



December 25, 2011

Christmas Sunday

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.

THERE IS NO CHILDCARE THIS MORNING.

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

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.

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

PRELUDE	WITH THE COMING OF CHRISTMAS	<i>Claude Balbastre</i>
	(from “First Suite of Noëls”)	(1770)
	PUER NATUS EST (A BOY IS BORN)	<i>Everett Titcomb</i>
	(“Improvisation on a Gregorian Theme”)	(1938)
	REJOICE GREATLY	<i>George Frideric Handel</i>
	(from “Messiah”)	(1745)
	Maria Jette, <i>soprano</i> ; Marc Levine, <i>violin</i>	

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, thy King cometh unto thee. He is the righteous Savior, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

—*Zachariah 9:9–10*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING “*Mendelssohn*”

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!” | 2. Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!” |
| 3. Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings
Ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!” | 4. Come, Desire of nations, come,
Fix in us thy humble home;
O, to all thyself impart,
Formed in each believing heart!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!” |

—*Charles Wesley, 1739, and others*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeffrey Sartain

Minister: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

***Congregation:* We have beheld God’s glory. Alleluia and amen!**

INTROIT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

Robert Wetzler

Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder. And his Name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

(1964)

—*Isaiah 9:6*

UNISON PRAYER

God of mystery and might, we praise and worship you, for you came in silence, while all lay sleeping, to enter our world as a child of humble birth. We thank you for the hope of the prophets, the song of the angels and the birth of Jesus, through whom you shared our human hurts and pleasures. Be present now as you were then and hear us as we pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (“...and forgive us our debts...”)

Pilgrim Hymnal, p. 513, prayer 57

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM AND CAROL EIN HOHER TAG KÖMMT *Gottfried August Homilius*
(Opening chorus from the cantata for Christmas Day) (1714–1785)

Now comes the high day for honoring Christ, rejoicing and processing like kings, wonderfully adorned. God answers the world, which he blesses through the Messiah.

GOOD CHRISTIANS ALL, REJOICE *14th-century German carol*
arr. Philip Ledger

Good Christians all, rejoice	Good Christians all, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;	With heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say,	Now ye hear of endless bliss,
Jesus Christ is born today:	Jesus Christ was born for this:
Ox and ass before him bow,	He hath oped the heavenly door,
And he is in the manger now.	And all are blest for evermore.
Christ is born today!	Christ was born for this!

Good Christians all, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave,
Jesus Christ was born to save,
Calls you one, and calls you all,
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!

—*John Mason Neale, 1818–1866*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

ISAIAH 52:7–10

LUKE 2:8–20

HYMN

ALL MY HEART TODAY REJOICES
(see next page)

“*Warum sollt ich*”

ALL MY HEART TODAY REJOICES

Paul Gerhardt, 1653

Tr: Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt.

WARUM SOLLT ICH 8.3.3.6.D.

Melody by Johann Georg Ebeling, 1666

1 All my heart to-day re-joic-es As I hear, far and near,
2 Hark! a voice from yon-der man-ger, Soft and sweet does en-treat:
3 Come, then, let us hur-ry yon-der! Here let all, great and small,
4 Thee, O Je-sus, I will cher-ish, Live to Thee, and with Thee

Sweet-est an-gel voic-es, "Christ is born!" their choirs are sing-ing,
"Flee from woe and dan-ger! Chris-tians, come! let no-thing grieve you,
Kneel in awe and won-der! Love Him Who with love is yearn-ing;
Dy-ing, shall not per-ish, But shall dwell with Thee for ev-er

Till the air, ev-ery-where, Now with joy is ring-ing.
You are freed; all you need I will sure-ly give you."
Hail the star that, from far, Bright with hope is burn-ing!
Far on high, in the joy That can al-ter nev-er.

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

FROM HEAVEN ABOVE

Marc Levine, violin

Martin Luther
arr. Gunnar Idenstam

From heaven high to earth I come
To bring good news to every one!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To all the world, and gladly sing:

To you this day is born a child
Of Mary chosen virgin mild;
This newborn child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

(continued)

How glad we'll be to find it so!
With all the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us God's own dear Son.

My heart for very joy now leaps;
My voice no longer silence keeps;
I too must join the angel throng
To sing with joy his cradle-song:

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom this sinful world is blest!
You turned not from our needs away!
How can our thanks such love repay?

“To God who sent us Christ, the Lord,
Be glory, laud and honor poured.
Let all the choir of heaven rejoice:
The new ring in with heart and voice!”

—*Martin Luther*

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.

CAROLS AND MEDITATIONS

Shannon Kearns
Paula Northwood
Tara Bauer

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.

All:

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.

JESUS, OUR BROTHER, STRONG AND GOOD “*Orientis partibus*”
(see next page)

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH
(Hymn #116)

“*Gloria*”

BENEDICTION & CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

DANCE OF JOY

“*In dulci júbilo*”
arr. Eleanor Whitsett
(2004)



JESUS, OUR BROTHER, STRONG AND GOOD

French carol, 12th century
Tr. anonymous

ORIENTIS PARTIBUS 7.7.7.7.
French melody, early 13th century
Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1 Je - sus, our broth - er, "strong and good, was hum - bly
2 "I," said the don - key, shag - gy and brown, "I car - ried your
3 "I," said the cow, all white and red, "I gave you my
4 "I," said the sheep with curl - y horn, "I gave you my

born in a sta - ble rude, and the friend - ly beasts a -
moth - er up - hill and down, I car - ried your moth - er to
man - ger for your bed, I gave my hay to
wool for a blan - ket warm, you wore my coat on

round him stood, Je - sus our broth - er, strong and good.
Beth - le - hem town; I," said the don - key, shag - gy and brown.
pil - low your head; I," said the cow, all white and red.
Christ - mas morn; I," said the sheep with curl - y horn.

- 5 "I," said the dove, from the raf - ters high,
"I cooed you to sleep that you should
not cry,
we cooed you to sleep, my love and I;
I," said the dove, from the raf - ters high.
- 6 Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
in the sta - ble dark were glad to tell
of the gifts they gave Em - man - u - el,
the gifts they gave Em - man - u - el.

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: We thank Karl and Helen Doeringsfeld, Mary Jean and Voigt O. Lenmark Jr., Susan Lamb, Barbara and Paul Laederach, and Virginia Borgeson for providing flowers through December.

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

NEXT SUNDAY: There will be no First Service. Jeffrey Sartain will lead the 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary service, which will include Bach Cantata No. 143 for New Year's Day, "Glory to God, O My Spirit."

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

1900 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

612/871-7400 • www.plymouth.org • E-mail: churchinfo@plymouth.org

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 • E-mail: churchinfo@plymouth.org

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

1900 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

612/871-7400 • www.plymouth.org • E-mail: churchinfo@plymouth.org

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*

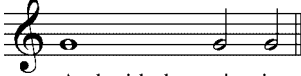
For more information, please visit our website at www.plymouth.org.

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

VERSICLES #533

Leader: The Lord be with you,

Congregation:

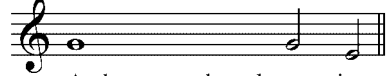


And with thy spir - it.

Leader: Let us pray.

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us,

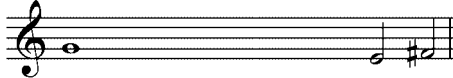
Congregation:



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.

VERSICLES #533

Leader: The Lord be with you.

***Congregation (sung):* And with thy spirit.**

Leader: Let us pray. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us,

***Congregation:* And grant us thy salvation.**

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

***Congregation:* And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1900 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

612/871-7400 • www.plymouth.org • E-mail: churchinfo@plymouth.org