

1st Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021



First Sunday of Advent



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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[PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist](https://www.facebook.com/PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist)

The Family of God Gathers

Gathering Music

“O Come, O Come, Immanuel”

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

Arr. Lorie Line

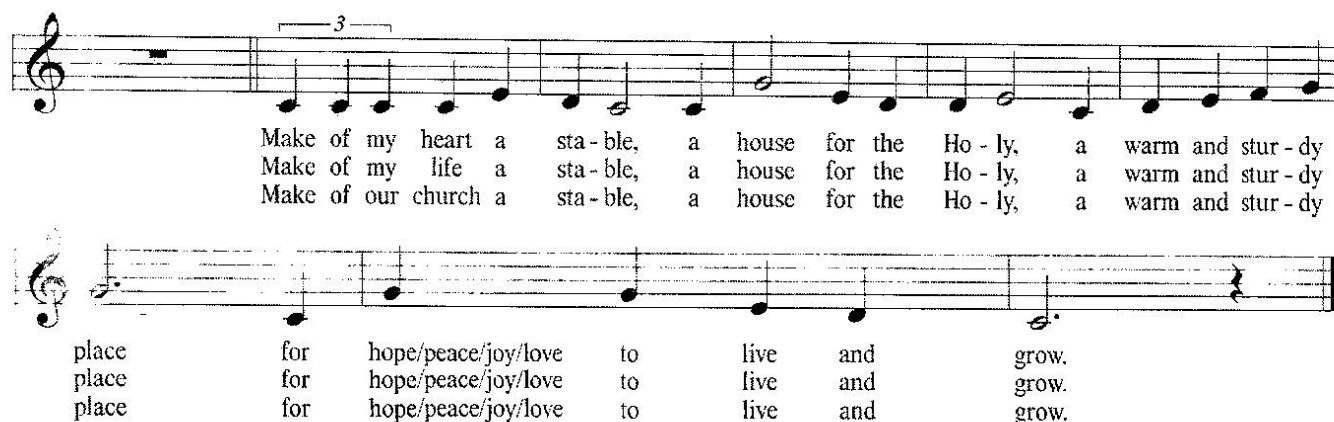
Greetings

Advent Candle Lighting—Hope †

- L: When hope hangs low in the human heart, you, loving creator, kindle compassion, breathing life into the early embers of change and empathy.
- P: As God spoke through Jeremiah, “The days are surely coming when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel. In that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he will execute justice and righteousness in the land.”**
- L: Yet we look around and see shadows of despair. We are in a time of pandemic. So many neighbors here and around the world will go to bed hungry tonight.
- P: We see shadows of injustice. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer, and tonight some of our neighbors will sleep, or try to sleep, under a bridge, in a doorway, on a park bench, or other place that they cannot call “home.”**
- R: We light a candle this morning, this candle of Hope, sending our prayers into inky shadows as our protest against them, proclaiming that as God’s people we are bearers of hope, and that no darkness can withstand God’s holy light.
- All: May this light shine brightly to eliminate the shadows of the world, and may it enter into our hearts to dispel our own shadows, making room in our hearts for the poor, the homeless, the oppressed, the prisoners, and all without hope, that we may shine your light into all areas of despair. Make of our hearts a stable that we may have room to hold those whom you deem to be precious.**

Advent Invocation Verses 1 & 3

“Make of My Heart a Stable”



Make of my heart a sta-ble, a house for the Ho-ly, a warm and stur-dy
Make of my life a sta-ble, a house for the Ho-ly, a warm and stur-dy
Make of our church a sta-ble, a house for the Ho-ly, a warm and stur-dy

place for hope/peace/joy/love to live and grow.
place for hope/peace/joy/love to live and grow.
place for hope/peace/joy/love to live and grow.

Text and music: Amanda Udis-Kessler

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The Service of the Word

Psalms 25:1–10

L: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

P: **O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.**

L: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

P: **Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.**

L: Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

P: **Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

L: Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

P: **Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

L: He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

P: **All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

Hymn 101 Bulletin page 7

“Comfort, Comfort O My People”

Gospel

Luke 1:26–38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Sermon

Sermon Hymn 110 Bulletin page 8

"Now Bless the God of Israel"

Offering

"No Wind at the Window"

Lynn McFadyen

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self †

**God of righteousness, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. In faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self, that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now, as we watch for Christ's coming in glory.
Amen.**

Joys and Concerns

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, forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn 124 Bulletin page 9

“Away in a Manger”

Benediction ☩

L: May God's Door of Welcome swing open in your heart and in your life.

P: May Christ's humble first dwelling remind you of the plenty you already know.

