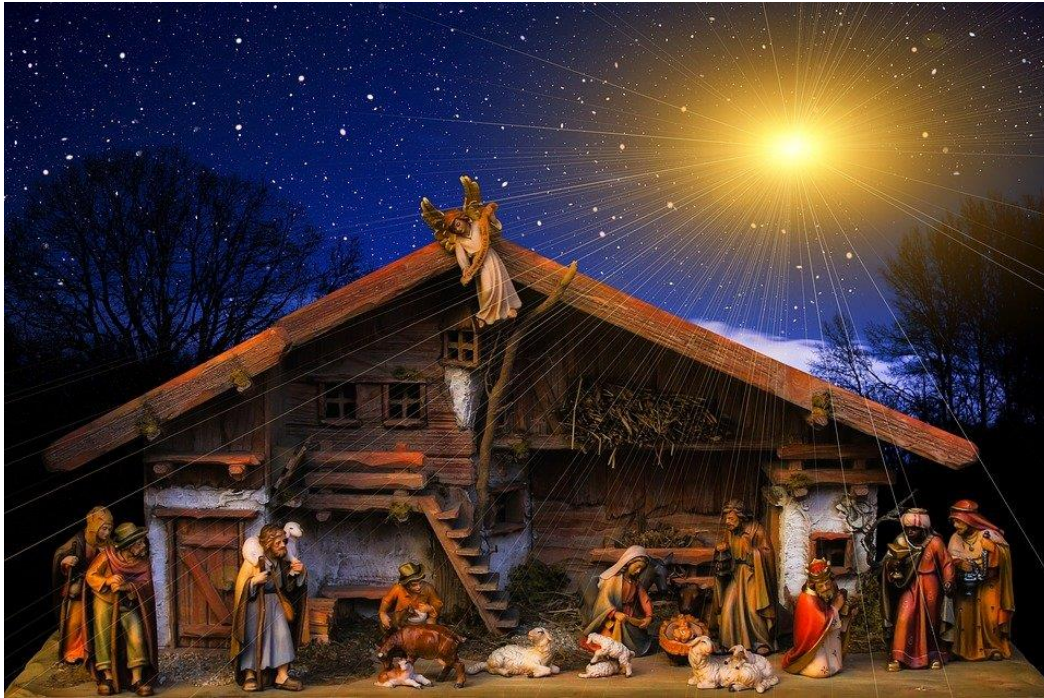


Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



December 24, 2021

7:00 pm

We Practice Just Peace: doing justice, seeking peace
We are Open and Affirming: welcoming LGBTQ+ people
We Listen for the Still Speaking God

Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

*A compassionate community, intentionally inclusive, openly searching,
joyfully serving in the way of Christ.*

Masks are REQUIRED in our community at this time. Masks should be worn for the entirety of the service over both mouth and nose. If you need a mask break, please take a step outside of the building.

Prelude “Some Children See Him” with Chopin's *Nocturne in E Minor*
by Alfred Burt

*Selected pieces of the Christmas Offering are listed on the back of the bulletin.
The prelude is an invitation to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.*

Words of Welcome

Introit Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh

Lighting the Advent Wreath and the Christ Candle

*Please note, those who are able and willing may stand.

***Litany to Open** *adapted from Ted Loder, from Guerrillas of Grace*

One: How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given.

All: Joy is here, for we have seen God's compassion.

One: I would be silent now, God, and expectant . . .

All: Hope, peace, love come from on high to dwell among us.

One: Let us receive the gift that we need, so that we may become the gift that others need.

All: As the angels proclaim, the shepherds declare and parents of Christ look with honor and wonder, so too do we. Let us receive Christ with joy!

***Hymn** Angels, From the Realms of Glory PH (red) #117
Verses 1 & 2

Opening Prayer *adapted from Hildegard of Bingen, "O Holy Spirit"*

One: O Holy Spirit, Fiery Comforter Spirit, Life of all creatures, Holy are you, that give existence to all form.

Holy are you, you that are balm for the mortally wounded. Holy are you, that cleanse deep hurt.

All: Fire of love, breath of all holiness, you are so delightful to our hearts. You infuse our hearts with the goodness of virtue. We bask in your presence. In this hour, we join your angels in proclaiming peace to all and that your Love will always conquer fear. Amen.

Hymn Angels We Have Heard on High NCH (black) #125
Verses 1 – 3

A Message for All Ages

A retelling of Tomie dePaola's Book "The Legend of the Poinsettia"

Huge thanks to all who dedicated poinsettia/s this year.

