

# *Plymouth* Congregational Church

*Sharing Faith's Journey*



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***Celebration of Worship***  
**December 28, 2025**

# Celebration of Worship

December 28, 2025

10:30 am

## First Sunday After Christmas

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

**Opening Voluntary**

On This Day Earth Shall Ring  
Christopher Shaw, organ

arr. Emma Lou Diemer

**Welcome and Announcements**

Alan Fearey

**Introit**

*“Gloria” from Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Call to Worship**

Rev. Peter Goerzen

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

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**\*Responsive Reading**

Alan Fearey

One: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord! My spirit rejoices in God my Savior!  
**Many: You have mercy on those who revere you, from generation to generation.**

One: You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
casting down the mighty from their thrones, and lifting up the lowly  
**Many: You have filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty**

One: You have come to the aid of your servant,  
**Many: To remember the promise of mercy, the promise made to our forebears, to  
Abraham and Sarah and their children forever.**

***All: You, Almighty God, have done great things, and holy is your name!***

**\*Invocation and Lord's Prayer**

Alan Fearey

**God of glory, your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem, where the Light of the world is humbly born into the darkness of human night. Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world, so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice, and defenders of all for whom there is no room.**

**...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 Readings**

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

## 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.

## A Moment with Our Children

Lindsay Miller

### Solo

The Coventry Carol  
Aubrie Culver, soloist

arr. Mark Hayes

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny Child, by, by, lully lullay;  
lullay, thou little tiny Child, by, by, lully, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day  
this poor youngling, for whom we do sing, by, by, lully, lullay?

Herod the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day  
his men of might, in his own sight, all young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor Child for Thee, and ever mourn and say,  
for thy parting no say nor sing, by, by, lully, lullay.

## Prayer Concerns

Alan Fearey

## Pastoral Prayer

## Prayer Response

## Invitation to Offering

## **Anthem**

Away in a Manger

arr. Gilbert Martin

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;  
the stars in the heavens looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

## **Sermon**

*“A Crying Babe”*

Rev. Peter Goerzen

## **\*Closing Hymn**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

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## **\*Benediction**

## **Closing**

*Joy to the World*

arr. Craig Phillips

\* Let all who are able please stand.

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### “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

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### “Hope is a Candle”

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### “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

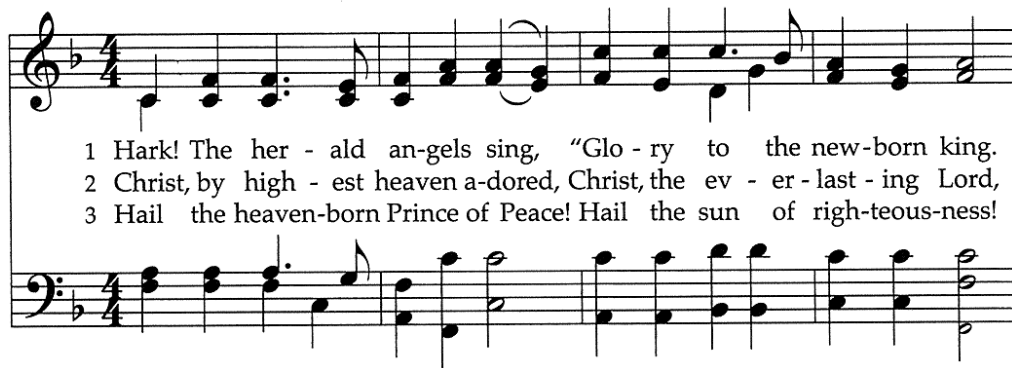
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### **Plymouth Staff**

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

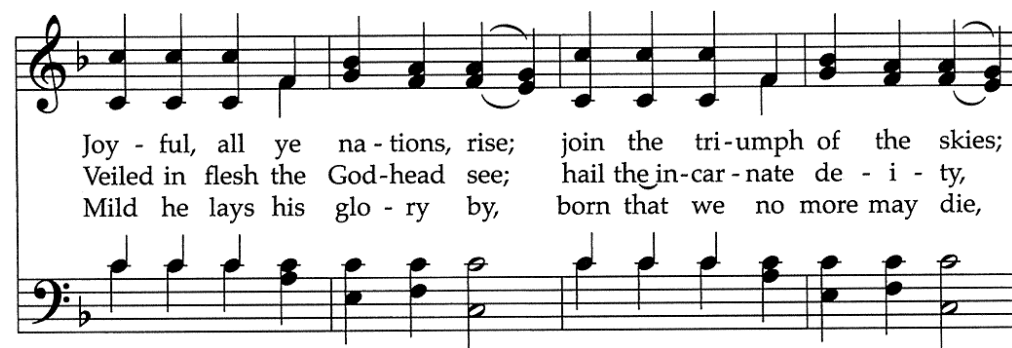
# Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



