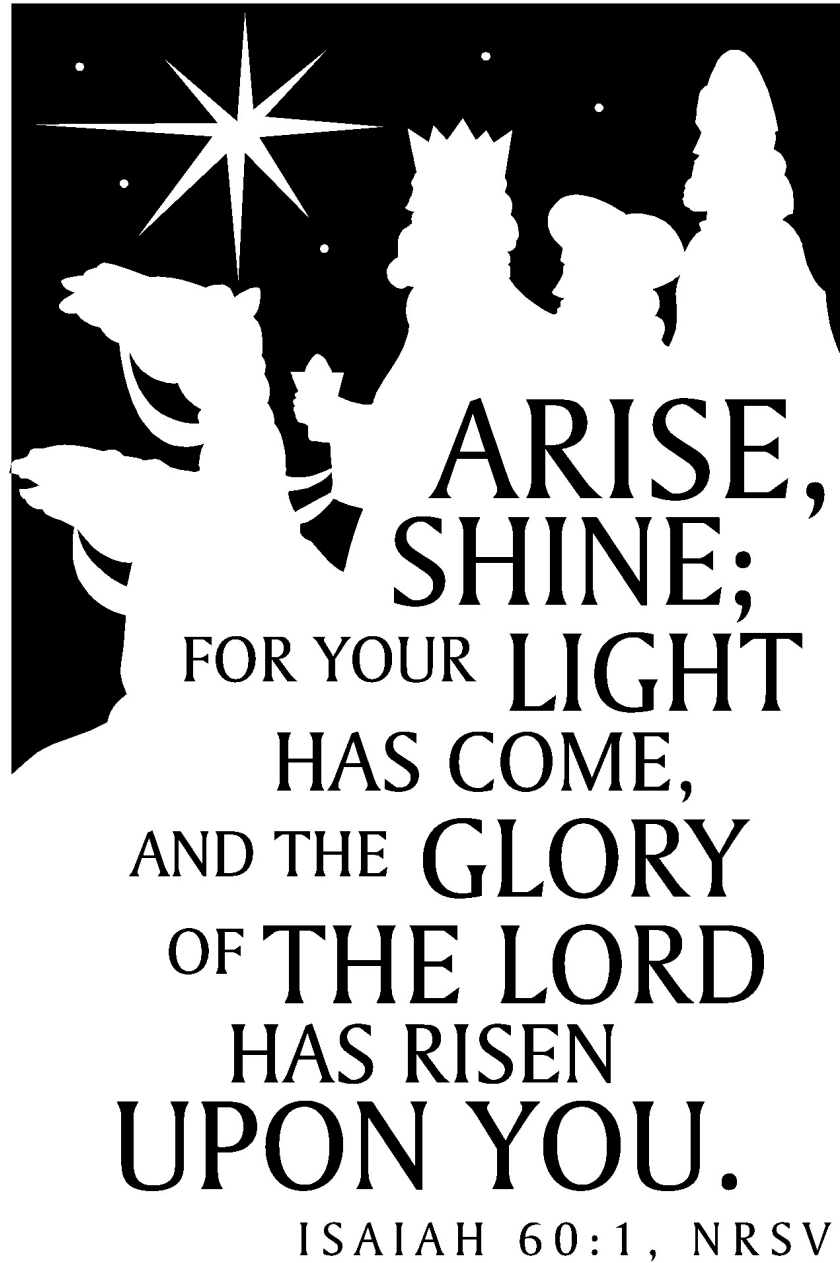


Epiphany Sunday

January 2, 2022



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

2010 Moholt Drive, Eau Claire WI 54703 ☎ 715-835-5475 ☎ pucc.com



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

Plymouth United Church of Christ

January 2, 2022

10:30 A.M.

The Family of God Gathers

Gathering Music

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Arr. Mark Hayes

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

Greeting

Call to Worship †

L: The Word became flesh and lived among us. And we have seen his glory.

P: The true light that enlightens everyone has come into the world.

L: Glory to God who has blessed us in Christ.

P: Glory to God forever.

Musical Response 125 Bulletin page 7

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Prayer of Confession †§

Holy God, we confess that we are a distracted people and forgetful of your love. We make selfish choices, hurt each other, and perpetuate injustice in your world. We have sinned against you, and repent of our disregard of you, each other, and your creation. By the power of your Spirit, forgive, restore, and strengthen us to live in your light and walk in your truth. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon §

L: The God who became one of us on Christmas morning does not leave us on our own: in Jesus’ name, you are forgiven!

P: You are forgiven!

L: May the peace of Christ be with you!

P: And also with you!

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.

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

The Service of the Word

Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

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, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Sermon

Sermon Hymn 131 Bulletin page 8

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

Offering

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 †§

Generous God, your goodness is beyond the reaches of our imagination. From you we have received grace upon grace. Accept our offering for the sake of the world and grant us wisdom to faithfully use these gifts to spread the good news of your love. Amen.

Communion

Hymn 337 Bulletin page 9

“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

Prayer †§

L: May the God of new days be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: People of Christmas, lift up your hopes.

P: We lift them to the one who comes bringing new life to us.

L: Into the emptiness of chaos, the Word carried all your hopes, scattering the seeds of goodness throughout the universe. You offered us grace upon grace, tending to your garden with joy. But we chose to dance with temptations, shutting the doors of our hearts. Prophets came to tell us of your hopes for us, but we did not listen. So you sent Jesus, to gather us from the far corners of despair and loss to bring us home to you. So with all the faithful we join our voices to proclaim:

All: Holy, holy, holy! Lord God of all creation!

**Before the foundations of the world were poured,
you prepared every blessing for us.**

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the Word who comes to bear witness to you.

Hosanna in the highest!

