

Advent

at Plymouth Church



Celebration of Worship
Sunday • November 30 • 2025



St. Nick Sunday

is a special and fun tradition
at Plymouth!

We invite all children to **bring their shoes to the south side of the Narthex and leave them there before coming into church.**

During the Children's Message there will be a special guest, and a wonderful surprise will be waiting for the children when they are dismissed to Sunday School!

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please stand in body or spirit when you see an *

Greetings

Plymouth Chimes

Prelude

Sam Parrilla, horn

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

J.S. Bach

arr. D. Marlatt

Call to Worship and Lighting of Advent Candle

- One We gather in the long shadows of the year, deep in this
dark season, to await the light of Christ.
- Many We light these candles as a sign of hope, peace, joy, and
love shining in the night.**
- One We wait and hope for the love of God to take human form,
peace incarnate in our lives.
- Many Come Emmanuel! Come find us where we fear we are lost.
Claim us as your own.**
- One By the light of hope, peace, joy, and love we trust in what we
cannot yet see or fully know.
- All O Come, Emmanuel! God be with us as we await the
coming of the Lord!**

Advent Reading & Prayer

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

2

(Found in your pew hymnal.)

Children's Hymn

Jolly Old St. Nicholas we greet you today.
You are such a special guest, please come in and stay.
Each December we await this great day of cheer.
It brings joy and happiness, we are glad you're here.

Jolly Old St. Nicholas, help us be like you –
being kind to young and old, shown in all we do.
Holy, happy, gentle man, now the stories told,
we now read and share with all your great legends bold.

Children’s Celebration

Children attending Sunday School go to their designated line up spot after the **Children’s Celebration**. Teachers and guides will be holding signs to help you locate where your child should line up!

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

5

(Found in your pew hymnal.)

Scripture Reading

Daniel 3:19-30

Pew Bible HB pg. 823

Reader The Word of God for the people of God.
All **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Rev. Michael Brecke

Call to Offering

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley, 1744

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7 D

Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831

1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy
 2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and

peo - ple free; From our fears and sins re - lease us;
 yet a King, Born to reign in us for - ev - er,

Let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -
 Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear de - sire of
 Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone; By Thine all - suf -

ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Alternate tune: STUTTGART, 1

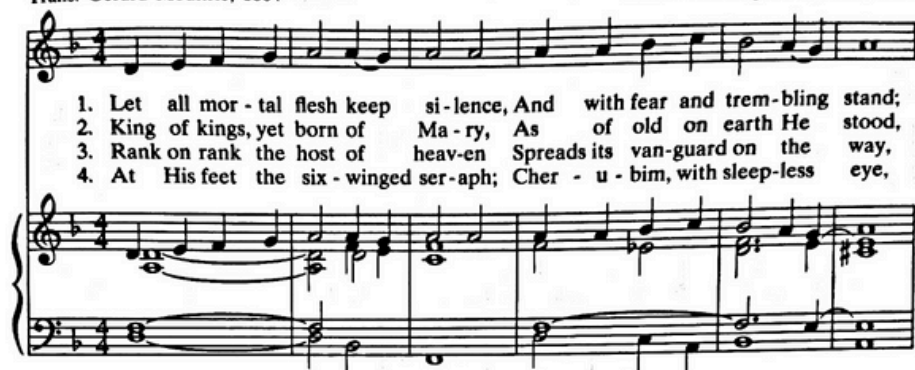
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

5

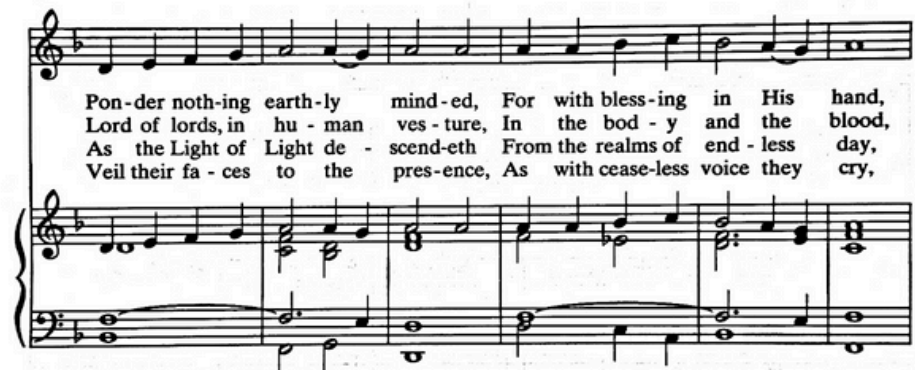
PICARDY 8.7.8.7.8.7

From Liturgy of St. James, 4th century
 Trans. Gerard Moultrie, 1864

French carol
 Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906



1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, And with fear and trem - bling stand;
 2. King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, As of old on earth He stood,
 3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard on the way,
 4. At His feet the six - winged ser - aph; Cher - u - bim, with sleep - less eye,



Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed, For with bless - ing in His hand,
 Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture, In the bod - y and the blood,
 As the Light of Light de - scend - eth From the realms of end - less day,
 Veil their fa - ces to the pres - ence, As with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth, Our full hom - age to de - mand.
 He will give to all the faith - ful His own self for heav - en - ly food.
 That the powers of hell may van - ish As the dark - ness clears a - way.
 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!

