scandalous Love"*

Dr. Robu

### **Closing Hymn**

*Love Came Down at Christmas*

Page 8

### **\*Benediction**

### **Closing Voluntary**

*Bring A Torch, Jeanette Isabella*

arr. Keith Chapman

\* Let all who are able please stand.

\*\*\* Ushers will seat late comers

## **Plymouth Staff**

Rev. Dr. Karen Robu, Senior Minister  
Christopher Shaw, Director of Music & Organist  
Marisa Callan, Assistant Dir. of Music  
Julie Martin, Administrative Assistant  
Lindsay Miller, Sunday School Teacher  
Robert Safley, Youth Group Leader  
Tim Robu, Maintenance Engineer  
Erik Breckenridge, Video Tech  
Jacob Prickett, Video Tech Substitute

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**A CELEBRATION OF  
CHRISTMAS MUSIC  
SUN / DEC 14  
10:30 AM**

**LONGEST NIGHT  
SERVICE  
SUN / DEC 21  
5:30 - 6:00 PM**

**Celebrate the Season with us!**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

**WED/ DEC 24**

**6 PM FAMILY SERVICE  
11 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

# Love Has Come

UN FLAMBEAU (BRING A TORCH) 9.9.10.9.9.8

F Gm7/Bb C F

1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -

Gm/Bb C7 F F/A Bb C7

Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it.  
sleep in the . hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er.  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.

Bb F/A Gm7 C Dm C F

Hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
What is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the

C A/C# Dm C F C C7 F

you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high!  
name she whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.  
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

# Love Came Down at Christmas

LOVE INCARNATE 6.7.6.7 with refrain

F C Dm C F

1 Love came down at Christ - mas, love all love - ly,  
 2 Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate,  
 3 Love shall be our to - ken, love be yours and

Bb C F C Dm A7

love di - vine. Love was born at Christ - mas—  
 love di - vine. Wor - ship we our Je - sus—  
 love be mine, love to God and neigh - bor,

Refrain  
 Bb F C F Bb

star and an - gels gave the sign.  
 what shall be our sa - cred sign? Sing no - el,  
 love the u - ni - ver - sal sign. Sing no -

F Bb F

sing no - el, sing no - el.  
 el, sing no - el.

# PCC FINE ARTS



# HALLWAY GALLERIES

Christmas is just around the corner and the current art in the hallway or display case might just make the perfect gift for a special friend or family member. Only two Sundays remain for the current exhibit. You will see new art displays beginning in January.



Remember to grab a Pando "Mitten" from the Pando Initiative Tree in our lobby, to reward and encourage a student for meeting goals. Accepting donations now through January 16th! Merry, merry!

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



<b>Alan and Nancy</b>	<b>Roskam</b>	<b>In memory of loved ones</b>
<b>Corinne and Spencer</b>	<b>Depew</b>	<b>In memory of loved ones</b>
<b>Abby Arthur</b>	<b>Tom and Robert Safley</b>	<b>In memory of Bob Arthur &amp; Sharon Safley</b>
<b>Cathie and Steve</b>	<b>Yager</b>	
<b>Ingrid</b>	<b>Gill</b>	<b>In memory of Hugh Gill</b>
<b>Greg</b>	<b>Nickel</b>	<b>Love Ingrid, Grace &amp; Edie</b>
<b>Jared</b>	<b>Sprole</b>	<b>I Love You</b>
		<b>In memory of Frank &amp; Sally Sprole</b>
<b>Heidi</b>	<b>McCormick</b>	<b>In memory of: Bert McCormick, Edgar Turner, Mr. Young</b>
<b>Don and Diane</b>	<b>Fast</b>	<b>in memory of their son, Jeff Fast</b>
<b>Garry and Elaine</b>	<b>Neel</b>	<b>in memory of Amy Neel</b>
		<b>In memory our parents, Richard &amp; Emma Brown and Family, and Ralph &amp; LaVonta Gilchrist and Family</b>
<b>Jane Gilchrist</b>	<b>Charly Brown</b>	
<b>Cindy</b>	<b>Couch</b>	<b>In memory of my Sister, Mom and Dad</b>
		<b>In memory of Kitchel's brother, Bart Lindsley</b>
<b>Steve and Kitchel</b>	<b>Woods</b>	
<b>Jeanne &amp; Jesse</b>	<b>Thompson</b>	<b>In memory of Tom &amp; James Thompson</b>
<b>Roxie&amp; Ray</b>	<b>Mengelkoch</b>	<b>In memory of our parents</b>
<b>Rich</b>	<b>Euson</b>	<b>In memory of Colleen Euson</b>
<b>Bernie and Alberta</b>	<b>Nichols</b>	<b>In memory of our parents</b>

