



December 18, 2011
Fourth 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.

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 CHILDREN AGE FIVE AND YOUNGER 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 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.

PRELUDE O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL *Evelyn Simpson-Curenton*
(2004)

PRELUDE ON "THE HOLLY AND THE IVY" *Herbert Sumsion*
(1955)

IMPRESSIONS ON A FRENCH CAROL *Gabriel Fauré*
("He is born, the Divine Christ Child") (1900)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL *"Veni Emmanuel"*
(see next page)

CALL TO WORSHIP James Gertmenian

Minister: In the darkness of a mother's womb, the Holy Child moves.

***Congregation:* In the darkness of the world's pain, we wait for deliverance.**

Minister: Come, Christ Jesus, come!

INTROIT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT *Swedish folk melody*
arr. Anders Öhrwall

Prepare the way, O Zion, ye awful deeps rise high;
Sink low ye lofty mountains, the Lord is drawing nigh:
The righteous King of glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is He that came in God Almighty's name.

—*Franz Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847, alt.*

UNISON PRAYER

Come to us, Christ Jesus.

Come to us now as we come to you with expectant hearts.

Be midwife to our Advent dreams, we pray.

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE THEME: Meditation Ann Manning

*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.*

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

Latin: c.9th century

Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, and

Tr. Henry S. Coffin, 1877-1954, alt.

VENI EMMANUEL 8.8.8.8.8.8.

Adapted from Plainsong

Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890

In unison

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, And or - der all things,
 3 O come, O come, great Lord of might, Who to thy tribes on
 4 O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by thine
 5 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, Un -
 far and nigh; To us the path of knowl - edge show, And
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times once gave the law In
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, And
 heart and mind; O bid our sad di - vi - sions cease, And

REFRAIN

til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us in her ways to go.
 cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 be for us the Prince of Peace.

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

ANTHEM O THOU THAT TELLEST GOOD TIDINGS *George Frideric Handel*
(from “Messiah”) (1742)
Lisa Drew, *alto*, and Chorus

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, “God with us.”

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid, say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God.

—*Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 40:9*

LAS POSADAS

Sophie Deutsch

The Advent devotion called *Las Posadas* (meaning, “The Inns”) is popular in Latin America and the Philippines. This devotion commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem. The custom includes processions at night or early dawn and weaves together Advent’s prayerful vigilance, the virtue of hospitality and the commitment to social justice so appropriate at this season. Today we will journey with Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem. We will play the part of the innkeepers as we remember the many ways we close ourselves to those who need charity, but we will also welcome the holy family as we remember the many people we have touched with kindness, and those who have received us as well. Let us make the journey as we mark the last Sunday of Advent.

ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL Verse 1—Soloist “*Toda la tierra*”
(see next page)

FIRST READING ISAIAH 2:1–5 Tim Jordan

RESPONSIVE READING

Joseph (Kiel Gasongo): In the name of the Heavens I request lodging from you because she cannot walk any further, my beloved wife.

Congregation: This is not an inn. Go on ahead. We cannot open up for you in case you are a crook.

Mary (Gina Cassellius): Don’t be cruel. Give us charity that the gods of the heavens will give it to you.

Congregation: Go now and don’t bother us. Find another place to seek your bed.

ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL Verse 2—Congregation “*Toda la tierra*”
(see next page)

SECOND READING ISAIAH 53:1–3 Lila Franklin

ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL

Alberto Taulé, 1993

Tr. Madeline Forell Marshall, 1995

TODA LA TIERRA 11.11.12.12

Alberto Taulé, 1993



1 To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
2 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
3 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
4 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad.
God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!

RESPONSIVE READING

Joseph: We come tired from Nazareth. I am a carpenter whose name is Joseph.

***Congregation:* Your name does not concern us. We need to sleep. We already told you that we have no room for you. Find charity elsewhere. Go your way.**

Joseph: I have asked you for lodging, dear innkeeper, because this young mother is going to be the queen of heaven.

***Congregation:* If she is a queen, where is her crown? Who requests this charity from us? How is it that this queen is traveling in such a humble state?**

ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL

Verse 3—Congregation
(see previous page)

“*Toda la tierra*”

THIRD READING

JOHN 13:34–35

Evie Mackenzie

RESPONSIVE READING

Joseph: My wife is Mary, queen of the heavens, and the mother of the savior.

***Congregation:* You are Joseph? This is Mary? Come in travelers! We did not know it was you!**

Mary: May God reward you for your charity, and may the heavens overwhelm you with happiness!

***Congregation:* Enter holy pilgrims. Receive this haven. Although it’s a poor dwelling, the dwelling we offer is our heart.**

ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL

Verse 4—Congregation
(see previous page)

“*Toda la tierra*”

LITANY

Ming Montgomery

Leader: Remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice and let the oppressed go free.

***All:* The soul of this nation hungers for justice.**

Leader: Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor.

***All:* The soul of this nation hungers for compassion.**

Leader: Millions of people go homeless each night in cities and towns throughout our country.

***All:* The soul of this nation hungers for housing.**

Leader: Homeless people are being criminalized—arrested for sitting on sidewalks, for begging for money, for sleeping on park benches.

***All:* The soul of this nation hungers for mercy.**

Leader: Homeless people are reviled as outcasts, rejected as untouchables, driven out of our cities and out of our hearts.

***All:* The soul of the nation hungers for forgiveness and tolerance.**

Leader: We seek to mend the brokenness caused by poverty; we seek to heal the brokenness of our own hardened hearts; we seek an end to the cruel persecution of the poor.