Offertory

El Decembre Congelat

Conrad Susa

Chancel Choir

Marilyn Epp, accompanist

*Doxology *(Please, join in singing.)*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, you heavenly host;
praise God, and Christ and Holy Ghost.**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Plymouth Covenant *(Please, 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.**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Communion Prayer

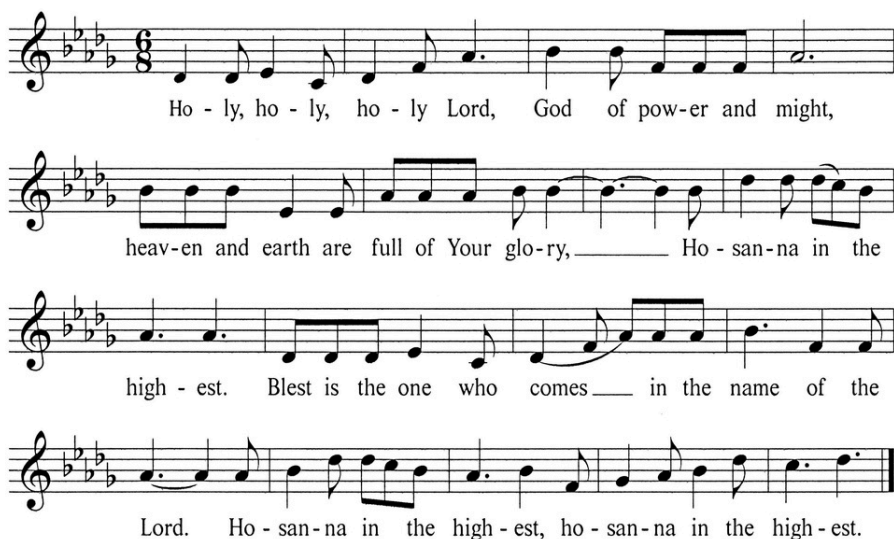
Leader God is with you.
People And also with you.

Leader Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them up to God.

Leader Let us give thanks to God Most High.
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader Let us pray...

Sanctus *(Please, join in singing.)*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry, _____ Ho - san-na in the
high - est. Blest is the one who comes _____ in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est, ho - san-na in the high - est.

The 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 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.**

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

Communion Music

Sam Parrilla, horn

Veni, Emmanuel

Raymond Haan

Divinum mysterium

Raymond Haan

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader Let us offer a prayer of thanksgiving together.
People **Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table. Now strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*Comfort, Comfort You My People

3

(Found in your pew hymnal.)

*Benediction

Congregational Response *(People seated and singing.)*

**God be with you till we meet again.
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.
Amen.**

Plymouth Chimes

Postlude

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Paul Manz

Comfort, Comfort You My People

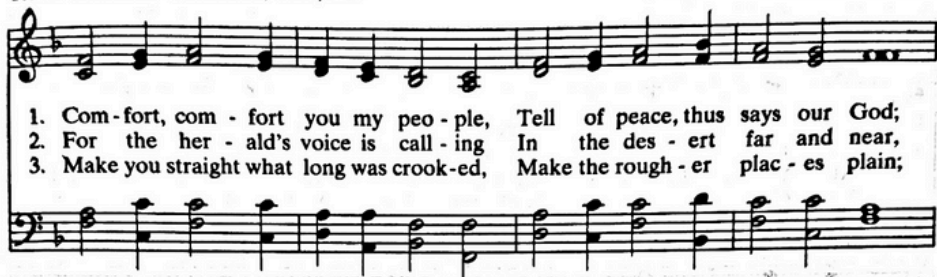
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PSALM 42 8.7.8.7.7.8.8

