



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

**Service of Word and Sacrament
December 3, 2017
First Sunday of Advent
10:00 am**

HOPE:

To hope in God is to move to a rhythm that other people may not hear. Having hope means constantly expecting a different kind of future, even when history seems to confirm our fears. Hope is for those who feel the pain of the world ... who agonize at human cruelty ... who hear the cries of homeless and hungry children, and cry along with them. In a world where hope seems so far away, we are a people of hope. We listen for the voice of angels in the wind. We stretch to see the first light of a new day on the horizon. We long for a new birth of grace in every human heart. We wait. We listen. We hope. *(Source: Life in Liturgy)*

THE GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

“Sleepers Wake!”

BWV 645, J. S. Bach

Nic Abelgore, trombone

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Jeremiah 33:14-16

Ann Badger

One: The year is pregnant. Hope strains all bonds.

Many: The days are surely coming!

One: The promise is made. We look to the skies.

Many: The days are surely coming!

One: The nights are long. The Branch springs forth.

Many: The days are surely coming!

One: Oppression reigns. Still, hearts grow large.

Many: The days are surely coming!

One: The time is nigh. We wait with hope.

Many: Our Lord is surely coming!

*OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(verses 1-2, 6-7)

No. 116

WORDS OF WELCOME

Craig French

**Please rise if you are able*

WELCOME SONG

There are an-gels hov-'ring round. There are an-gels hov-'ring round. There are an-gels hov-'ring round.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

*PRAISE SONG (unison)

Glo-o-o-o-o-ria in excelsis Deo! (2x)

THE GIFT OF HOPE

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

(by Maren Tirabassi, adapted)

Cindy Ostuni and Kathy Braedan, Renae and Reese Tryon

One: We gather around the Advent wreath
to name abandoned hope, broken peace,
lost joy, and love unchosen
in our world and our time ...
and to claim that this candle symbolizes
a light more true, more powerful, more faithful
than all of these.

Many: **We light the candle of hope
in the face of stage serious cancer,
reckless damage to creation,
deportations into danger and
scorched-earth, take-no-prisoners politics.**

One: God's hope brightens doubt and hopelessness
and shows us the more-than-this, better-than-this.

Many: **Emmanuel, God-with-us,
when we leave this place,
light this hope on the wick of our lives
so that we may brighten the world. Amen**

THE CANDLE OF HOPE (unison, tune: We Worship You, God)

**The candle of hope we light in this hour
Proclaims that the Lord is coming in power.
We wait for a future, now hidden from view,
When Christ in his glory will make all things new.**

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:5-25

ANTHEM

“E’en so Lord Jesus quickly come”
(from Rev. 22)

Paul Manz

*Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all, and shed his blood that we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God
Who was and is, and is to come; Sing holy, holy Lord!
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming soon.
E’en so Lord Jesus, quickly come and night shall be no more;
They need no light, nor lamp, nor sun
For Christ will be their All!*

COMMUNION REFLECTION

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

*HYMN

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (vss 1-3)

No. 345

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

REMEMBERING TOGETHER

THE BLESSING OF BREAD AND CUP

THE SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

Our communion table is open to all without regard for religion, strength of belief, state of soul, or certainty of conviction. All you have to be to feast with our God is hungry. You are invited to take a piece of the bread and wait to eat until all have been served. You are invited to partake of the cup, however, as soon as you are served. The cup is non-fermented grape juice; a gluten-free substitute is available on each plate.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Meditation on Advent Hymns

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND PASTORAL PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“If you would hear the angels sing”

D. H. Williams

*If you would hear the angels sing, “Peace on earth and mercy mild,”
Think of him who was once a child on Christmas Day in the morning.
If you would hear the angels sing, Christians! See you let each door
Wider stand than e’er before, On Christmas Day in the morning.
Rise and open wide the door; Christians, rise! The world is wide,
Many are they who stand outside yet Christmas comes in the morning.*

