



LESSONS & CAROLS  
AT THE GATHERING OF GRACE

Advent  
at Plymouth Church

Sunday • December 21 • 2025



please stand in body or spirit when you see an \*

## Welcome and Announcements

## Moment for Mission

### \*O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful joyful and triumphant  
O come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem  
Come and behold Him born the king of angels

**Oh come let us adore Him - Oh come let us adore Him  
Oh come let us adore Him Christ the Lord**

Sing, Choirs of angels sing in exultation  
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God Glory in the highest

**Oh come let us adore Him - Oh come let us adore Him  
Oh come let us adore Him Christ the Lord  
Oh come let us adore Him Christ the Lord**

## \*Passing of the Peace

### First Lesson

#### God Creates Light

Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

Pew Bible HB pg. 1

### Call to Worship & Lighting of the 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 and peace 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 and Prayer

#### \*O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight

O holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us, we pray  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell  
Oh come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel  
Oh come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel

## Second Lesson

**Isaiah Foretells the Coming of a Ruler**

**Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

*Pew Bible HB pg. 638*

## Carol

**It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**

Gathering of Grace Band

## Third Lesson

**The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary**

**Luke 1:26-38**

*Pew Bible NT pg. 56*

## \*Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus, lay down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky, looked down where he lay  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes;  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side, till morning is nigh.  
And stay by my side, till morning is nigh.

## Fourth Lesson

**The Birth of Jesus**

**Matthew 1:18-25**

*Pew Bible NT pg. 1*



## \*Go Tell It On the Mountain

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light.

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

Down in a lowly manger our humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation, that blessed Christmas morn.

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

## Fifth Lesson

**The Angels Bring Good News to the Shepherds**

**Luke 2:8-16**

*Pew Bible NT pg. 58*

## Carol

**O Holy Night**

Gathering of Grace Band

## Sixth Lesson

**Wisemen Follow a Star to the Baby**

**Matthew 2:1-11**

*Pew Bible NT pg. 2*

## **\*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.**

## **Seventh Lesson**

### **The Mystery of the Incarnation**

**John 1:1-14, 16-17**  
*Pew Bible NT pg. 91*

## **\*Silent Night**

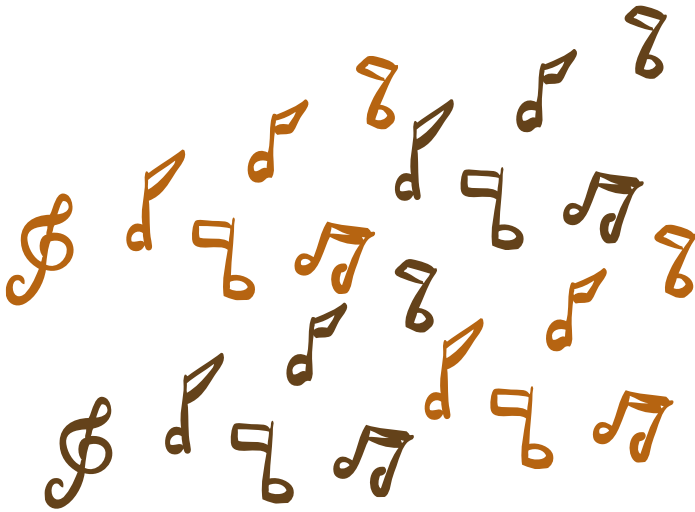
**Silent night, holy night.  
All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night.  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar.  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!**

# Benediction

## \*Closing Song

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.



## Today's Service Participants

**Preaching:** Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman  
**Liturgist:** Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean  
**Minister of Music & Fine Arts:** Kim Manz  
**Lay Reader:** Kim Noll  
**Gathering of Grace Band:** Pam Gibbs,  
Arthur Dodge, Tom Holland, Patrick McCarty  
**Sound, Lights, and Radio:** Gretchen Meyer  
**Cameras and Video:** Aaron Polson



# Welcome

New to Plymouth?



Please, let us know!

# Plymouth Christmas Giving 2025



## Family Promise Donations

Family Promise requests \$25 gift cards to Dillons or Walmart that can be shared with families.

We will also be collecting household items that will support Family Promise families.

Household items especially needed include:

- AA batteries
- New pots & pan sets
- Frying pan sets
- Silverware/utensil sets
- Bakeware
- Disposable Tupperware
- Baby soap, shampoo and lotion
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Shampoo, conditioner, oils & hair cream for textured hair
- Swiffer mopping sheets- both wet & dry
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper

Donations and gift cards (no cash or checks please) may be dropped off at Plymouth's Featured Ministries Table on Sunday mornings **December 14 and 21.**

New Sunday Series starting in January...



# Gospel of John

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The Way.

The Truth.

The Life.

How can we reclaim the promise John offers for our own time and context? What kind of savior are we longing to receive? What in us and in our world cries out for redemption? How can we find our way? Where do we turn to find the truth about ourselves and the world around us? What brings us life?