L: And may the Spirit lead you into more possibility and hospitality than you can imagine, making room in The Inn for all.

P: May it be so for you. May it be so for us. May it be so for this church.

All: Amen.

Sung Benediction Verse 1

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

Postlude

“Rise Up Shepherd, and Follow”

Arr. Lorie Line

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† adapted from SaltProject, used by permission, and the Christmas Appeal Candle Light Liturgy, used by permission of Christian Aid, and David Huber

§ Modified/written by Rev. David Huber

Worship Leaders

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

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.

Cross illumination for November is sponsored by Mimi Pederson in loving memory of her sister Trudy Brewer.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, November 28

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Worship

Tuesday, November 30

10:00 A.M. Quilters

7:00 P.M. Dartball

PB&J at Plymouth

December 4

10:00 A.M. Christmas decorating and
soup lunch

Sunday, December 5

Community Table offering

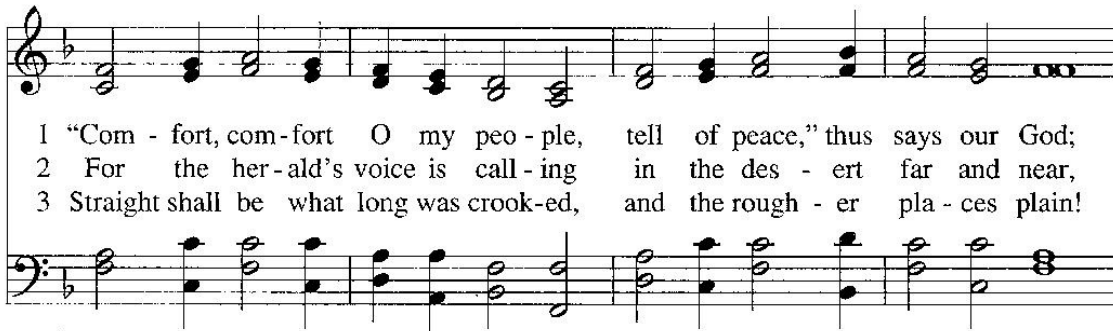
10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Worship

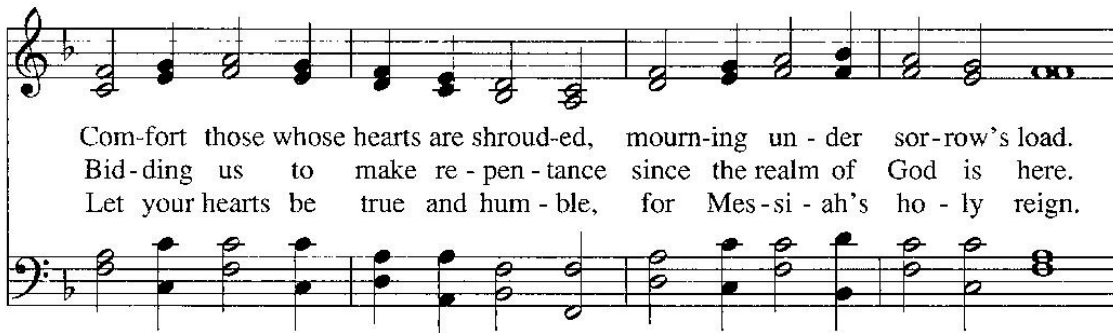
We pray for:

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

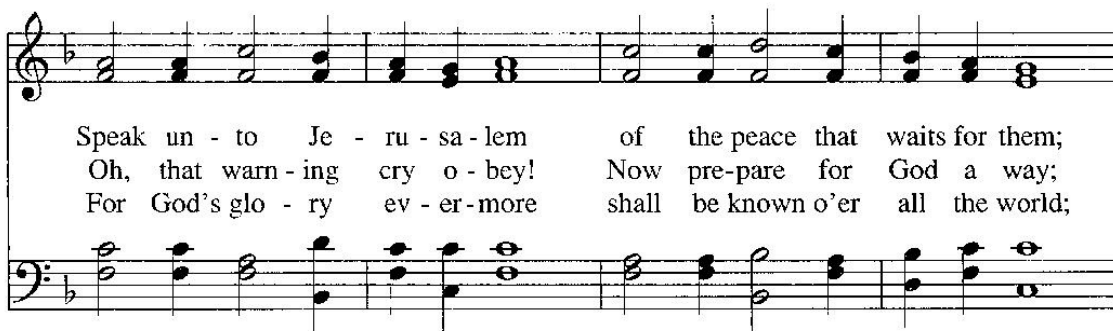
Comfort, Comfort O My People

*Isa. 40:1-8**Johannes Olearius, 1671**Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.*