*If you would hear the angels sing, rise and spread your Christmas fare;
Still the merrier more who share, on Christmas Day in the morning.
If you would hear the angels sing, Rise, and light your Christmas fire;
Pile the logs on ever higher on Christmas Day in the morning.
Rise, and bake your Christmas bread; Christians, rise!
The world is old, time is weary, and worn, and cold,
Yet Christmas comes in the morning.*

*DOXOLOGY

Hymn No. 128, verse 4

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN

God of All Places

Tune: David Young

Text: David Haas

The musical score is written in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 God of all pla - ces, pres - ent, un - seen;
 2 God of all dream - ing, near and yet far;
 3 God of all peo - ple, dust and the clay;

voice in our si - lence, song in our midst,
 vi - sion un - heard of, wake us to rest,
 breath of a new wind, fire in our hearts,

we are your peo - ple, know - ing, un - sure:
 We are your pres - ence sent forth, a - fraid:
 light born of heav - en, peace on the earth:

come, Lord Je - sus, come!

Chord progressions are indicated above the notes: F#, Bm, A/C#, E7, A, D, Em, A, D, B, Em, E7, A, D/F#, G, Em7, A7, D.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Sleepers Wake!”
(Nic Abalgore, trombone)

Johann L. Krebs



*This morning we are grateful for the music leadership
of Alice Dickerson Hatt while Director of Music Joe Downing is away.*



Advent and Christmas at Plymouth

As the nights grow longer and the days grow colder,
our celebrations become ever more powerful.
And remember: this is the easiest time of year to get friends to come with you!

December 3: First Sunday of Advent
Communion Sunday
Advent Workshop following worship, with service projects, crafts, and more

Thursday, December 7: Soup Supper and Taize Service
Supper at 6pm followed by a brief service ~ Prayer, silence, scripture

December 10: Second Sunday of Advent
Gingerbread house making for families and children following worship
Las Posadas caroling event at 4pm

December 17: Third Sunday of Advent
Service of Lesson and Carols
Advent Potluck Luncheon following worship

Thursday, December 21: Soup Supper and Taize Service
Supper at 6pm followed by a brief service ~ Prayer, silence, scripture



**December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Christmas Eve**

10:00am Sunday morning service
with Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant for families.
Wiggles, giggles, and excitement welcome!

11:00pm Candlelight Service with Communion: tender, serene, and uplifting



❧ Plymouth Runs On YOU ❧

GREETERS: Caroline Cargo and Bernie Peterson **LITURGIST:** Ann Badger

USHERS: Cindy Perrine and Cyndi Signorelli

ACOLYTE: Abigail Mannion

FLOWERS given by Peggy Kinner in celebration of Missy's birthday on December 2nd

COMMUNION SERVERS: Funmi Afelumo, George Bain, Barbara Forsstrom,
Nancy Johnson, Frank Leonard, Kailyn Wright

COMMUNITY TIME: Sarah VanNorstrand

OFFERING COUNTERS: Sue Bogucz and Keith Jakway

*You can volunteer for many of these ministries via the Plymouth website www.plymouthsyr.org. Go to the
“Get Involved” page and click on the link above the choir photo.*

Hospitality Ministry – Please consider serving as a host for Community Time. There is a sign-up chart in the bell tower entrance. It’s easy and we’ll help you!

Flowers – Make our worship space even more beautiful for the glory of God and in honor of whatever you choose. A sign-up sheet is found in the bell tower entry. The cost is \$25, but plans for larger or multiple arrangements can always be made.

Accessibility: Individual listening headsets are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Please contact one of the ushers for help. An elevator and ramp are available. **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY.**

Welcoming Children in Worship: Children of all ages have a place in worship and in the life of the church. Nursery care is offered at 10:00 am for infants. Sound is piped into Memorial Hall next door to the Sanctuary for those who would welcome a space apart.

Worship Clipboards: Worship clipboards with age-appropriate bulletins and coloring paper are available in the back of the Sanctuary for our elementary aged children as a support to their attendance in worship. We hope you will find these clipboards a welcoming and supportive means of engaging your children during the worship service.

There is ample **free street parking** on the blocks around our church on Sundays, as well as in the lots behind the Catholic diocese building. For those able to walk a short distance, parking here will allow those with mobility impairments or small children to use the spots directly in front of the church.