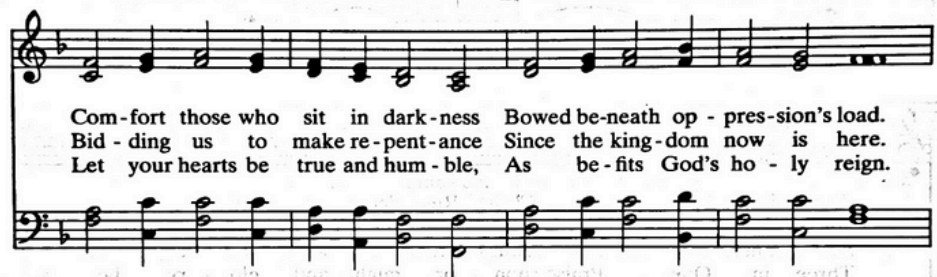
Johannes Olearius, 1671

Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

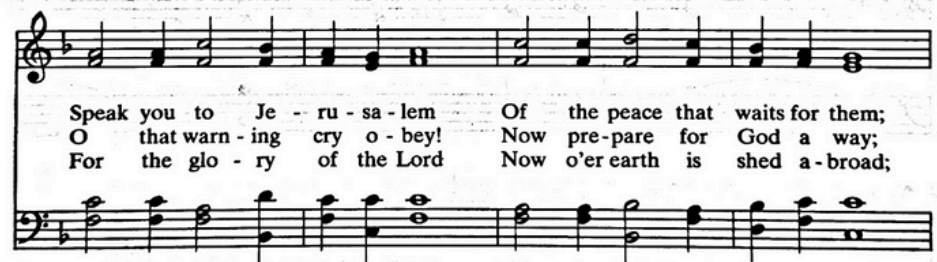
Genevan Psalter, 1551



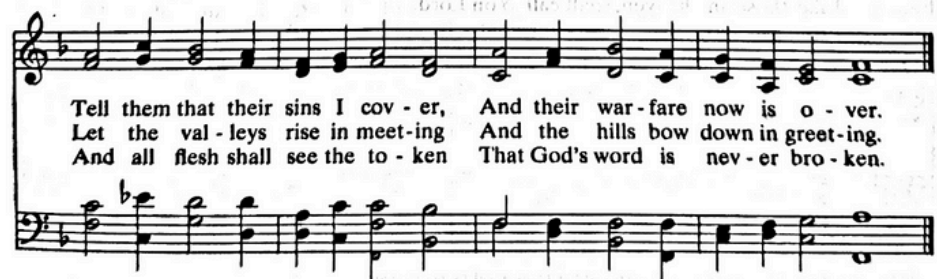
1. Com-fort, com - fort you my peo - ple, Tell of peace, thus says our God;
2. For the her - ald's voice is call - ing In the des - ert far and near,
3. Make you straight what long was crook-ed, Make the rough - er plac - es plain;



Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness Bowed be-neath op - pres-sion's load.
Bid - ding us to make re-pent-ance Since the king-dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



Speak you to Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;
O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre-pare for God a way;
For the glo - ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, And their war-fare now is o - ver.
Let the val - leys rise in meet-ing And the hills bow down in greet-ing.
And all flesh shall see the to - ken That God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Today's Service Participants

Preaching: Rev. Michael Brecke

Liturgist: Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean

Lay Reader: Frank Ybarra

Minister of Music & Fine Arts: Kim Manz

Children's Celebration: Colton Pasquale

Acolytes: Eleanor and Harrison Wood

Lead Usher: Cindy Carttar

Sound, Lights, and Radio: Mark Maziar

Cameras and Video: Jeremy Winfrey



Welcome

New to Plymouth?

Please, let us know!

“...WHEN THEY SAW
THE **STAR**,
THEY WERE FILLED
WITH **JOY**...”

MATTHEW 2:10



Donate to The Christmas Fund

Your care and compassion will make a tangible difference in the lives of our ministers, church workers, and their families in need.



Donate Online Here!



www.christmasfund.org



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.



Christmas Eve Volunteers Needed

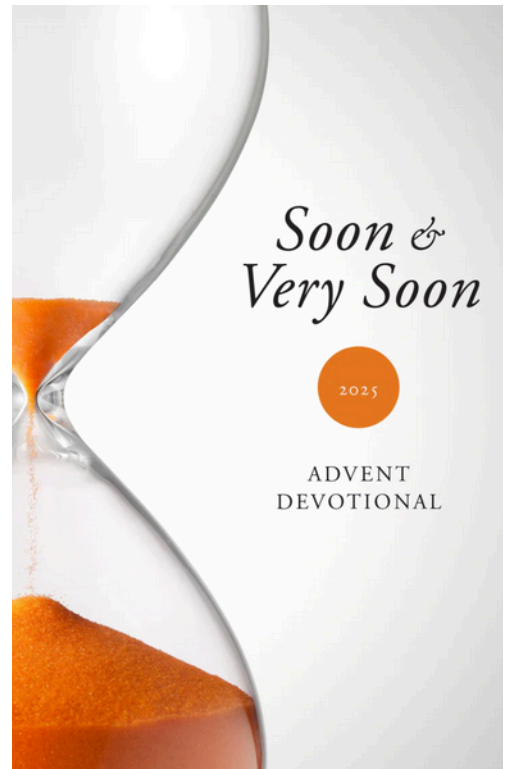
Everyone's invited to extend a warm welcome to 'All Ye Faithful' on Christmas Eve.