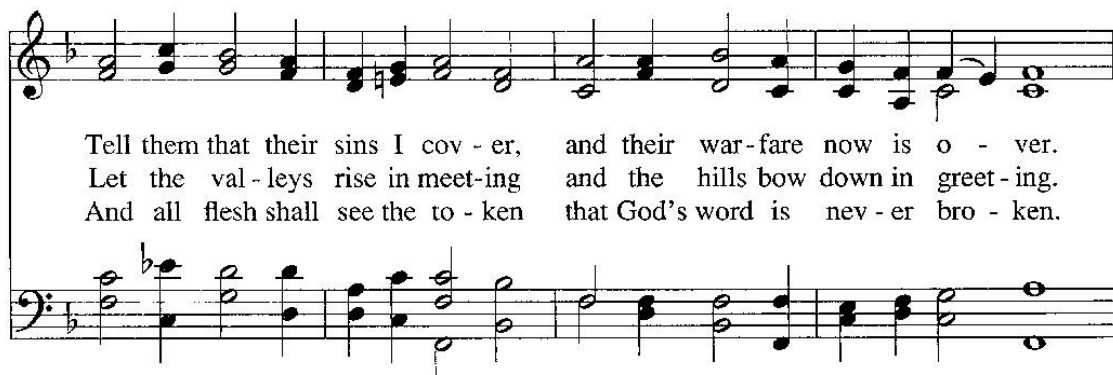
1 "Com - fort, com-fort O my peo - ple, tell of peace," thus says our God;
 2 For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er pla - ces plain!



Com-fort those whose hearts are shroud-ed, mourn-ing un - der sor-row's load.
 Bid-ding us to make re - pen - tance since the realm of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, for Mes-si - ah's ho - ly reign.



Speak un - to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre-pare for God a way;
 For God's glo - ry ev - er-more shall be known o'er all the world;



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war-fare now is o - ver.
 Let the val - leys rise in meet-ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Written for John the Baptist's Day, June 24, this hymn clearly reflects the Isaiah text. Johannes Olearius, a Lutheran pastor, held a faculty appointment at Wittenberg University as well as church administration positions in his region.

Tune: PSALM 42 8.7.8.7.7.7.8.8.
 (FREU DICH SEHR)
 Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551

Luke 1:68-79; Ps. 18:1-3; Isa. 9:2-7

Ruth Duck, 1985

1 Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, who comes in love and power.
 2 Re - mem-ber-ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from fear.
 3 In ten - der mer-cy, God will send the day - spring from on high.

who rais - es from the roy - al house de - liv - erance in this hour.
 that we might serve in hol - i - ness and peace from year to year:
 our ris - ing sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.

Through ho - ly proph-ets God has sworn to free us from a - larm.
 And you, my child, shall go be - fore to preach, to proph-e - sy.
 God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no more.

to save us from the heav-y hand of all who wish us harm.
 that all may know the ten - der love, the grace of God most high.
 Sing prais-es to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

This text by United Church of Christ clergywoman Ruth Duck is a paraphrase of the "Benedictus," which is often sung at morning prayer. She came to appreciate daily prayer while studying at the University of Notre Dame.

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.
 Traditional English melody
 Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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Away in a Manger

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Anon., United States, 1885; st. 3, 1892; alt.

Luke 2:7

F B \flat F

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the poor ba - by wakes, but
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close

C7 F

lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The
lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I
by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless

F B \flat F

stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the
love you, Lord Je - sus; pro - tect me, I pray, and
all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care, and

C7 F B \flat C7 F

lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
stay by my side un - til night turns to day.
fit us for heav - en to live with you there.

This anonymous United States carol is often misattributed to Luther. The poem first appeared in a Lutheran hymnal for schools and families. Though he never credited himself with it, the tune most likely was composed by Murray.

Tune: AWAY IN A MANGER 11.11.11.11.
(MÜLLER)

Attrib. to James R. Murray, 1887

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

Even in the midst of trouble and turmoil, God allows us glimpses of the kingdom to come. What signs of promise do you see that bolster your hope in a new heaven and a new earth?

Household Prayer: Morning

Thank you for this new day to sing your praise and watch for signs of your kingdom. By your Spirit, let me abound in love for you and your children, that in living and loving I may point to your coming reign. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you for the signs of your coming reign, and for the power of your saving love. Bless all those whom I met today, and strengthen their hope in your power and grace. Now as I close my eyes, I relinquish all anxieties and fears, trusting in your providence and mercy. Amen.

God is still speaking,