

**PLYMOUTH  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH**

**December 24, 2011**

**10:45 PM**

*Christmas Eve*

## 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 Tonight'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.

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

**WELCOME!** We hope you feel welcomed and that your time with us tonight is meaningful.

**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 informational series. 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

IN DULCI JUBILO *Johann Sebastian Bach*  
 (“Now sing we, now rejoice”) (1685–1750)

TOMORROW SHALL BE MY DANCING DAY *English carol*  
*arr. James Biery*  
 (2006)

VOLUNTARY IN A MINOR *William Boyce*  
 (1711–1779)

*This year marks the tercentenary of the birth of William Boyce, composer and organist for many years at the Chapel Royal and editor of the most important collection of anthems covering two centuries, “Cathedral Music.”*

GLORIA HODIE *16th-century German carol*  
 Plymouth Handbell Choir *arr. Julie Turner*  
 Cammy Carteng, *director* and *Kevin McChesney*

PROVENÇAL NOËL *Alexandre Guilmant*  
 (1886)

*2011 marks the centenary of the death of Alexandre Guilmant, regarded as the father of modern French organ music, as well as concert organist and professor of organ at the Paris Conservatoire.*

PRELUDE TO “THE CHRISTMAS ORATORIO” *Camille Saint-Saëns*  
*arr. Arthur B. Jennings*

VARIATIONS ON “DING DONG! MERRILY ON HIGH” *Germain Rivière*  
 (2000)

PRELUDE ON “GREENSLEEVES” *Richard Purvis*  
 (“What Child is this”) (1944)

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL *“Adeste fideles”*

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
 Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
*Refrain: O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*
2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
 Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
 Glory to God in the highest! *Refrain.*

*(continued)*

3. Child, for us sinners, poor and in the manger,  
We would embrace Thee with love and awe:  
Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly! *Refrain.*

4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning.  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of Creation, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain.*

—*Latin hymn, tr. Frederick Oakeley and others*

**WELCOME AND GREETING**

Jeffrey Sartain

**UNISON PRAYER**

On this holy night, O God, comes the song of your promise:

A young woman will conceive and bear a child,  
and the child shall be called Emmanuel, God-with-us.

This is the night of radiance and joy.

This is the night of the singing of angels.

Shine, O light, in the darkness of our world.

Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts.

Glory be to you, O God, in the highest heaven,

and on earth, peace and goodwill dwell among us all, we pray.

**— A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS —**

**FIRST LESSON: THE PROPHECY**

**HYMN** (*seated*)

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

*"Irby"*

*Solo:*

1. Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a Mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed;  
Mary was that Mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little Child.

*Choir:*

2. He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

*All:*

3. For he is our childhood pattern:  
Day by day like us he grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless;  
Tears and smiles like us he knew;  
And he feeleth for our sadness,  
And he shareth in our gladness.

*All:*

4. And our eyes at last shall see him  
Through his own redeeming love,  
For that Child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above;  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he has gone.

**READINGS**

ISAIAH 9:2, 6–7  
ISAIAH 40:1–5

Christopher Brunelle  
Elise Brunelle

ANTHEM

PUER NOBIS

*Richard Rodney Bennett*  
(1983)

Given, not lent,  
And not withdrawn once sent,  
This Infant of mankind, this One,  
Is still the little welcome Son.  
New every year,  
New born and newly dear,  
He comes with tidings and a song,  
The ages long, the ages long;  
Even as the cold  
Keen winter grows not old,  
As childhood is so fresh, foreseen,  
And spring in the familiar green—  
Sudden as sweet  
Come the expected feet.  
All joy is young, and new all art,  
And He, too, whom we have by heart.

—poem by Alice Meynell (1849–1922)

## SECOND LESSON: THE BIRTH

READING

LUKE 2:1–7

Enid Gertmenian-King

ANTHEM

THE SHEPHERDS' CHORUS *Gian Carlo Menotti*  
(from the opera "Amahl and the Night Visitors") (1951)  
James Bohn, as *Balthazar*, and Chorus

*The shepherds call to each other as they approach the cottage of Amahl and his mother. Later, after some words of farewell from one of the Wise Men, they return to the hills and their sheep at morning light:*

Come, oh, shepherds, come outside,  
All the stars have left the sky.  
Oh, sweet dawn of peace.