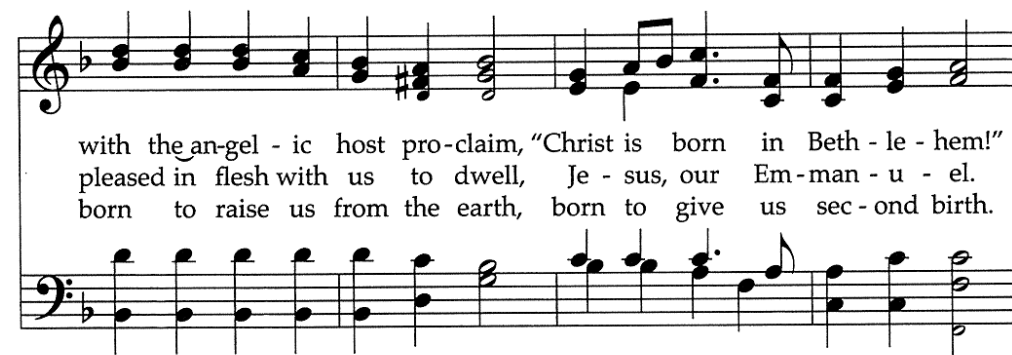
1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.  
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



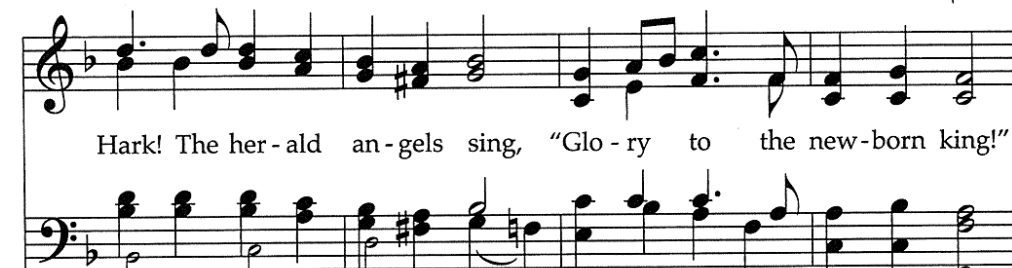
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



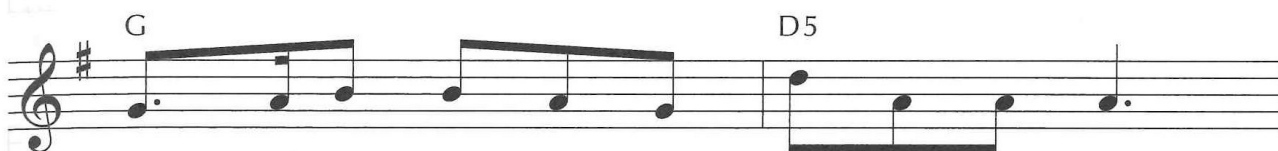
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

