



**PLYMOUTH  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH**

**December 24, 2011**

**7:45 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 ("Now sing we, now rejoice")	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
	PRELUDE TO "THE CHRISTMAS ORATORIO"	Camille Saint-Saëns arr. Arthur B. Jennings
	TOMORROW SHALL BE MY DANCING DAY	English carol arr. James Biery (2006)
	O COME, ALL YE CHILDREN Jenny French, <i>soprano</i> ; Lisa Drew, <i>alto</i> Dan Dressen, <i>tenor</i> ; James Bohn, <i>bass</i>	German melody arr. Sasha Johnson Manning (2002)
	PRELUDE ON "GREENSLEEVES" ("What Child is this?")	Richard Purvis (1944)
	O HOLY NIGHT Maria Jette, <i>soprano</i>	Adolphe Adam (1847)

OPENING HYMN                      O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL                      "Adeste fideles"

- 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!*
- Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God in the highest! *Refrain.*
- 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.*
- 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*

**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**

**READING**

ISAIAH 9:2, 6–7; 40:1–5

Anne Seltz

**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.

*Solo:*

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.

**SECOND LESSON: THE BIRTH**

**READING**

LUKE 2:1–7

George Wallace

**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!

CAROL

THE COMING OF OUR KING

*Polish carol*

Maria Jette and Jenny French, *soprano*;  
Lisa Drew, *alto*; Dan Dressen, *tenor*; and James Bohn, *bass*  
*arr: John Rutter*

Hark! Do you hear how the angel voices sing,  
Bearing the news of the coming of our King?  
Jesus Christ is born to save us;  
Satan's power no more enslaves us.

See! Now a star shining in the Eastern skies,  
Guiding the wise men to where the infant lies;  
Gifts they bring of richest treasure,  
Offer homage without measure.

Hush! For the baby lies sleeping in the hay,  
Cradled at Bethlehem far away;  
Ox and ass before him kneeling,  
Mary's love his sorrows healing.

Come! With the wise men your faithful homage pay,  
Sing and rejoice that our Lord is born today.  
Greet the child with shouts of gladness,  
Banish sorrow, banish sadness.

**THIRD LESSON: THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS**

READING

LUKE 2:8–20

Eva Breitingner

HYMN (*standing*)

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

*"Gloria"*

1. Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains:  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song?  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*
3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

4. See him in a manger laid,  
Whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
While our hearts in love we raise.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

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

**READING**

MATTHEW 2:1–12

Drew Bennett

*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**

THIS NIGHT

Johan König  
*arr. F. Melius Christiansen*

This night a wondrous revelation  
Makes known to me God's love and grace;  
The child that merits adoration  
Brings light to our benighted race,  
And though a thousand suns did shine,  
Still brighter were that light divine.

—*Poem by C. F. Nachtenhoefer; 1624*  
*Translation by Anna Hoppe, 1934*

**THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

Catherine Crooks

#### **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.

## THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

HYMN (*seated*)

SILENT NIGHT

“*Stille Nacht*”

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

## 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.*

## 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.

*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.

*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.

*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.

**ASL INTERPRETER:** Ruth Boettcher

**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.

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# 2011 Plymouth Church Christmas Benevolence Offering

*All open offerings received at our Christmas Eve services, as well as those designated especially for our Christmas Offering but given throughout the season, go to charitable organizations that extend the mission of Plymouth beyond our church into our wider community.*

The Benevolence Committee will match the Christmas Offering, up to \$5,000, out of its budget. Our goal is to collectively raise \$45,000 during this holiday season for a few of the many special organizations we support, including:

**Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness** is sponsoring a new Currie Avenue initiative that focuses on homeless youth in shelters. DCEH hopes to replicate the unprecedented success of this partnership, which allowed church collections and corporate donations to activate available state funds. This interfaith group works to end homelessness through support of Heading Home Hennepin and by using its civic voice.

**HIRED** provides disadvantaged job seekers with effective employment and training services designed to meet the needs of local employers. HIRED's youth programs assist young people, including residents of Nicollet Square, in meeting their goals.

**Jeremiah Program** assists low-income single moms with young children to complete their education and achieve economic self-sufficiency. Jeremiah operates two apartment residences that also provide child development centers, individual coaching and employment counseling.

**Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation** has a unique model of housing development that works with individual congregations throughout the metro area. Founded by members of Plymouth Church in 1999, PCNF has developed both Lydia Apartments and Nicollet Square. PCNF recently merged with Families Moving Forward, a temporary emergency shelter program, which was hosted at Plymouth this fall. PCNF also sponsors A Night on the Street.

**Simpson Housing Services** houses, supports and advocates for people experiencing homelessness. Simpson knows that with close, individual advocacy and support, homeless people achieve housing stability.

## **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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