



**December 11, 2011**  
*Third Sunday in Advent*

**PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

## **PLYMOUTH CHURCH WARMLY WELCOMES ALL PEOPLE.**

*We embrace diversity in our congregation and community, and we affirm the dignity and worth of every person created in the image of God. We honor the guiding principle that discrimination is incompatible with Christ's message of unconditional love.*

*We welcome into full membership and participation in all aspects of our church life persons of every race, language, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, physical or mental ability, economic or marital status, and faith background, and we affirm and celebrate all loving and committed relationships.*

*All are welcome.*

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### ***During Today's Worship***

**PLEASE TURN OFF** all cell phones and other electronic devices when in the Sanctuary.

**LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS AND HEARING DEVICES** are available from the ushers. Ushers remain in the narthex throughout the service to assist you with any needs.

**PARENTS/NURSING MOTHERS:** The Parsons Room (next to the Library) is available as a respite space for babies and children. You can hear the service from there.

**CHILDCARE FOR INFANTS** is provided in the Nursery (Room 209) in the education wing. See an usher for directions.

**PLEASE WEAR A NAME BADGE**, found in the Friendship Pads at the end of the pews, so that others might greet you before and after worship.

### ***If You Are New to Plymouth Church***

**A CHURCH TOUR** will be given this morning. Gather at the pulpit at the conclusion of the postlude if you are interested.

**PARKING IS AVAILABLE** in several lots adjacent to Plymouth Church. On Sunday mornings in our main lot, as well as the Groveland and Loring-Nicollet lots, parking is permitted in all spaces. If you need a handicap parking space but do not have an official sticker, please come by the Church Office to get a special "Plymouth Church Handicap Parking" card for use in our parking lot.

**INFORMATIONAL CLASSES FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS:** Contact Emily Venell at 612/977-1281 or [emilyv@plymouth.org](mailto:emilyv@plymouth.org) if you are interested in or have questions about membership at Plymouth Church, or if you are interested in attending a future interactive seminar. Plymouth is eager to welcome those who wish to share their faith on our congregation's journey. We look forward to seeing you at Plymouth again.

***For information on this week's events at Plymouth Church,  
please visit our website at [www.plymouth.org](http://www.plymouth.org).***

**PRELUDE** CHORALE PRELUDE ON “WACHET AUF” *Johann Sebastian Bach*  
(Hymn 108) (1685–1750)

DING DONG! MERRILY ON HIGH *16th-century French tune*  
*arr. Charles Wood*

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY *English carol*  
Robbinsdale Cooper High School Chamber Singers *arr. Alice Parker*  
Sheryl Brame, *director* *and Robert Shaw*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN** HARK, THE GLAD SOUND! “*Chesterfield*”  
(see next page)

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Jeffrey Sartain

*Minister:* The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

***Congregation:* Like the crocus it shall blossom;  
it shall blossom abundantly.**

*Minister:* Joy stirs in every heart.

**INTROIT FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT** *Robert Wetzler*  
(1964)

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice. Let  
your moderation be known to all people: the Lord is at hand.

Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and  
supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made  
known unto God.  
—*Philippians 4:4–6*

#### UNISON PRAYER

Come to us, God of our longing.  
Come to us now while our hearts are open.  
Fill us with your joy, we pray.

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** (“...and forgive us our debts...”)  
*Pilgrim Hymnal*, p. 513, prayer 57

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE**      **THEME:** Joy      David Buran

*As we light the Advent candles each week and prepare for Christmas,  
members of our congregation will speak to four spiritual disciplines  
that relate to our observance of the season.*

# HARK, THE GLAD SOUND!

Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

CHESTERFIELD C.M.

Attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

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## ANTHEM SEEK HIM THAT MAKETH THE SEVEN STARS *Jonathan Dove* (1998)

Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion and turneth  
the shadow of death into the morning.

Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day, the night is  
light about me. Amen.

—Amos 5:8; Psalm 139

SCRIPTURE READINGS

ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

PSALM 126

*Left Side:* When God brought us captives back to Zion, we thought we were dreaming!

*Right Side:* Our mouths were filled with laughter then, our tongues with songs of joy.

*Left Side:* And from the nations we heard, "Their God has done great things for them."

*Right Side:* Yes, God has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

*Left Side:* Now set our captive hearts free, O God! Make them like streams in the driest desert!

*Right Side:* Then those who now sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy;

*Left Side:* Those who go out weeping as they carry their seed for sowing

*Right Side:* Will come back with shouts of joy as they carry their harvest home.

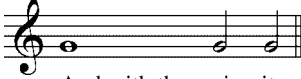
HYMN

COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE "Freu dich sehr"  
(see next page)

VERSICLES #533

*Leader:* The Lord be with you,

*Congregation:*

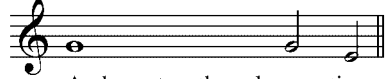


And with thy spir - it.

*Leader:* Let us pray.

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us,

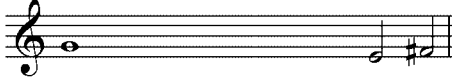
*Congregation:*



And grant us thy sal - va - tion.