☞ Some Things You Ought to Know ☞

Capital Campaign Update

We have commitments totaling \$735,212.
\$713,249 has been paid on those commitments so far.
We’re in the home stretch, team! Keep it up!

TODAY following worship: Advent Workshops – Memorial Hall

And:

- If you missed the chance to send a video farewell to Quinn, James Rada will be available after the service to capture your message.
- One more chance to order a wreath to support the Nicaragua Mission Trip – see Chris Hopkins at the Advent Workshop

Stewardship Campaign Update: Through three weeks of our stewardship campaign for 2018, we received 77 pledges for \$210,415. Pledges account for more than 80 percent of the church’s operating budget each year and make possible our ongoing ministries of justice and peace. You may mail your pledge card to the office or put it in the offering plate. Pledge cards are available in the Sanctuary; see George Bain.

The **Plymouth Women** are holding their monthly meeting **tomorrow** at noon at the Onondaga Free Library, 4840 W Seneca Turnpike. All women are invited. Bring a lunch and a snack to share. If you’d like to be added to the “call list” to receive directions or monthly confirmation, contact Peggy Kinner, Anne Frank or Tina Goodall.

Plymouth Church will offer two special times of worship this month—one on Thursday, Dec. 7, and one on Thursday, Dec. 21. Each gathering will begin at 6:00 pm with a simple meal of soup and bread, followed immediately by a time of quiet, meditative worship, which will feature scripture, prayer, silence and gentle, chant-like singing. Each gathering will wrap up by 6:50. Come join us in waiting upon the presence of God, as we prepare for the coming of Christ into our lives and world.

Advent Devotional Book *Watch*, the UCC's 2017 book of daily Advent devotions, written by UCC authors including our own Quinn Caldwell, is available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary for a suggested price of \$3 each (let us know if that price is prohibitive for you!)

Gingerbread House making next Sunday! All families with young children and youth are invited to the third floor Learning Community room following worship to share some holiday cheer.

Holiday Concert for the Plymouth Community: Bones East, the trombone choir of Onondaga County, welcomes you to a special program of seasonal music right here at Plymouth Church **NEXT Sunday at 1 pm.**

Las Posadas all-church caroling event – NEXT Sunday: Meet at The Nottingham (1305 Nottingham Rd, Jamesville) at 4pm. We'll gather outside the Residential Healthcare Facility and enter together. After sharing songs of the season, we'll go sing at the L'Arche House and the Dorothy Day House, and end the evening with food and fellowship at Chris Hopkins' house, 110 Kensington Rd., Syracuse, 13210.

Advent activities: More information about all the advent events listed on page 7 can be found in the December *Plymouth Story*. Questions? Call the church office.

The **Food Pantry** is collecting DEODORANT during the month of December. Please place your contributions in the box in the back of the worship area.

The Bristol family invites the Plymouth community to Noni's memorial service on Saturday, December 9 at 2pm in the sanctuary followed by a reception in Memorial Hall.

Home communion: If you are unable to be in church on communion Sunday and want to receive communion, Keith Jakway will be happy to bring it to you – just give him a call at 315-382-0843. Or email him at Krj1158@aol.com.

THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH

- Mon. Dec. 4 Plymouth Women – 12noon – Onondaga Free Library
- Thurs. Dec. 7 Soup and Bread Dinner – 6pm – Parlor
followed by meditative worship – 6:30pm - Sanctuary
Bell Choir Rehearsal – 5:30pm – Bell Room
Choir Rehearsal – 7pm – Memorial Hall
- Sat. Dec. 9 Noni Bristol Memorial Service and Reception – 2pm
- Sun. Dec. 10 Worship/Chapel Time – 10am
Forum – The pastoral search process - with Rev. Freeman
Palmer of the NY Conference
Gingerbread house making – 11:15am - Learning Community class
Bones East Concert – 1pm in the sanctuary
Las Posadas caroling event – 4pm – meet at The Nottingham

Music Notes for December 3, 2017

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) originally wrote today's **Prelude** in his Advent Cantata #140 *Sleepers Awake*. This movement is the center movement in the cantata, and the *cantus firmus* (the pre-existing hymn tune melody, see hymn #188) is sung by the tenors while the *obbligato* (the Bach-composed melody that complements the cantus firmus) is played by all of the violins and violas. Bach was so content with this movement that he re-wrote it for organ with the obbligato in the right hand, and the cantus firmus in the left hand. This morning, the organ will play the obbligato and Nic Abelgore will play the cantus firmus on the trombone.

