



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

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December 27, 2020

The Family of God Gathers

Prelude

“Carol of the Bells”

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

Call to Worship ☩ §

L: God of this new day,

P: we open ourselves to hear your call to new life.

L: As we anticipate the new year and all its possibilities,

P: help us to always remember that nothing is ever finished and that you are not done with us, ever remaking our lives, our families, our communities, and our world a brighter place.

Carol

“Joy to the World”

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

Prayer of Confession †

God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us. Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be witnesses to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon †§

L: In Jesus Christ God saved us, not because of any good works that we have done, but according to God's mercy. People of God, rejoice! In 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

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

The Service of the Word

Psalm 148

- L: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
P: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!
L: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!
P: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!
L: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.
P: He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
L: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
P: fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!
L: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
P: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!
L: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
P: Young men and women alike, old and young together!
L: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.
P: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Gospel

Luke 2:1–20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Musical Offering “O Holy Night”

Hannah Zehms

*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

“The First Noel”

**The first Noel, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain:

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. *Refrain***

Benediction ☩§

L: Our waiting is over:

P: **Jesus is born and among us!**

L: Go with God and may the Spirit guide your way.

P: **Like Christ, we will see God in all we meet and greet them with Christmas love. Amen.**

Musical Benediction “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Hannah Zehms, Deb Zehms

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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: Sandy Moore

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 27

Tuesday, December 29

9:00 A.M. Coffee & Conversation

Sunday, January 3

Community Table offering

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

We pray for:

- All houses of worship—churches, temples, and mosques in the Chippewa Valley who provide ecumenical and interfaith combined fellowship and service to our community.
- 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

Consider what it means to be a child of God by adoption. What does it mean to you to think of yourself as a brother or sister of Jesus, who is the Son of God?

Household Prayer: Morning

In you, O God, I will greatly rejoice: in speaking, I will greatly rejoice; in silence, I will greatly rejoice; in travels, I will greatly rejoice; in resting, I will greatly rejoice; in working, I will greatly rejoice; in leisure, I will greatly rejoice; in duties, I will greatly rejoice; in freedom, I will greatly rejoice. O God, my whole being exults in you, and my life shall evermore declare your praise, my light, my love, my joy. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord, let your servant sleep in peace this night and fulfill your gracious word. Reveal to me the salvation that you have prepared for all people. With Jesus Christ, help me be a light to the nations and a sign of your glorious promise to Israel. Amen.

God is still speaking,