# Word & Note

The Divine Arts of Knowledge and Exultation

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

7 - 8 P M The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney  
*Wine & Cheese Reception to Follow*

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

10 - NOON The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney  
Noon - 2 PM Opus 76 Quartet  
& Lunch  
7 PM Opus 76 Quartet

*Wine & Cheese Reception to Follow*

### OPUS 76 QUARTET



'Known for their expressive power and technical brilliance,'

Hailed as "Kansas City's Gem of a Quartet" by the Kansas City Star.

'Dedicated to education and community engagement, the quartet's initiative, "Music Making Minds," provides music education to underserved communities, fostering a love for classical music among young audiences.'



## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

10:30 AM Worship Service  
Dr. Wil Gafney & Opus 76

All events at Plymouth Congregational  
202 North Clifton in College Hill  
Weekend Ticket ~ \$100 [\$120 value]  
Incl. all events + lunch + receptions  
Single ticket pricing: \$30 Each event

Ticket sales will begin next week.

### THE REV. DR. WIL GAFNEY



### *Wading in the Waters of Biblical Translation*

Dr. Wilda (Wil) Gafney is a scholar, pastor, preacher, author, and activist. She is the Right Rev. Sam B. Hulseby Professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School in Ft. Worth, TX, where she teaches masters and doctoral students in initial and advanced degree programs. Her work focuses on translation of the scriptures for congregations and lay readers, womanist and feminist biblical interpretation and, women who prophesied in ancient Israel and the ancient Afro-Asiatic world and, their reception in rabbinic literature. She is the author of or editor of nine previous books.

**December Birthdays:**

Steve Kimball Dec 5  
 Steve Gough Dec 7  
 Sally Kimball Dec 7  
 Phil Frick Dec 8  
 Margaret McKinney Dec 8

Katie Robu  
 Dan Corman  
 Zelfh Powell

Dec 12  
 Dec 18  
 Dec 24



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 10:30 AM WORSHIP NEW MEMBER SUNDAY	<b>1</b> AEROBICS PRAIRIE WIND FOLK DANCING	<b>2</b> SPINNING BOOTS 5:30 PM CABINET	<b>3</b> AEROBICS WED DINNER PAGEANT REHEARSAL CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b>4</b> WOMEN'S AA COFFEE	<b>5</b> AEROBICS	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9 AM CE BOARD 10:30 AM WORSHIP	<b>8</b> AEROBICS PRAIRIE WIND FOLK DANCING	<b>9</b> SPINNING BOOTS 6:00 PM DULL CREATIVES	<b>10</b> AEROBICS WED DINNER PAGEANT REHEARSAL CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b>11</b> WOMEN'S AA COFFEE	<b>12</b> AEROBICS	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 10:30 WORSHIP - HOLIDAY MUSIC CELEBRATION 11:30 AM GROWTH STEERING 5:30 HOLIDAY CAROLING	<b>15</b> AEROBICS PRAIRIE WIND FOLK DANCING	<b>16</b> SPINNING BOOTS	<b>17</b> AEROBICS WED NIGHT DINNER: CHRISTMAS PAGEANT CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b>18</b> WOMEN'S AA COFFEE 7:30 PM ORGAN RECITAL CHRISTOPHER SHAW	<b>19</b> AEROBICS	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9 AM MISSIONS BOARD 10:30 WORSHIP 5:30 PM LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE	<b>22</b> AEROBICS PRAIRIE WIND FOLK DANCING	<b>23</b> SPINNING BOOTS INVESTMENT CLUB 5:30 PM TRUSTEES	<b>24</b> 6 PM CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE 11 PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	<b>25</b> CHRISTMAS DAY CLOSED	<b>26</b> AEROBICS CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL CLOSED	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10:30 WORSHIP 11:30 AM DEACONS	<b>29</b> AEROBICS PRAIRIE WIND FOLK DANCING	<b>30</b> SPINNING BOOTS	<b>31</b> AEROBICS NEW YEAR'S EVE	<b>1</b> NEW YEARS DAY CLOSED	<b>2</b> AEROBICS CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	<b>3</b>