L: Holy are you in every moment, Joyous God, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Light and Life. In the beginning, he was your Word of creativity, and at our end, he is your Word of hope. Though we reject him, he continues to embrace us. He carries your light into the shadowed recesses of our lives. He was filled with the emptiness of death that we might receive the grace of the resurrection.

P: As we begin this new year with hope, we remember his promise to be with us always.

L: As your Spirit rests upon the gifts of the bread and the cup, we pray that you would fill us with every spiritual blessing. As we taste of the life in the Bread which strengthens us, we would be made aware of the hunger of our world. As we drink the sweet richness of your grace, we would reach out and take the hands of all who are despised and rejected.

The Story

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.

Distribution

Prayer of Thanksgiving ‡§

Now that we have been filled at your feast, we would go to empty ourselves of pride and selfishness as we humbly serve that great company of our neighbors in need. And when all things come to an end in your Word, as we are gathered in the true Light, sitting with our siblings around the kitchen table in that life we will have with you forever, we will join our voices singing your praises through all eternity, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

Closing Hymn 144 Bulletin page 10

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Benediction †

L: Go forth in the grace of Christ.

P: We rejoice in his grace.

L: Go forth in the light of Christ.

P: We walk in his light.

L: Go forth in the love of Christ.

P: We serve in his love.

L: May God, the fount of all Wisdom, bless you and guide you this day and always.

All: Amen!

Postlude

“Joy to the World”
Arr. Lori Line

† *Feasting on the Word* Worship Companion, Year C, Vol. 1 ©2012 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.

Cross illumination for January is sponsored by Lil Savage in memory of her parents.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, January 2

Community Table offering

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Communion Worship

Tuesday, January 4

7:00 P.M. Dartball

St Mark at Plymouth

Sunday, January 9

Prayers for the People

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Worship

We pray for:

- The leadership and staff of Plymouth United Church of Christ

Angels We Have Heard on High

Luke 2:15

Traditional French carol

Transl. st. 1-3, "Crown of Jesus Music II," 1862; alt.
 St. 4, "Carols Old and Carols New," Boston, 1916; alt.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See the babe in man - ger laid whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

And the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
 Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav - en - ly song.
 Come a - dore on bend - ed knee, God, our world now en - ter - ing.
 Mar - y, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a
 in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -
 - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The earliest version of this anonymous French carol was first published in 1855. There have been numerous English translations since the 1860s, but the carol did not gain widespread ecumenical usage until the first half of the twentieth century.

Tune: GLORIA 7.7.7.7. with refrain
 (LES ANGES DANS NOS CAMPAGNES)
 French carol melody

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Luke 2:8-14

Edmund H. Sears, 1849; alt.



1 It came up-on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be-neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo, the days are hasten - ing on, by proph-et bards fore - told,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way, with pain - ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes round the age of gold;



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring."
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hover - ing wing,
 Look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 When peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing.
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the ' world send back the song which now the an - gels sing.



Edmund Sears, a Unitarian minister who served a number of congregations in the Boston area, wrote this Christmas hymn emphasizing the social implications of the Gospel for his congregation at Wayland, Massachusetts.

Tune: CAROL C.M.D.
 Richard S. Willis, 1850

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

337

Percy Dearmer, 1925; alt.

Matt. 18:20

Unison

1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
 2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
 3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -

in your name, two or three are met to - geth - er,
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the Giv - er,
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help-ing, giv - ing,

you are in the midst of them; Al-le - lu - ia!
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al-le - lu - ia!
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al-le - lu - ia!

Al-le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
 Al-le - lu - ia! So now bind our friend - ship up.
 Al-le - lu - ia! We may serve with faith a - new.

British hymnal editor Percy Dearmer originally wrote these stanzas under a pseudonym as part of a postcommunion hymn by George H. Bourne. The tune was adapted from an anthem by Harold Friedell and is named for Union Theological Seminary in New York.

Tune: UNION SEMINARY 8.7.8.7.4.4.7.
 Harold Friedell, 1957
 Adapt. Jet Turner, 1967

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Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Luke 2:10-11, 25-32; 24:46-51;
1 Thess. 4:13-18; Isa. 60:19-20

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring;
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3 Hail the Bear - er of God's peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous-ness,



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ner rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time the Sav - ior comes, off-spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life our Sav - ior brings, risen with ra - diant, heal - ing wings.



Joy - ful, all you saints a - rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh, the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty,
Mild - ly lay - ing glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



With the an - gel host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise us all from earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring!"

This hymn by Charles Wesley, one of the founders of Methodism, is firmly wedded to Felix Mendelssohn's music. Composed for the four hundredth anniversary of the invention of printing, the music was adapted to this hymn fifteen years later.

Tune: MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.D. with refrain
From Felix Mendelssohn's "Festgesang," 1840
Arr. William H. Cummings, 1855

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

Questions for Reflection

In our own way, we are each endowed by the Spirit with unique and precious gifts for sharing God's healing love in a good but often divided world. What spiritual practices do you engage in that allow you to stay peaceful, courteous, and develop a respectful regard for difference? How do you stay present and create openness for finding, revealing, and activating God's reconciling love in the world?

Household Prayer: Morning

Glorious God, each day provides opportunity to awaken to the radiance of your presence, and to welcome your blessing into my life. How often I forget that I am your home! Help me to draw more closely to you, that I may manifest your love more deeply in the world. May every bright place and darkened corner grow ever more luminous as I bear your light this day. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Holy Jesus, I thank you for sharing your life with me today. As darkness comes and blankets the earth, be with all who suffer from sickness, hunger, or lack of shelter. Kindle in them the warmth of your presence, and surround them with your steadfast care. I am grateful for the blessings of this day. And in the light of your love I rest this night. Amen.

God is still speaking,