



Plymouth Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Service of Word and Sacrament
December 2, 2018
First Sunday of Advent
10:00 am

THE GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

Michael Wise

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Violet Giroux

*OPENING HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

No. 117

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Based on Jeremiah 33:14-16*)

Nancy Gwin, Liturgist

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!**

*INVOCATION (*unison*)

Eternal God, you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand. Keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, and make us strong in faith, so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth, we may joyfully give him praise; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

*WELCOME SONG

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

** Please rise if you are able*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

*SONG OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit Three in One;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

THE GIFT OF HOPE

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Jim, Lydia and Oliver Kurt

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kim Looney

*All Children and Youth are invited to come forward to bless the congregation's donations at this time.
After the blessing they are invited to carry the donations into Memorial Hall where they will remain until
the Offertory.*

SCRIPTURE

Luke 21:25-36

ANTHEM

And the Glory of the Lord

Michael Wise

SERMON

False Positives

*HYMN

Come, O Long Expected Jesus

No. 122

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

*Today we receive a special offering for the Good Samaritan Fund, which is used
to support people in need in our congregation and beyond.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Zion

Michael Wise

*DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below!
Praise God for all that love has done!
Creator, Christ, and Spirit one. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

**God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We confess we go
about our lives as if Christmas is a day to celebrate, but not a way to live. We hear the
good news, but do not heed it. We hear the call of the Angels to come and worship the
newborn savior, but we turn away distracted. Forgive us and free us. In the name of the
baby of Bethlehem we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

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 2: First Sunday of Advent

Communion Sunday

Advent Workshop following worship

~ craft, create, and sort winter gifts for local people in need ~

December 9: Second Sunday of Advent

Gingerbread house making for families and children following worship

December 16: Third Sunday of Advent

Service of Lessons and Carols

Advent Potluck Luncheon following worship

December 23: Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24: Christmas Eve

5:30pm Family Candlelight Service and Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant, geared especially for families with children. Wiggles, giggles and excitement welcome!

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

☞ Plymouth Runs On YOU ☞

GREETER: Sarah Whitton **LITURGIST:** Nancy Gwin

USHERS: Barb Genton and Cindy Perrine **ACOLYTE:** Violet Giroux

COMMUNION SERVERS: Funmi Afelumo, George Bain, Juliet Giglio, Scott Kraemer, Christine Richardson, and Kailyn Wright

FLOWERS given by Peggy and Larry Kinner in celebration of Missy Carr's birthday

COMMUNITY TIME: Carole Brzozowski and Linda Kraemer

OFFERING COUNTERS: Keith Jakway and Sarah Whitton

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. At Plymouth we try to engage people of all ages in different ways. **Worship activity kits** and age-appropriate **children's bulletins** are available at our *worship activity shelf* in the back of the Sanctuary for our young children and youth (and for any adults who feel led to use them!). We hope that these activities will help worshipers connect with the service in ways that are meaningful to them. **PLEASE** return the activity kits with all of the supplies to the shelf at the end of the service.

Nursery Care: Infants and toddlers have a special place in worship, too, and are always welcome. Sound is piped into Memorial Hall next door to the sanctuary for those who would welcome a space apart. We also offer Nursery care for infants and toddlers at 9:45am. There are changing tables in the restroom just off the sanctuary, in the nursery, and in the men's restroom in the basement.

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 ☞

TODAY following worship:

- Advent Workshop – 11:15am – Memorial Hall
(No Learning Community)

Stewardship Update: We have received **63 pledges** for **\$208,432** toward Plymouth's 2019 budget. Our stewardship effort will continue until the Annual Meeting in January. Your pledges make possible the operation of the church and its ongoing efforts of love, justice and mercy. Pledge cards are available in the Sanctuary. If you need one but are unable to come to worship, please contact George Bain.

Advent Devotional Book: *Come, Lord Jesus*, the UCC's 2018 book of daily Advent devotions, written by UCC authors, is available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary for a suggested price of \$4 each (let us know if that price is prohibitive for you!)

Plymouth Women's Fellowship will meet at 12 noon **TOMORROW, December 3** at the Solvay Library, 615 Woods Rd., Solvay, 13209. All women are invited. Bring a lunch and a snack to share.

- Thurs. Dec. 6 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 5:30pm – Sanctuary
Choir Rehearsal – 7:00pm – Memorial Hall
- Sun. Dec. 9 Worship/PrayGround - 10am
Gingerbread Houses for children, youth and their families – 11:15am
Endowment Team – 11:15am - Parlor

🌀 Music Notes for December 2, 2018 🌀

Most churches today are lucky to find one organist and one minister. Here at Plymouth we have an abundance of both! I won't begin to enumerate all the clergy that attend Plymouth, but, counting myself, we have five organists in the choir alone (not counting the ones that may be sitting in the pews!) Both Alice Hatt and William Hanley have played here at Plymouth many times, and today you get to hear our two younger organists, Nic Abelgore and Kyle Seniw. Nic and Kyle have been taking a service-playing organ class at SU with Dr. Annie Laver, and part of their final assignment for the class is to play a hymn and other organ music for a real, live, enthusiastically-singing congregation. 😊

Today our choral music is the verse anthem *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord* by Michael Wise (1648-1687.) I knew almost nothing about Wise before we learned this piece, but after reading his bio, I remember discussions we had about him in grad school. He was one of several boys who were named Children of the King's Chapel in about 1660. He and two other boys, John Blow and Pelham Humphrey, became the most influential English musicians in the generation before Henry Purcell (whose teacher was John Blow.) Wise became the organist at Salisbury Cathedral, and later at St. Paul's in London. The anthem actually consists of six very short movements (some are less than fifteen seconds!):

Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
And the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places shall be made plain.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

And the voice said, "Cry!" What shall I cry?

All flesh is grass, and the goodness thereof is as a flower that is in the field.

The grass withereth, and the flower fadeth,
But the word of the Lord shall stand fast forever!

O Zion, that bringest glad tidings, get thee up into the mountains.

O Jerusalem, that bringest glad tidings, lift up thy voice with strength,

And say unto Judah, "Behold, thy God."

Our **postlude** is a chorale prelude of Johann Gottfried Walther (1864-1748) a first cousin to Johann Sebastian Bach, who was, like almost all the members of that illustrious family, a composer and organist in central Germany.

🌀 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 Immigrant Welcoming We seek to learn, support, and develop practices and programs that facilitate the respectful welcome and inclusion of all immigrants into our congregation and community.

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!

The Rev. Dr. John A. Terry, Interim Pastor; jerry@plymouthsyr.org
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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