*This year marks the centenary of the birth of Menotti, the noted American composer of Italian birth. "Amahl and the Night Visitors" was the first opera written expressly for American television, commissioned by NBC.*

HYMN (*seated*)

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM  
(see next page)

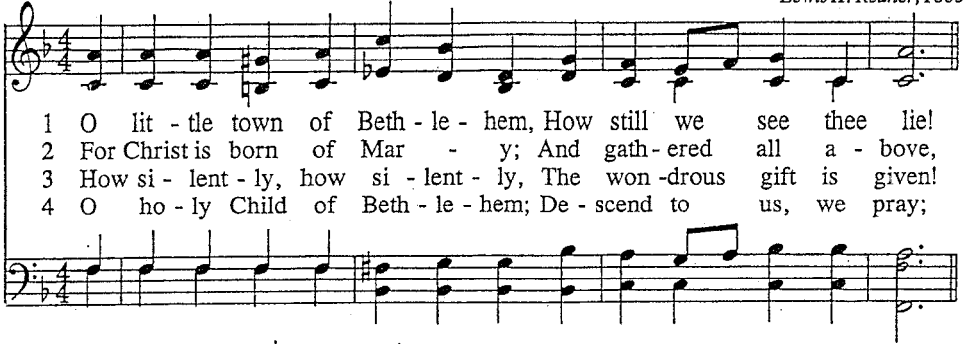
"St. Louis"

# O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

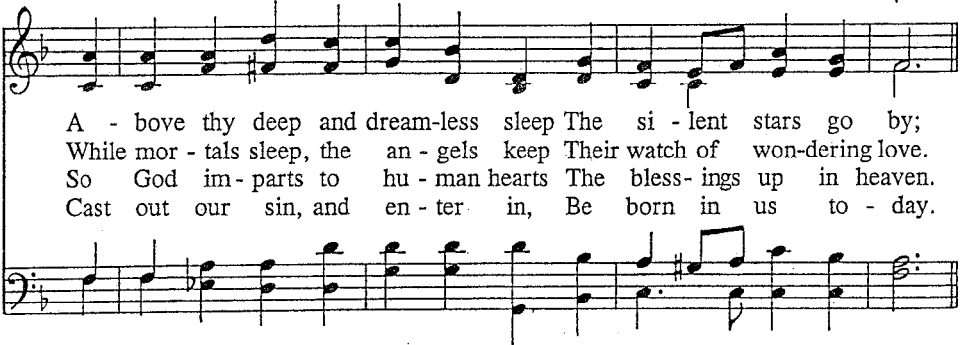
Phillips Brooks, 1868, alt.

ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

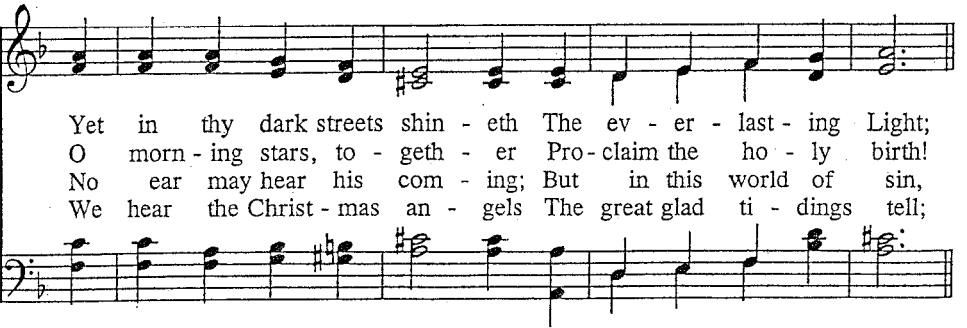
Lewis H. Redner, 1868



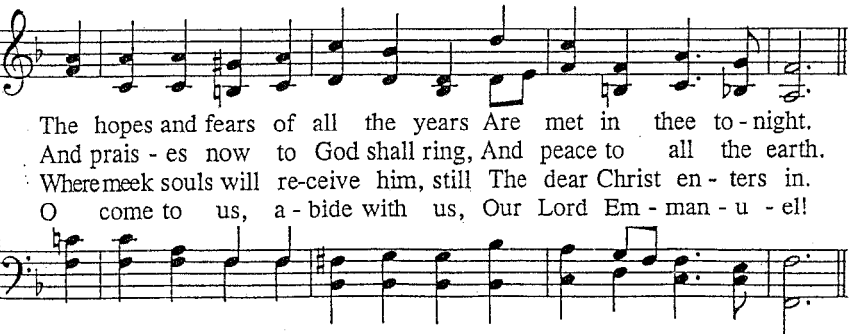
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y; And gath - ered all a - bove,  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous gift is given!  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem; De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - dering love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings up in heaven.  
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light;  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
No ear may hear his com - ing; But in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
And prais - es now to God shall ring, And peace to all the earth.  
Where meek souls will re - ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!