*Leader:* O God, make clean our hearts within us,

*Congregation:*



And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Tara Bauer

OFFERTORY

A VIRGIN MOST PURE

*English carol*

Maria Jette, *soprano*; Dan Dressen, *tenor*;

*arr. William Averitt*

James Bohn, *bass*; and Chorus

(1989)

A virgin most pure, as the prophets do tell,  
Hath brought forth a baby, as it hath befell,  
To be our Redeemer from death, hell and sin,  
Which Adam's transgression had wrapped us in.

*Refrain:* And therefore be merry, set sorrow aside;  
Christ Jesus our Savior was born on this tide.

(continued)

# COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE

Based on Isaiah 40:1-8

Johann Olearius, 1671

Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Chorale Book for England, 1863

FREU DICH SEHR 8.7.8.7.7.8.8.

"Genevan Psalter," 1551

Adapted by Claude Goudimel, 1565

1 "Com - fort, com-fort ye my peo - ple, Speak of peace!" so says our God.  
2 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, And the rough - er place - es plain!

"Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness Mourn-ing un - der sor - rows' load."  
Call - ing us to true re - pen-tance, For the king-dom now is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, Read - y for his ho - ly reign!

To God's peo - ple now pro - claim That God's par-don waits for them!  
Oh, that warn-ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
For the glo - ry of the Lord Now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er!  
Let the val - leys rise to meet him And the hills bow down to greet him.  
And all flesh shall see the to - ken That God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

At Bethl'em in Jewry a city there was,  
Where Joseph and Mary together did pass,  
And there to be taxèd with many one more,  
For Caesar commanded the same should be so: *Refrain*

But when they had entered the city so fair,  
A number of people so mighty was there,  
That Joseph and Mary, whose substance was small,  
Could find in the Inn there no lodging at all.

Then were they constrained in a stable to lie,  
Where horses and asses they used for a tie;  
Their lodging so simple they took it no scorn,  
But against the next morning our Savior was born. *Refrain*  
—*Traditional English text*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND DOXOLOGY #464**

Praise to God, immortal praise, for the love that crowns our days!  
Bounteous source of every joy, let thy praise our tongues employ;  
Singing thus through all our days: Praise to God, immortal praise! Amen.

**SERMON**

**INEVITABLE JOY**

James Gertmenian

**RECESSIONAL HYMN #114 LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES “Truro”**

**BENEDICTION & CHORAL AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

**CAROL OF THE BELLS**

*Ukrainian carol*

Robbinsdale Cooper High School Chamber Singers *arr. Peter J. Wilhousky*  
Sheryl Brame, *director*



**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given in loving memory of Catherine S. and Voigt O. Lenmark by their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR** is sponsored by Susan Lamb in honor of the 60th wedding anniversary of her parents, Dean and Marilyn Wahlberg.

**NEXT SUNDAY:** James Gertmenian will lead the 9:50 a.m. First Service, and Paula Northwood will lead the 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary service, which will include the Advent devotion *Las Posadas* (“The Inns”), which commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

## CHURCH REGISTER *as of December 7, 2011*

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

Alice Grant (12/3/2011)

*A memorial service for Alice was held at Plymouth on December 10.*

Boyd Stofer (11/29/2011)

*Husband of Cherie Stofer*

*Father of Robert, Katharine and David Stofer*

*A memorial service for Boyd was held at Plymouth on December 3.*

Candi Storm (11/11/2011)

*Wife of Jim Storm*

*Mother(-in-law) of Carole Steenson and Don Steenson*

*Grandmother of Kieran and Kemper Steenson*

*Mother of Jill Storm*

*An open reception celebrating Candi's life will be held on Thursday, December 29, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Nicollet Island Inn.*

Carolyn White (11/30/2011)

### OTHER MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO ARE RECENTLY BEREAVED:

Annette Atkins and Tom Joyce, *death of Annette's father*

Annette and Tom Cummings, *death of Annette's mother, Mary Ellen Jette*

Logan, Declan and Audrey Cummings, *death of grandmother*

Maria Jette and Lee Blaske, *death of Maria's mother, Mary Ellen Jette*

Nancy and Brian Siska, *death of Nancy's mother, Mary Pentecost*

Luke and Sian Siska, *death of grandmother*

### CONVALESCING:

Karen Campbell, *Walker Methodist Health Center*

### IN HOSPICE CARE:

Wyland Tarrant, *father of Barbara Tarrant*

### CARINGBRIDGE WEBSITES help people stay connected in times of illness:

Jud Reaney, [www.caringbridge.org/visit/judreaney](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/judreaney)

**HOME AND HOSPITAL VISITS:** All Plymouth's ministers call upon members of the church in their homes, in hospitals or care and rehabilitation centers. If you know of someone who'd like a visit from a minister, please contact Catherine Crooks, Minister for Member Care ([cathiec@plymouth.org](mailto:cathiec@plymouth.org) or 612/977-1286).

## PLYMOUTH WORSHIP STAFF

James Gertmenian, *Senior Minister*

Vivian Jones, *Minister Emeritus*

Jeffrey Sartain, *Executive Minister*

Catherine Crooks, *Minister for Member Care*

Paula Northwood, *Minister for Education*

Tara Bauer, *Pastoral Resident*

Philip Brunelle, *Organist and Choirmaster*

Sonja Thompson, *Assistant Music Director*

## PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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