Ushers, Candle Lighters, Door Greeters are needed at 4pm 6pm and 8pm. **Training provided.**

Sign up with the Deacons at the Featured Ministries Table!

Soon & Very Soon Advent Devotionals

Advent devotionals are available at the Featured Ministries in limited supply – one per family.

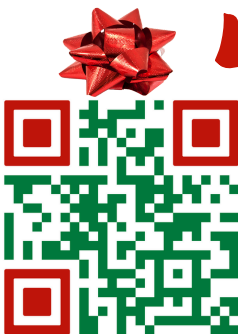


Head Start Angel Tree 2025

One of the long-standing holiday traditions at Plymouth Church is the Angel Tree, an opportunity for us to **share our blessings with the children who attend Head Start.**

Select a child from the list who will receive your gift of clothing and toys.

Further instructions about what to purchase and when and where to deliver your gifts are provided on the website.



Pastors' Emergency Fund

Poinsettias 2025

Each year during the Christmas season, we decorate our sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias.

Order
Online



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.

Advent Gingerbread House Extravaganza



TODAY!



An afternoon of fellowship!—making gingerbread houses, singing carols, and eating a light meal together as we begin Advent.

Create your own gingerbread house masterpieces beginning at 4pm in the Mayflower Room. Kits *will be provided for each family*. **\$20 per gingerbread house.**

There is no cost for the meal, **but we do need some people to sign up to bring soup, cookies, and bread!** *If you sign up to volunteer, you should be at the Mayflower Room at 3pm.*

Bring the family and enjoy the fun! Sign up early due to the limited availability of gingerbread houses. Wear festive garb or ugly sweaters!



Sign up here!



This event is sponsored by the
**Board of Christian Education and
Music and Fine Arts Board.**

Plymouth's Advent Bake Sale



Order
Online



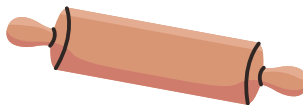
Sunday • December 7

We want your favorite cookies, cakes, pies, bars, breads, Christmas candy, and gingerbread creations for the sale!

Drop off is available on Saturday, December 6 from 9-11am in the kitchen by the Mayflower Room OR Sunday, December 7 between 8:30 and 9am.

100% of the proceeds go to Plymouth's Mission Partners!

Cookies will be replated so please use minimal packaging!



PLYMOUTH CHANCEL CHOIR MAJOR CHORAL WORK

CAROLS & LULLABIES

DECEMBER 7 - 9:30AM



This charming work is a collection of traditional Spanish Carols ordered to form a narrative. The overriding image is of a Southwestern piñata party for the new baby. Composed and arranged by Conrad Susa, the work is accompanied by harp, classical guitar, and marimba/vibraphone.



WHAT A WONDERFUL SUNDAY TO INVITE FAMILY AND
FRIENDS TO EXPERIENCE MUSIC AND WORSHIP AT PLYMOUTH!

Sunday School and Children's Choir

Rooms for Sunday School

- Preschool
- K-1st Grade
- 2nd-3rd Grade
- 4th-5th Grade

Room 106 S
Room 205 S
Room 210 S
Room 206 S

Nursery is in Room 105 S • A nursing/quiet room is in 104 S

Rooms for Choir

- Cherub Choir (Pre K-1st Grade)
- Carol Choir (2nd-5th Grade)
- Chapel Choir (6th-12th Grade)

Room 205 S
Room 204 S
Chapel

Chapel Choir meets at 10:30am

Worship Bags and Coloring Pages can be found in the Narthex. Children are dismissed to Sunday School after the Children's Celebration (approximately at 9:45am) and go to Children's Choir afterwards from 10:30-11am.

Additional Sunday School and Children's Choir information can be found on the bulletin board at the South Entrance.

Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman, Senior Pastor

seniorpastor@plymouthlawrence.com

Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean, Associate Pastor

associatepastor@plymouthlawrence.com

Kim Manz, Minister of Music and Fine Arts

music@plymouthlawrence.com

Colton Pasquale, Director of Faith Formation

christianed@plymouthlawrence.com

Rev. Michael Brecke, Interim Pastor of Care & Welcome

welcome@plymouthlawrence.com

Rich Bireta, Moderator (lay leader)

rbireta@gmail.com



**Plymouth
Congregational
Church**

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**An Open & Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ**



SAFE SPACE