### THIRD LESSON: THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS

READING

LUKE 2:8–20

Emily Gertmenian Callahan

ANTHEM

GOD WOULD BE BORN IN THEE

*Judith Bingham  
(2004)*

Lo, in the silent night a child in God is born  
And all is brought again that ere was lost or lorn.  
Could but thy soul, O man, become a silent night,  
God would be born in thee, and make all things a-right.

Holy Mary, there is no other woman in the world like you,  
Flourishing like the rose, fragrant as a lily.

—*Silesius Angelus, 1624–1677*

CAROL (*standing*)

THE FIRST NOWELL

“*The First Nowell*”

*All:*

1. The first Nowell 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: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel!*

*Women:*

2. They lookèd 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.*

*Men:*

3. And by the light of that same star,  
Three Wise Men came from country far,  
To seek a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went:  
*Refrain.*

*All:*

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
O’er Bethlehem it took its rest.  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay:  
*Refrain.*

*Choir:*

5. Then did they know assuredly  
Within that house the King did lie:  
One entered in them for to see,  
And found the babe in poverty:  
*Refrain.*

*Men:*

6. Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
Full reverently upon their knee  
And offered there in his presence  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:  
*Refrain.*

*Women:*

7. Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heav’n and earth of nought,  
And with his death true life hath bought:  
*Refrain.*

(continued)

*All:*

8. So now we shall rejoice and sing,  
And let the heav'nly anthems ring:  
For God hath preparèd for us all  
A resting place in general:

*Refrain.*

—*W. Sandys, "Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern"*

#### **FOURTH LESSON: THE COMING OF THE MAGI**

**READING**

MATTHEW 2:1–12

Tim Brunelle

*An offering will be taken at this time. The money received will go toward our Christmas fund, used to help people in the community and abroad who are hungry, homeless and abused.*

**OFFERTORY**

I WONDER AS I WANDER

*John Jacob Niles*

Plymouth Handbell Choir    *arr. Karen Lakey Buckwalter*  
Cammy Carteng, *director*

#### **FIFTH LESSON: THE PROMISE**

**READING** (*standing*)

JOHN 1:1–14

The Congregation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word was in the beginning with God; all things were made through it, and without it was not anything made that was made. In it was life, and the life was the light of all. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came for testimony to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of human will, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

CAROL

BELLS RANG EARLY IN JERUSALEM *Ukrainian carol*  
(sung in Ukrainian) *arr: Ya. M. Yatsynevich*

Oh, the bells rang early in Jerusalem.

*Refrain: A bountiful evening,  
A good evening,  
To the health of all good people!*

Oh, the maiden Mary walked in the garden. *Refrain.*

Mary walked in the garden and gave birth to a Son. *Refrain.*

Mary gave birth to a Son and carried Him in her arms. *Refrain.*

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Paula Northwood

HYMN (*standing*) ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY “*Regent Square*”  
(see next page)

MEDITATION

James Gertmenian

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

HYMN (*seated*)

SILENT NIGHT

“*Stille Nacht*”

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Silent night! Holy night!<br/>All is calm, all is bright<br/>Round yon virgin mother and child!<br/>Holy infant, so tender and mild,<br/>Sleep in heavenly peace.<br/>Sleep in heavenly peace.</p>        | <p>2. Silent night! Holy night!<br/>Shepherds quake at the sight!<br/>Glories stream from heaven afar,<br/>Heav’nly hosts sing Alleluia!<br/>Christ, the Savior, is born!<br/>Christ, the Savior, is born!</p> |
| <p>3. Silent night! Holy night!<br/>Son of God, love’s pure light<br/>Radiant beams from thy holy face,<br/>With the dawn of redeeming grace,<br/>Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.<br/>Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.</p> |  |

TIME FOR SILENCE

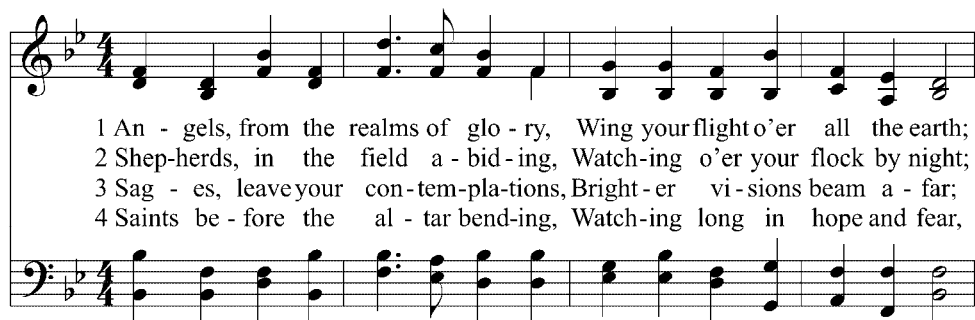
*During “Silent Night,” Deacons will light the candles of worshipers who are sitting nearest the aisles. The light is then passed from candle to candle, down each pew. Please take care that in passing the light, wax does not spill on pew cushions or clothing. (When lighting, tip the **unlit** candle to meet the lit candle. **Do not tip the lit candle.**) After a moment of silence, when led by the ministers, worshipers are asked to extinguish their candles. Candles may be taken home or left in baskets at the exits. Please do not leave candles in the pews.*

# ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

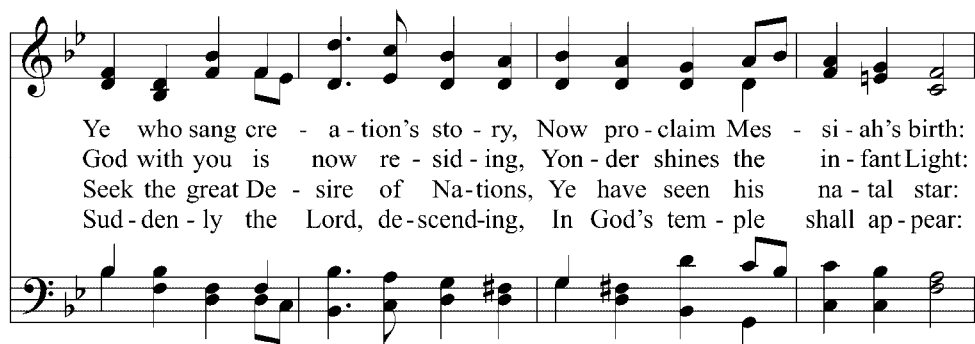
James Montgomery, 1816, 1825, alt.

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.

Henry Thomas Smart, 1867

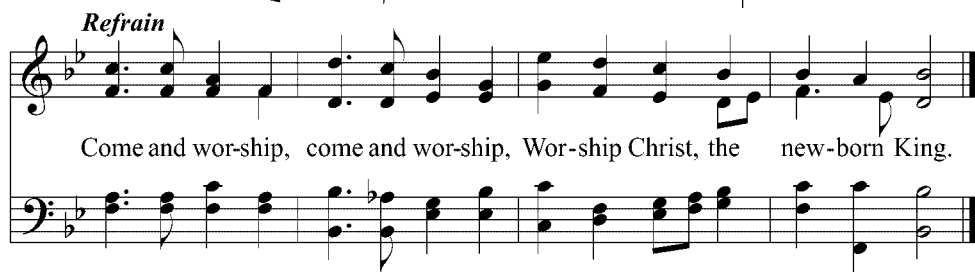


1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep-herds, in the field a - bid - ing, Watch-ing o'er your flock by night;  
3 Sag - es, leave your con-tem-pla-tions, Bright-er vi-sions beam a - far;  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend-ing, Watch-ing long in hope and fear,



Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with you is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant Light:  
Seek the great De - sire of Na-tions, Ye have seen his na - tal star:  
Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, In God's tem - ple shall ap - pear:

*Refrain*



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, Wor-ship Christ, the new-born King.

5. Though an infant now we view him,  
Christ shall reign from heaven's throne,  
Gather all the nations to him;  
Every knee shall then bow down:  
*Refrain.*

**BENEDICTION**

**HYMN** (*standing*)

**JOY TO THE WORLD!**

*“Antioch”*

*All:*

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing.

*Men:*

3. No more let sin and sorrow grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found.

*Women:*

2. Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy.

*All:*

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

—*Isaac Watts, alt.*

**POSTLUDE**

**FUGUE ON “VOM HIMMEL HOCH”** *Johann Sebastian Bach*  
(“From heaven above to earth I come”) (1685–1750)



**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given by Virginia Borgeson in loving memory of Ann Reincke Fearing, Rolland Lattan Fearing, George Neil Fearing, Charles Alden Borgeson, Ralph Burton Fearing and William L. Allison.

**IF YOU HAVE PASTORAL NEEDS** over the holiday, please contact the on-call minister by dialing 612/871-7400 and pressing 7 at the prompt.

**ON THE COVER:** Detail from the Guild Hall embroidery *Christmas Radiance*, Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Designed by Pauline Baynes, 1986.

## **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**

1900 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

612/871-7400 • [www.plymouth.org](http://www.plymouth.org) • E-mail: [churchinfo@plymouth.org](mailto:churchinfo@plymouth.org)