**January 11 • John 1:35-51**  
*Jesus Says Come and See*

**January 18 • John 2:13-25**  
*Jesus Cleanses the Temple*

**January 25 • John 3:1-21**  
*Nicodemus*

**January 1 • John 4:1-42**  
*The Woman at the Well*

**January 8 • John 4:46-54**  
*Healing Stories*

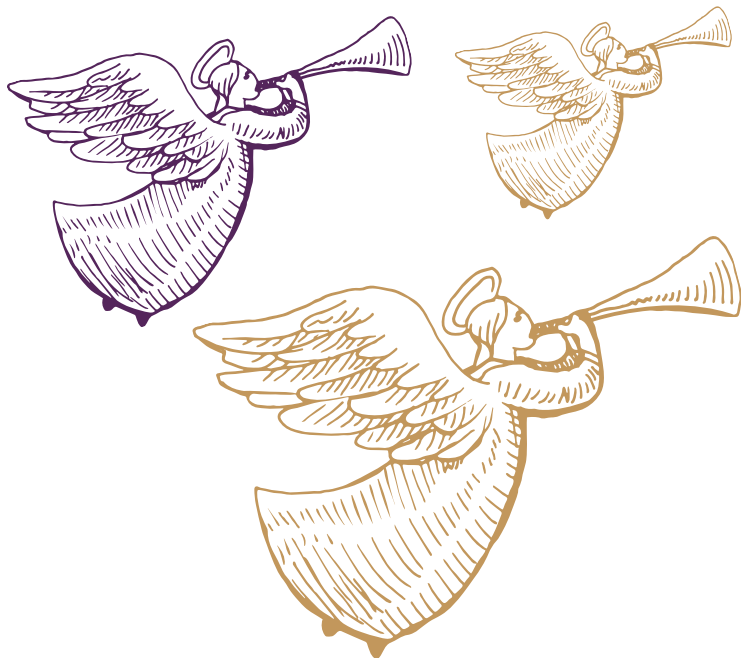
**January 15 • John 9:1-41**  
*The Man Born Blind*



# Christmastide

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## at Plymouth Church





# Christmas Eve Services

## **CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICE • 4pm**

A family-friendly worship service with carols and the story of the nativity. Arrive in the sanctuary at 3:30pm for children to pick out their angel and shepherd costumes.

Children of all ages are welcome to participate in this “pick up” pageant. Angels and shepherds will be invited to sit on the chancel steps during the service as we act out the nativity scene.

Nursery care is available!

## **TRADITIONAL CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE I • 6pm**

This is Plymouth's biggest service of the year. If you and your family are planning to attend, please head to Plymouth earlier than usual to get a good seat. Plymouth is one of several downtown churches, and we will be sharing parking spaces along Vermont. Parking is also available in the parking garages by the Library on Vermont Street, and the Arts Center on New Hampshire Street.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE CONCERT • 7:30pm**

The annual concert on Christmas Eve between the 6 and 8pm services will feature music of the season. Come enjoy Christmas music in the quiet stillness of our beautiful sacred space.

## **TRADITIONAL CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE II • 8p**

Plymouth closes the night of Christmas Eve celebration with our second candlelight service. As the hours of Christmas Eve tick closer to Christmas, the raising of candles and singing of "Silent Night" for the last time in 2025 brings a meaningful resolution to our day.

# Children's Choirs on Christmas Eve



The Carol (2nd-4th grade) and Chapel (5th-8th) choirs will be singing on Christmas Eve at the 6pm service. It is always a magical time having the children's choirs join the Chancel Choir for "Away in a Manger" and the congregation for "Silent Night."

There will be one massed rehearsal in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 21 at 10:30. All children are encouraged to participate!

Music is being rehearsed during regular rehearsal time on Sundays from 10:30-11am.

**REMINDER TO PARENTS:** Have your singers meet in the Mayflower Room to robe and rehearse at 5:30pm on Christmas Eve.

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## Christmas Eve Volunteers Needed

You invited to help extend a warm welcome to all on Christmas Eve!

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

**Sign up with the Deacons at the Featured Ministries Table or online here!**



# Plymouth Christmas Eve Offering



Give  
Online  
Here!



## Special Offering

Each year, we donate 100% of the offering from the Christmas Eve services to Plymouth mission partners.

This year, we will donate the contributions to Just Food of Lawrence, Justice Matters in Douglas County and Our Church's Wider Mission, the United Church of Christ's global organization.

This offering will be open on Sunday, December 14 and at all of our Christmas Eve services using the **special green envelopes**. All donations given on Christmas Eve will go directly to these mission partners.

# Plymouth Children's Ministry

## Welcome to the Gathering of Grace!

Children and youth are encouraged to worship with their families in this service.

Nursery services are available for infants, toddlers and Pre-K children in Room 205 South. We ask you to please bring your children to the nursery by 11:45!

There is also a family room for nursing parents in Room 204 South.

There are worship bags located on the north side of the narthex that are filled for activities and coloring pages for all ages!

If you are interested in learning more about our children's programs, please reach out!

**[christianed@plymouthlawrence.com](mailto:christianed@plymouthlawrence.com)**.

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**Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman, Senior Pastor**  
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**Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean, Associate Pastor**  
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**Colton Pasquale, Director of Faith Formation**  
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**Rev. Michael Brecke, Interim Pastor of Care & Welcome**  
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**Rich Bireta, Moderator (lay leader)**  
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**An Open & Affirming Congregation  
of the United Church of Christ**



SAFE SPACE