# Hope Is a Candle

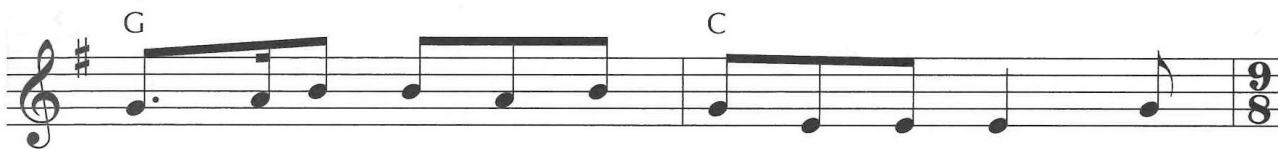
GALLOWAY TAM 11.10.11.8



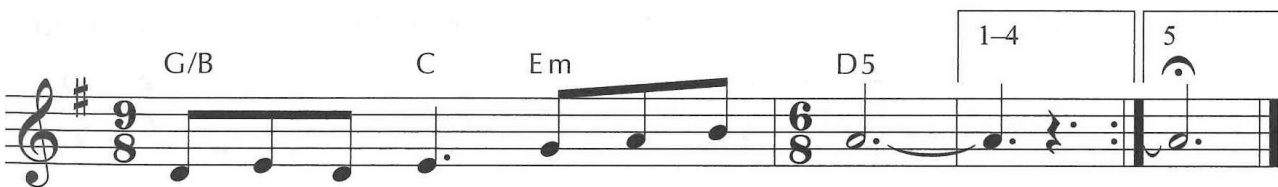
1 Hope is a can - dle, once lit by the proph - ets,  
 2 Peace is a can - dle to show us a path - way,  
 3 Love is a can - dle whose light makes a cir - cle,  
 4 Joy is a can - dle of mys - tery and laugh - ter,  
 5 Christ is the light that the proph - ets a - wait - ed,



nev - er con - sumed, though it burns through the years;  
 threat - ened by gusts from our rage and our greed.  
 where ev - 'ry face is the face of a friend.  
 mys - tery of light that is born in the dark;  
 Christ is the li - on, the lamb, and the child.



dim in the day - light of pow - er and priv' - lege—  
 Friend, feel no en - vy for those in the shad - ows—  
 Wid - en the cir - cle by shar - ing and giv - ing—  
 laugh - ter at hear - ing the voice of an an - gel,  
 Christ is the love and the mys - tery and laugh - ter—



when they are gone, hope will shine on.  
 vio - lence and force their dead - end course.  
 God's ho - ly dare: love ev - 'ry - where.  
 ev - er so near, cast - ing out fear.  
 cand - les, make way! Christ is the day.

# O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.7.6

Capo 3: (D)

(D) F (Em) Gm (D/A) F/C (A7) C7 (D) F

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray,

(D) F (B7) D7 (Em) Gm (D/A) F/C (A7) C7 (D) F

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by.  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of the heav'n's.  
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day!

(D) F (Em) Gm (F#) A (Bm) Dm (Em) Gm (F#) A

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell.

(D) F (Em) Gm (D/A) F/C (A7) C7 (D) F

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 And prais - es sing—let "Glo - ry!" ring with peace to all on earth!  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

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# Dull Creatives Society

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**We're moving to Wednesdays in 2026!**  
**JANUARY 21 6PM TO 8PM**



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## Crocheting



**BRING AT LEAST 2  
SKEINS OF YOUR  
PREFERRED YARN.**

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**Come learn basic crochet  
stitches to make a scarf or  
"granny squares"**

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**Plymouth Congregational Church  
202 N Clifton Ave**



All are welcome!



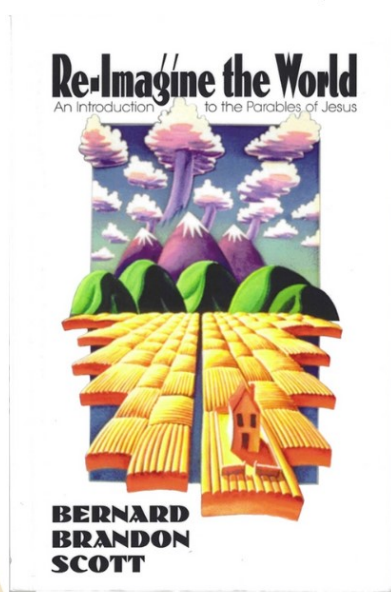
## ADULT STUDY GROUP

January 4, 11, 18, & 25, 2026  
February 1, 15 & 22, 2026  
9:00 am in the Chapel

“Re-Imagine the World:  
An Introduction to the  
Parables of Jesus”  
by Bernard Brandon Scott

**Led by Phil Rhea**

for 7 sessions, ending in late February



**In this book the author sets his interpretation of the key parables of Jesus in the context of other things Jesus said and did. The result is a startling and provocative picture of the historical figure and the challenge he presents to contemporary life.**

# PCC FINE ARTS



# HALLWAY GALLERIES

Last day for current display of Hallway and Lobby Gallery Artwork.

Be sure to take a look at our Hallway and Lobby Galleries before artwork changes after the New Year!



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!

# 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*

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

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

### 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.

2026



Weekend Pass ~ \$100 [\$120 value]  
Incl. all events + lunch + receptions  
Single ticket pricing: \$30 Each event

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*Contact church office for more information*

### 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. Hulse Professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School in Ft. Worth, TX.