Anthem - Paul Manz (1919-2009) long served the church as recitalist, composer, teacher and leader in worship. His motet, "**E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come**" is regarded as a classic and has been frequently recorded here and abroad. Paul and Ruth Manz wrote the anthem in 1953 during a time when their three-year-old son was critically ill. Reflecting on the time, Ruth Manz reported, "I think we'd reached the point where we felt that time was certainly running out so we committed it to the Lord and said, 'Lord Jesus quickly come'". During this time, she had prepared some text for Paul for a composition

based on the Book of Revelation, chapter 22. While at his son's bedside, Paul Manz began drafting the composition, which later became the current piece. Their son did recover, to which the couple owed to prayer. *"And night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All."*

Offertory Anthem - David H. Williams (1919-2002), composer of **"If you would hear the angels sing"** was a prolific and noted church music composer. He was born in Caerphilly, Wales, in 1919, and immigrated to America in 1927. More than 200 pieces of his music have been published since 1953. He was music director at Catalina United Methodist Church, Tucson, AZ, for more than 18 years, until his retirement in 1984. English poet Dora Greenwell, 1821-1882, wrote the Advent poem "If you would hear the angels sing." It appeared in *The Oxford Book of Carols* (1928) with a setting by Ralph Vaughan Williams. She is often compared to the English poet Christina Rossetti. In addition to poetry, she wrote essays on women's education and suffrage, and attacked the slave trade. Some of her verses were set to music as hymns and anthems.

The **postlude**, also on the Advent chorale melody **"Sleepers Wake"** is by Johann Ludwig Krebs (1713-1780). He was a German composer whose career spanned the end of the Baroque and beginning of the Classical era. Krebs's father had studied with J.S. Bach and taught his son organ, harmony, theory, and counterpoint. J. L. Krebs was a student at the St. Thomas school in Leipzig, where J.S. Bach was music director. J.S. Bach held him in high regard, punning on both their names (Krebs [crab or crayfish] and Bach [brook or stream]) by saying "He is the only crayfish in my stream." It is not surprising that many of his works, especially his organ compositions, are very much like those of J.S. Bach.

✿ About Plymouth ✿

Plymouth was founded in 1853 by a group of Syracusans who wanted to create a Christian abolitionist bulwark in the city. Since then, we have fought against slavery, poverty, and war; for immigrants', natives', workers', LGBT, and women's rights; and sought to be agents of mercy in a hurting world. We believe in beauty, laughter, the struggle for peace with justice, taking risks for God, and the Way of Jesus Christ.

Our faith is over 2,000 years old; our thinking is not!

We are Open and Affirming We believe God calls us to welcome all people and their gifts regardless of gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, physical ability, socioeconomic status, or religious background.

We are Just Peace We covenant to live actively within the holy longing that weds justice with the quest for peace – within us, between us, in community, and across the globe. We covenant to affirm the sacredness of all life and to honor and preserve creation.

We are Sanctuary We provide a space of physical, emotional, and spiritual safety for immigrants without documents, and specifically pledge to the principles of the national New Sanctuary Movement.

We are Progressive Christians We try to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our brother and savior. We believe God speaks new meanings for new days, and that She does so not only in the church and the ancient words of the Bible, but through the insights of science, the arts, the revelations of other religions, and the best strivings of the human spirit. We believe God has granted us a purpose, and that life is too short for long-faced religion. Join us!

Rev. Craig French, Bridge Pastor
Dr. Joseph Downing, Director of Music
Kim Looney, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries
Kathy Ferro, Church Administrator
Mark Johnson, Sexton

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