

Advent

at Plymouth Church



Gathering of Grace

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 *

Welcome and Announcements

*Wings of a Dove

**On the wings of a snow-white dove
He sends His pure, sweet love
A sign from above on the wings of a dove**

When troubles surround us, when evils come
The body grows weak, the spirit grows numb
When these things beset us, He doesn't forget us
He sends down His love on the wings of a dove

**On the wings of a snow-white dove
He sends His pure, sweet love
A sign from above on the wings of a dove**

When Noah had drifted on the flood many days
He searched for land in various ways
Troubles, he had some, but wasn't forgotten
He sent him His love on the wings of a dove

**On the wings of a snow-white dove
He sends His pure, sweet love
A sign from above on the wings of a dove**

*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, 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

*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.**

Children's Moment

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!

Word Through Music

Sermon

Rev. Michael Brecke

Call to Offering

Who by Fire

Leonard Cohen

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.**

Fire Escape

Dan Mangan

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

*In the Sweet By and By

There's a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar;
For the Father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there.

**In the sweet by and by, We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet by and by, We shall meet on that beautiful shore.**

We shall sing on that beautiful shore
The melodious songs of the blest;
And our spirits shall sorrow no more,
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest.

**In the sweet by and by, We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet by and by, We shall meet on that beautiful shore.**

*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. Michael Brecke

Liturgist: Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean

Lay Reader: Matt Del Vecchio

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

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

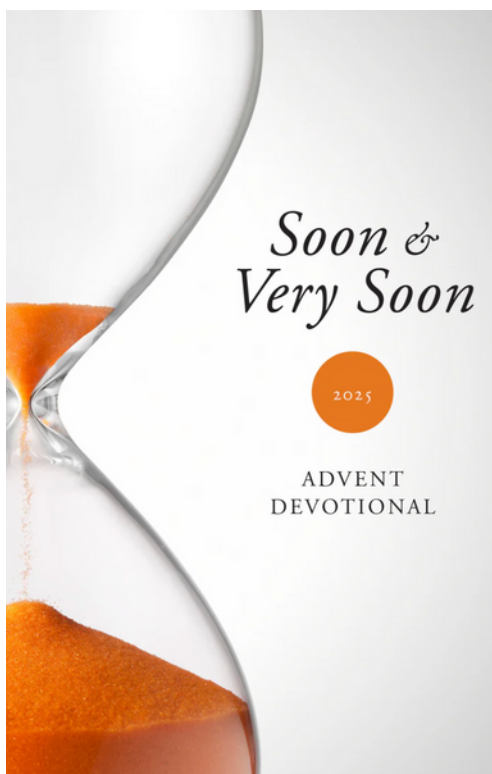
Everyone's invited to extend a warm welcome to 'All Ye Faithful' on Christmas Eve.

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.

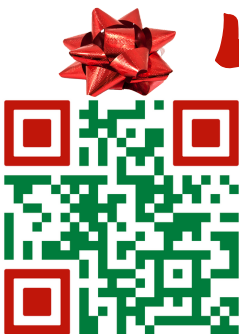


Head Start Angel Tree 2025

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



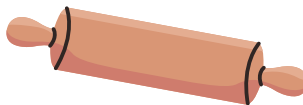
Sunday • December 7

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!

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.

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



SAFE SPACE