***All:* The soul of this nation hungers for deliverance from our fear, our greed, from our sinfulness.**

UNISON PRAYER

God of the poor and homeless, you gave us Advent hope in sending Jesus your Son to be our Savior. Help us to be grateful for all your gifts to us and give us the courage to share our gifts with the poor of the world. Amen.

OFFERTORY

THE HEART-IN-WAITING

Bob Chilcott

(Commissioned by and premiered at Plymouth Church three years ago) (2008)

Jesus walked through whispering wood:
'I am pale blossom, I am blood berry,
I am rough bark, I am sharp thorn,
This is the place where you will be born.'

Jesus went down to the skirl of the sea:
'I am long reach, I am fierce comber,
I am keen saltspray, I am spring tide.'
He pushed the cup of the sea aside

And heard the sky which breathed and blew,
'I am the firmament, I am shape changer,
I cradle and carry and kiss and roar,
I am infinite roof and floor.'

All day he walked, he walked all night,
Then Jesus came to the heart at dawn.
'Here and now,' said the heart-in-waiting,
'This is the place where you must be born.'

—*Kevin Crossley-Holland*

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 2:1–8

MEDITATION

THE PILGRIMAGE

Paula Northwood

RECESSIONAL HYMN

REJOICE, REJOICE,
BELIEVERS!
(see next page)

“*Haf trones lampa färdig*”

BENEDICTION & CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

BRING A TORCH, JEANNETTE, ISABELLA

Keith Chapman
(1976)



REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS!

Laurentius Laurenti, 1700
Tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1854, alt.

HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG 7.6.7.6.D.
Swedish Folk Melody

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers! and let your lights ap - pear;
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - plen - ish them with oil;
3 All you who wait his com - ing, re - hearse the joy - ful song,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing and dark - er night is near.
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
which we shall sing in glo - ry with all the an - gel throng.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!

The Lord is now a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh.
The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the Lord is near.
The ho - ly feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand.
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! At mid - night comes the cry.
Go meet him as he comes now with al - le - lu - ias clear.
Rise up, you heirs of glo - ry! The Mas - ter is at hand.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free.

CHURCH REGISTER *as of December 12, 2011*

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Alice Grant (12/3/2011)

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

Carolyn White (11/30/2011)

OTHER MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO ARE RECENTLY BEREAVED:

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

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 or 612/977-1286).

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in loving memory of Leslie and Elsa Griswold and Frank Griswold by Barbara and Paul Laederach.

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored in honor of Judge Theodore B. Knudson and Helen Knudson by Sue Dosal and Kay Studebaker.

NEXT SUNDAY: There will be no First Service. Tara Bauer, Shannon Kearns and Paula Northwood will present meditations on carols at the 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary service.

***For information on this week's events at Plymouth Church,
please visit our website at www.plymouth.org.***

Christmas Eve Services
Saturday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Family Service in the Sanctuary
Youth Choir and Children's Choirs

7:45 p.m. Sanctuary Candlelight Service of
Lessons and Carols
Solo Quintet and Organ
(ASL interpreted)
James Gertmenian preaching

10:45 p.m. Sanctuary Candlelight Service of
Lessons and Carols
Senior Choir, Organ and Handbells
James Gertmenian preaching

Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25

10:30 a.m. Carol Sing & Meditations

New Year's Day
Sunday, January 1

10:30 a.m. Bach Cantata No. 143 for New Year's Day
with Soloists, Choir and Instrumentalists;
meditation by Jeffrey Sartain

PLYMOUTH STAFF

James Gertmenian, *Senior Minister*

Vivian Jones, *Minister Emeritus*

Jeffrey Sartain, *Executive Minister*

Larry Johnson, *Drop-in Coordinator*

Catherine Crooks, *Minister for Member Care*

Paula Northwood, *Minister for Education*

Shannon Kearns, *Interim Community Ministries Coordinator;*

Youth Activities Coordinator

Katie Dailey, *Junior High Leader*

Corbin Dillon, *Junior High Assistant*

Tara Bauer, *Pastoral Resident*

Jo Holcomb, *Director of Children's Programs, Librarian*

Karen Millar, *Children's Program Assistant*

Carole Humphrey, *Director; Children's Dance*

Kristen Froebel, *Director; Young Voices*

Catherine Neuner & Maya Sutton, *Childcare Providers*

Philip Brunelle, *Organist and Choirmaster*

Sonja Thompson, *Assistant Music Director*

James Bohn, Dan Dressen, Lisa Drew, Jennifer French & Maria Jette, *Soloists*

Mary Laymon, *Director; Children's and Youth Choirs*

Cammy Carteng, *Director; Handbell Choirs*

Claire Colliander, *Music Librarian*

Allison Campbell Jensen, *Director of Communication*

Cody Bourdot, *Audiovisual Technician*

Karen Hartz, *Director of Operations*

Doug Freeman, *Ministry Assistant for Programs*

Emily Venell, *Ministry Assistant for Hospitality*

Lydia Brock, Robert Brock & Timm Douma, *Evening/Weekend Receptionists*

Joy Hansen, *Accounting Manager*

Malcolm Williams, *Public Safety Manager*

John Bradford, *Maintenance Manager*

Bob Haas, *Housekeeping Manager*

Kathryn Bahl, Randall Heimer & Larry Rostad, *Custodians*

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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