



### Liturgy for the Gathering of Grace

November 27, 2022 - First Sunday of Advent

When you see an **\*** please stand.

#### Welcome & Announcements

\*Gathering Song

#### \*Passing of the Peace

#### **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Leader:	We gather in the long shadows of the year, deep in this dark season, to await the light of Christ.
People:	We light this candle as a sign of hope
	shining in the night.
Leader:	We wait and hope for the love of God to take human
	form, incarnate in our lives.
People:	Come Emmanuel! Come find us where
People:	Come Emmanuel! Come find us where we fear we are lost. Claim us as your own.
People: Leader:	
•	we fear we are lost. Claim us as your own.

#### **Advent Reading & Prayer**

\*Gloria (Join in singing)

Glory to the Creator, and the Christ and the Spirit so near, as it was from the start, so it shall be forever, one God, always here. (Repeat once)

#### **Scripture Reading**

Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:3b-6, 17-19

Pew Bible HB pg. 871-73

Plymouth Church

#### Word through Music

#### Sermon

"How Long?"

Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean

#### **Call to Offering**

#### Offertory

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

#### \*Plymouth Covenant (Join in reading)

In the love of truth and in the spirit of Jesus, we unite for the worship of God, and the service of all. We seek to know the will of God and to walk in God's ways, made known or to be made known to us; to love one another; to proclaim the Gospel to all the world; to work and pray for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the realization of our shared humanity. And we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and the gift of life eternal. Amen.

#### Song of Response

People's Prayer (Respond after each petition with "Lord, Hear Our Prayers")

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

The Lord's Prayer (Join in reading)
Our Creator, 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.

#### \*Song

#### \*Blessing

\*Closing Song (Join in singing)

God be with you 'til we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a Shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you 'til we meet again.

## Participants in the Service

**Preaching this morning** Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean

> Liturgist Rev. Heather Coates

Gathering of Grace Band Pam Gibbs

> Arthur Dodge Tom Holland Patrick McCarty

Lay Reader Gene Stoker

Sound, Lights, and Radio Broadcast Mark Maziar

Cameras and Video Broadcast Jeremy Winfrey



This morning Plymouth participates in the United Church of Christ's (UCC) Christmas Fund Offering. The Christmas Fund is one of the UCC's Big Five offerings of the year. The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. You can contribute to the Christmas Fund by clearly marking on your checks, offering envelopes, and online giving platforms "Christmas Fund." *Ethe Pastors'* Emergency Fund

oinsella.



**ORDER HERE!** 

Each year during the Christmas season, we decorate our sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias. Plymouth members and friends purchase the poinsettias, often in memory or in honor of loved ones. Others give directly to the Pastors' Emergency Fund. Likewise, our pastors use the Pastors' Emergency Fund to assist Plymouth members, friends, and community members in need. During this time, the Pastors Emergency Fund has become more critical than ever.

You may order your poinsettias using the QR Code to the left, or by filling out an order form at the Featured Ministry Table.

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A bove is a graphic showing how close Plymouth is to reaching its 2023 Annual Appeal goal as of Tuesday, November 22. Please remember to submit your pledge cards if you have yet to do so already as we wind our campaign to a close. If you have any questions about annual giving here at Plymouth, please contact the church's financial staff at accountant@plymouthlawrence.com. Join us next Sunday, December 4 between services in the Mayflower Room for an important 2023 Proposed Budget discussion.

#### Percent of Total Cards Received (11.22.22): 40%

Percent of 2023 Pledge Target Received: 79%

2023 Total Pledges Received: \$723,103

Pledges Needed to Reach Our 2023 Goal: \$187,897



## BUDGET MEETING BETWEEN SERVICES IN THE MAYFLOWER ROOM

**B** etween this morning's services, come to the Mayflower Room to take part in an important discussion. Plymouth's Annual Appeal Committee, Stewardship Board, and Treasurer will present the proposed Mission Spending Plan (Budget) for 2023 based on Pledge/Commitments from the 2023 Annual Appeal campaign. So come, learn more, offer feedback, ask your questions.





SCAN ME

**D** ring the family and en-**D** joy the fun of building gingerbread houses, joining in the singing of carols, and a warm holiday meal together in fellowship! Scholarships are available to pay for the registration fee. Sign up online by using the QR code to the right, in our weekly emails, at the Featured Ministry Table this morning, or at plymouthlawrence.com on our News & Events Page. Deadline for reservations is November 27.

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HOUSE EXTRAVAGANZA!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 @ 4 PM

SIGN UP HERE!

Mitten Just Food! hee! Ginng Opportunities epen. Christmas olter e Offering! fls.

This Advent and Christmas Season, we can help those in need in our community by donating to those served by our mission and community partners! Drop off donations at church Sunday mornings, December 11 and 18, or Monday, December 12, from 9 am - 3 pm.

#### LAWRENCE COMMUNITY SHELTER

Lawrence Community Shelter requests gift cards valued at \$10 - \$25 from Wal-Mart, Target, or Amazon. We will also collect Adult Underwear (new, in the package, and unwrapped) and Towels or washcloths. (new and unwrapped). Look for collection barrels in the Mayflower Room.

#### **MINDY'S MITTEN TREE**

Our annual Mitten Tree, officially named the Mindy Hazlett Dunlap Mitten Tree, may be found in our sanctuary during Advent. Please bring your donations of new mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, etc., to hang on this tree. Donated items go to our Head Start families first and then to the Lawrence community shelter. Thank you to the Hazlett family for sharing this memorial to Mindy and Jim and Bev Carothers for donating the beautiful tree.

#### GIVING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2022

Giving Tuesday began in 2012 to encourage people to do good in the world through generosity and donations. Giving Tuesday, November 29, 2022, aims to tap into the spirit of giving that comes with the holiday season and to balance the consumerism of Black Friday and Cyber Monday. This Advent Plymouth's Mission and Service Board asks you to donate to Lawrence's food pantry Just Food. To donate, contact Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean at associatepastor@plymouthlawrence.com.

#### CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

Each year Plymouth takes up an offering during our Christmas Eve services, of which 100% of the monetary donations from this offering go to our mission partners and other Lawrence organizations. This year we will open this offering starting on Sundays, December 11 and 18, and then again during all three of our Christmas Eve services.



the Longest

Candlelight Meditation.

Monday, December 19, at 7 pm

For some, the Christmas season is a time of both joy and sorrow. The days get shorter, and the holidays can bring up memories of lost loved ones or remind us of the difficulties we face in our everyday lives.

This year, on Monday, December 19, at 7 pm, Plymouth will hold a candlelight service in the sanctuary in anticipation of the longest night of the year. There will be meditative music and prayer, poetry, and a short message about light in the darkness. Everyone is welcome to attend; come and find a connection with your church community and peace for your soul.