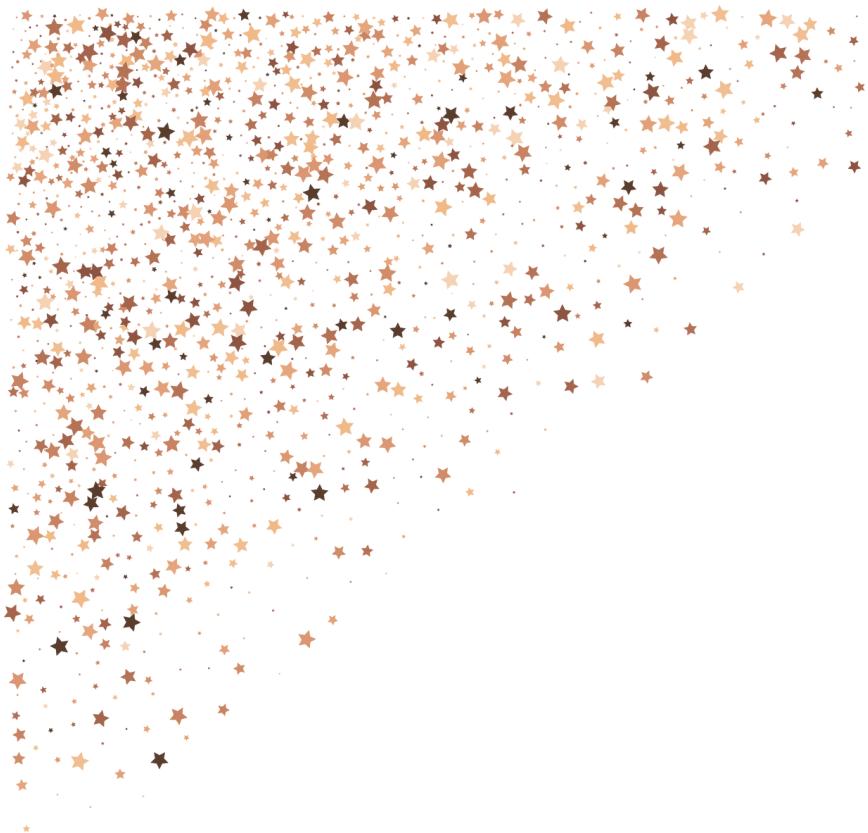


# Epiphany

## at Plymouth Church

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11:30 • Gathering of Grace  
Sunday • January 4 • 2026

# Epiphany

## at Plymouth Church

## Gathering of Grace

Sunday • January 4 • 2026

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

### Welcome and Announcements

#### \*In the Garden

I come to the garden alone  
While the dew is still on the roses  
And the voice I hear falling on my ear  
The Son of God discloses

**And he walks with me, and he talks with me  
And he tells me I am his own  
And the joy we share as we tarry there  
None other has ever known**

He speaks and the sound of his voice  
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing  
And the melody that he gave to me  
Within my heart is ringing

**And he walks with me, and he talks with me  
And he tells me I am his own  
And the joy we share as we tarry there  
None other has ever known**

## \*Passing of the Peace

## \*Invocation

## \*Gloria

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.

## Scripture Reading

**Matthew 2:1-12**

Pew Bible NT page 2

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

## Word Through Music

## Sermon

Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman

## What King is This?

## Call to Offering

## Beneath the Desert Moon

Sting

## 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.

## New Year's Day

U2

## Communion Prayer

## The Lord's Prayer

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.

## Words of Institution

## Sharing of the Elements

## \*I Saw the Light

I wandered so aimless, life filled with sin  
I wouldn't let my dear Savior in  
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

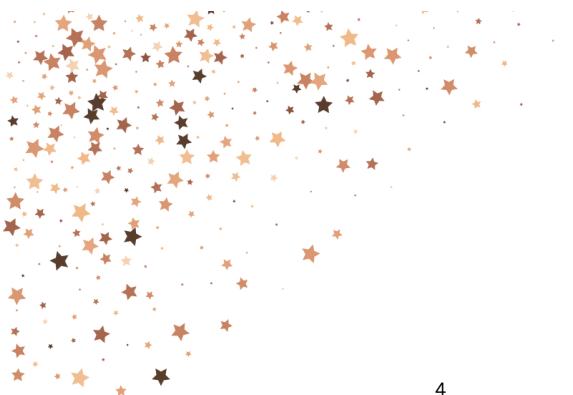
**I saw the light, I saw the light  
No more darkness, no more night  
Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light**

Just like a blind man I wandered along  
Worries and fears, I claimed for my own  
Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

**I saw the light, I saw the light  
No more darkness, no more night  
Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light**

I was a fool to wander and stray  
Straight is the gate and narrow the way  
Now I have traded the wrong for the right  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

**I saw the light, I saw the light  
No more darkness, no more night  
Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light**



