

# Advent

at Plymouth Church



Gathering of Grace

Sunday • December 14 • 2025

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

### Welcome and Announcements

#### \*What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear.  
What a privilege to carry,  
Everything to God in prayer.  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear.  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations,  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful,  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Jesus knows our every weakness;  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

#### \*Passing of the Peace

## 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, and joy 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, and joy 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

### \*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

**Isaiah 55:1-13**

*Pew Bible HB pg. 685*

Reader The Word of God for the people of God.

**All Thanks be to God!**

## Word Through Music

## Sermon

**Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean**

## Call to Offering

# For the Beauty of the Earth

## 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.

## Long as I can See the Light

John Fogerty

## People's Prayer

Respond after each petition with **"Lord, Hear Our Prayers."**

## 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.



## \*Wait for the Light to Shine

When the road is rocky and you're carrying the load,  
wait for the light to shine.  
If you find you're friendless on that weary lonesome road,  
wait for the light to shine.

**Wait for the light to shine.**

**Wait for the light to shine.**

**Pull yourself together and keep looking for the sign.**

**Wait for the light to shine.**

Don't forget all others as you travel through this land,  
wait for the light to shine.  
They may be in trouble and may need a helping hand,  
wait for the light to shine.

**Chorus**

## \*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. Caroline Lawson Dean  
**Liturgist:** Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman  
**Lay Reader:** Caroline Rothnie  
**Gathering of Grace Band:** Pam Gibbs,  
Arthur Dodge, Tom Holland, Patrick McCarty  
**Sound, Lights, and Radio:** Mark Maziar  
**Cameras and Video:** Gretchen Meyer



# 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.**





## Mindy Hazlett 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, and hats to hang on this tree. All items will be given to our **Head Start Mission Partner** and the **Lawrence Community Shelter**.

Thank you to the Hazlett family for sharing this memorial to Mindy and to Jim and Beverly Carothers for donating the beautiful tree.

## 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!**





# The Longest Night

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## at Plymouth Church

Wednesday, December 17  
at 7pm

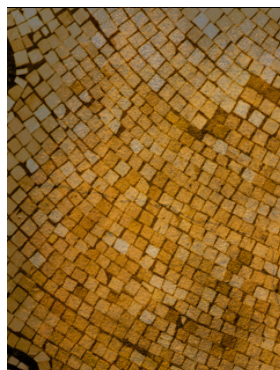
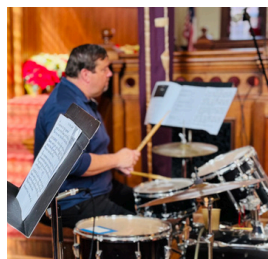
For some, the Christmas season is a time of both joy and sorrow. The days get shorter, and the holidays can bring up memories of lost loved ones or remind us of the difficulties we face in our everyday lives.

This year, on **Wednesday, December 17, at 7pm**, 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.

# LESSONS & CAROLS

AT THE GATHERING OF GRACE

SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 21  
AT 11:30AM





# Christmastide

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## at Plymouth Church

### Special Christmastide Services

**SUNDAY • DECEMBER 7 • 9:30am**

Major Choral Work:  
Carols & Lullabies • Conrad Susa

**SUNDAY • DECEMBER 14 • 9:30am**

Children's Christmas Pageant

**SUNDAY • DECEMBER 21 • 11:30am**

Lessons & Carols  
in the Gathering of Grace Service  
A service of scripture and carols in the  
rootsy style of our weekly Gathering of  
Grace service.

**WEDNESDAY • DECEMBER 17 • 7pm**

Longest Night Worship Service





# 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.

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

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



SAFE SPACE