



Third
Sunday of Advent



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

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December 13, 2020

The Family of God Gathers

Prelude

“As with Gladness”

Please let the prelude be a signal to prepare for worship.

Advent Candle Lighting—Joy ✠ §

Reader 1: It was the night when Joy was born. And just as now the world was torn, and many people felt no or little joy. But just as now, God was present, comforting the afflicted and healing the wounded, bringing joy to the world.

Reader 2: *We call to people all around the world: let us unite and we will show how Joy can change us, and how Joy can help us grow into faithful disciples of Jesus, whose nativity we await.*

Reader 1: We continue this season of waiting by lighting the third candle, the candle of Joy, anticipating the light of the star that shone over Bethlehem for all to see.

Reader 2: *We open ourselves to hear your call today to become those who not only see the joy all around us but can also be joy and bring joy to all around us in our lives, our families, our communities, and our world.*

Reader 1: Let us pray.

All: Fill us with your light and your spirit of joy, a time of silent holiness, that will make the world calm and bright. Amen.

Music

“Joy to the World”

Prayer of Confession †§

We try not to do any evil, Anointing God, but it is so hard to let go of those little things we enjoy which make us feel better about ourselves: gossiping about the wrong choices that we think others have made; daydreaming about someone else’s life; finding joy in the failures of those we dislike. Forgive us, Loving God. You have freely given us salvation, yet we act as if we are the ones who paid for it. Help us to cease finding our joy in the misery of others or in tearing them down, and find joy instead in your grace and your abundant love for all of us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon §

L: God has done such wondrous things for us! Rejoice in the good news that through Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

The Sign of Peace

Now please take a moment and share the peace with those in your household and/or offer a moment to send prayers of peace to those you love who are not with you.

Centering Music

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

The Service of the Word

Psalm 126

L: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

P: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”

L: The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

P: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

L: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

P: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Gospel

Matthew 1:1–24

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife...

Sermon

Musical Offering

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”

*Please mail your offerings and **pledge cards** to the church or drop them off at the office.*

The Response to the Word

Prayers of the People

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, for ever. Amen.

Carol

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” (refrain)

Benediction †§

L: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

P: Witness to the joy of Jesus’ light.

L: Now may the God of joy call forth your complete dedication; may the light of Christ shine upon you; and the Holy Spirit fill you completely, now and forever.

All: Amen!

Musical Benediction

“Oh Come All Ye Faithful”

Postlude

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† *Feasting on the Word* Worship Companion, Year B, Vol. 1 ©2014 Westminster John Knox Press. Used with permission.

‡ <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>

§ Modified/written by Rev. David Huber

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. David Huber • Ministers: All the people of Plymouth • Pianist: Lynn McFadyen • Liturgist: Lil Savage

We of Plymouth extend to you our hand of fellowship and an invitation to become a member. If you are interested, or have any questions, please speak with or send a note to Pastor David or our Moderator, Barb Kleist. Our table always has room for more.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, December 13

Prayers for the People

Monday, December 14

7:00 P.M. Leadership Team (Zoom)

Tuesday, December 15

9:00 A.M. Coffee & Conversation

Thursday, December 17

3:30 P.M. Coffee & Conversation

Sunday, December 20

OCWM offering

Cross illumination for December is sponsored by Pete Spitt in loving memory of his wife Sharon and his brother Wallace.

We pray for:

- The General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ Rev. John Dorhauer and Wisconsin Conference Minister Rev. Franz Rigert, along with all UCC staff at the national and Conference level
- Joyce Holmen and her family upon the death of her son Paul Holmen
- Paul Gilbertson dealing with health concerns.

Coffee and Conversation is a virtual gathering via Zoom for folks who miss the Sunday morning coffee time at church. There is no set topic of conversation, and it's a nice way to keep in touch while we have to maintain social distance. Pastor David hosts the gatherings and posts the link on the church Facebook page. Check it out!
<https://tinyurl.com/y2e87nrn>

Who we are...

Plymouth UCC is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, since we are all created in God's image. We welcome into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ persons of every race, ethnic background, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socio-economic background, marital status and background. We welcome all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, humor, and blessings of participation in our congregation.

Spiritual Care Package

Question for Reflection

John 1:6–8, 19–28 reminds us that we are not the light, but with John we are called to testify as witnesses to the light, who is Jesus Christ. The verb “to bear witness” occurs thirty-three times in the Fourth Gospel! How can you bear witness, in this season of lights, to the true Light who has come into the world?

Household Prayer: Morning

Light of the world, you greet me this morning with new possibilities. Shine brightly, I pray, until I see into the dark places of this world, and into the dark places of my own life. I want to follow you in paths of justice, speak up with you for liberty, and bend with you toward the brokenhearted, even the broken places within myself. I trade in my faint spirit for your mantle of praise—and with my whole being I will rejoice in you. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Restore me, O God, from the rush of the day. Let me dream this night of all the great things you have done. As the darkness comes and these little lights in my house glow, I give thanks for the greater Light no darkness can overcome. To anyone who mourns or sits in prison or fears danger this night, bring the peace that only you can give. You are faithful, and I know you will do this. In Christ. Amen.

God is still speaking,