## \*Blessing

## \*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

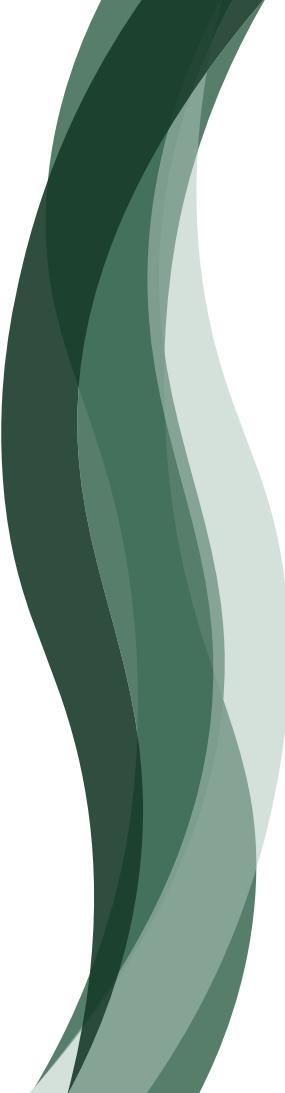
**Liturgist:** Rev. Michael Brecke

**Lay Reader:** Genna Hurd

**Gathering of Grace Band:** Pam Gibbs,  
Arthur Dodge, Tom Holland, Patrick McCarty

**Sound, Lights, and Radio:** Mark Gleeson

**Cameras and Video:** Jeremy Winfrey



# Budget Meeting

Immediately following the  
9:30 Service next Sunday,  
January 11

10:40-11:30  
in the Mayflower Room

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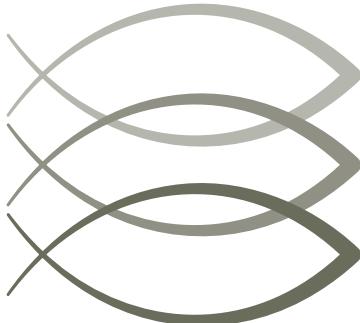
Childcare provided in Room 209 S. Please pick up your child after the completion of the budget meeting at 11:30am.



## Welcome

New to Plymouth?  
Please, let us know!





New Sunday Series starting in January...

# Gospel of John

## The Way. The Truth. The 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*

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

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

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

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?

# TATTOOS ON THE HEART

## RETURNING TO OURSELVES

### PLYMOUTH WOMEN'S RETREAT

FEBRUARY 27 & 28, 2026

SOPHIA SPIRITUALITY CENTER

ATCHISON, KANSAS

FULL DETAILS AND  
REGISTRATION  
ONLINE HERE



TOGETHER WE WILL EXPLORE PARABLES OF KINSHIP ILLUMINATING GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND EACH PERSON'S INHERENT GOODNESS THROUGH SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES, INDIVIDUAL JOURNALING, PRAYER PRACTICES AND THE ARTS.

FATHER GREGORY BOYLE WRITES BEAUTIFULLY ON THESE THEMES IN HIS BOOKS "TATTOOS ON THE HEART" AND "CHERISHED BELONGING."

THERE IS NO REQUIRED READING FOR THE RETREAT; HOWEVER, READING EITHER/OR (OR EVEN A PART OF ONE!) WOULD BE AN INSPIRING WAY TO DEEPEN YOUR RETREAT EXPERIENCE.



# My Life As Gift: Telling Your Life Story

If you have ever thought about writing the story of your life, come to an informational meeting **in Room 202N between services either on January 11 or 25.**

Too often the stories of our lives are lost, and the wisdom we have gained is not passed along to younger generations.

The **Memoir Writers Forum** addresses this issue. God gifts us with life and calls us to make a gift of our lives to others!

Many of us doubt that our lives are interesting or significant, but *we all have a story to tell* – a story layered with complexity, contradictions, and memories both gratifying and regretful.

The **Writers Forum** will jump start your writing, helping to instill confidence that you can create a lasting legacy, capturing meaningful memories to pass on to others.

*“Writers are the custodians of memory,”* wrote noted scholar and author William Zinsser.

*“Writing... allows you to come to terms with your life narrative. It also allows you to work through some of life’s hardest knocks – loss, grief, illness, addiction, disappointment, failure – and to find understanding and solace.”*

Join us in this journey together!



High School  
**YOUTH**



# BOWLING NIGHT

at Royal Crest Lanes  
NO COST FOR BOWLING OR SHOES!  
BRING \$15 FOR FOOD

SATURDAY • JANUARY 25 • 4:30PM

# 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**

[seniorpastor@plymouthlawrence.com](mailto:seniorpastor@plymouthlawrence.com)

**Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean, Associate Pastor**

[associatepastor@plymouthlawrence.com](mailto:associatepastor@plymouthlawrence.com)

**Kim Manz, Minister of Music and Fine Arts**

[music@plymouthlawrence.com](mailto:music@plymouthlawrence.com)

**Colton Pasquale, Director of Faith Formation**

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

**Rev. Michael Brecke, Interim Pastor of Care & Welcome**

[welcome@plymouthlawrence.com](mailto:welcome@plymouthlawrence.com)

**Rich Bireta, Moderator (lay leader)**

[rbireta@gmail.com](mailto:rbireta@gmail.com)



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