Hymn It Came Upon the Midnight Clear PH (red) #129
Verses 1 & 2

First Lesson Genesis 1:1, 26-27 Troy Tedeschi

Hymn O Come All Ye Faithful PH (red) #132
Verses 1, 2 & 4

Second Lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6–7 Rohan & Tucker Magrauth

Musical Selection Snowy Flakes Are Falling Softly Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Third Lesson Luke 2:1–7 Anna & Natalie Boyer

Hymn While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks PH (red) #146
Verses 1 – 4

Fourth Lesson Luke 2: 8 – 14 Bill Torrey

One: Here ends the readings from our tradition. May God grant us the faith provided by these words and may Spirit move between words and hearing. Let us center around faith on this holy evening.

All: Amen.

Message "The Impact" Rev. Sara M. Holland

***Hymn** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing PH (red) #120
Verses 1 - 3

Prayer for Christmas

You will be invited to offer your personal prayers from the silence of your heart.

The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy Kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Offertory

Shepherds, Come Before Him - Spanish Carol

arr. Laurence H. Davies

We invite you to support Habitat for Humanity this year.

Please write Habitat in the memo line of any check you write out for our community this evening.

Response

As with Gladness Those of Old NCH (black) #15

As they offered gifts most rare at the manger plain and bare,

So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,

All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.

*Unison Prayer of Dedication

All: This is the night of radiant promise and joyful song! Shine on, O holy light, in the darkness of our world! Sing, O holy angels, in the stillness of our hearts! Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to all. Amen.

Litany of Love and Light

One: Shepherd of the stars, we remember your gentleness,

All: your humility and courage, revealed in a mother's trembling hopes in a stable,

One: amid the pain and beauty of human birth.

All: Once again we believe that love is stronger than fear; that violence can be transformed; that forgiveness is more potent than rage.

One: Open our hearts to your Bethlehem presence so that your love may be known through our lives.

All: This we pray in the name of Mary's child, Jesus. Amen.

Love Shines

John 1:1-5, adapted

One: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Christ was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Christ, and without Christ not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light and love of all people. Love shines in the face of fear, and fear does not overcome love.

(If you are physically present, we will be spreading the candlelight throughout the sanctuary. Please be careful with any flame and if there are youngsters keep a close eye on them. Recall that the warmth emanating may remind us of Holy Spirit that was embodied in the life and teachings of Christ Jesus. We invite you to light a Christ candle or a few symbolic candles at home if you are on Facebook.)

***Hymn**

Silent Night

PH (red) #138

All Verses, we will hum the last one.

***Benediction**

Choral Benediction

Go In Peace

Postlude

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" with Handel's *Largo*

by Felix Mendelssohn, arr. Taylor

The Postlude ends our gathered worship. When the service ends we are invited to carry the love of Christ into the world! Merry Christmas!

Pemi Valley Habitat continues to work towards our mission goals, to provide decent affordable housing for people that need some support in our community. We work with professional builders, volunteers from the community, and the new homeowner. Plymouth Congregational Church has been supporting this worthwhile community service since it started here in Plymouth. We are continuing again this year with the Christmas Eve offering. A portion of your donation will go to Pemi Valley Habitat for Humanity and the rest to Habitat International. If you wish to contribute to Pemi Valley Habitat for Humanity you can make a check out to the church with "Pemi Valley Habitat" in the note section and either put it into the plate on Christmas eve or send it to the church. May this Christmas season be filled with joy!

Ruth Mosher

Member, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Member, Pemi Valley Board of Directors

2021 Christmas Dedications

In Loving Memory Of:

Sid and Joan Lovett
Sid and Joan Lovett
Don Engelhardt
Herbert Bartron
Mac Bownes
Rick Fabian
Marge Glidden

Gerry Gontarz

Loved ones in the Pierson, Love,
Hahn and Torres families
Mary Majeski
Joe Oustecky
Muriel and Robert Pollock Sr. and
Caroline and Arthur Anderson Jr.
Abbott Rice and brother James Rice
Elizabeth W. Cheney
Toni Sweedler
Dr. Jerome Brown

In Thanksgiving for:

The Possibility of Peace
Our Family and Friends
Charles Clark
The many years of faith, fellowship and
friends at PCUCC
Saints and Kin of Coley – Holland household
Stephen M. Majeski
Our Children and Grandchildren
Family and Friends

In Celebration of:

Our Family and Our Church Family

By:

The Lovett Family
Susan and Philip Wei
Deborah Engelhardt
Dawn, Jim and Rose Shimberg
Arline Bownes
Georgene Fabian
Peter and Susan Francesco, Jane and Jim
Raymond, Joan Glidden and Doug Brosius
John and Yvonne Glidden
Susan Gontarz, Ryan and Kayla Gontarz and
Gontarz Family
Carol Hahn

Ruth Martz and Steve Majeski
Winnie Oustecky
Bob and Chris Pollock

Beverly Tedeschi
Ann Thurston
Jenny Thibeault and Caleb Sweedler
Margot and Robert Swift

By:

Butch and Donna Castor
Eleanor and Larry Spencer
Friends at PCUCC
Ken and Nance Ruhm

Libby Coley and Sara Holland
Ruth Martz and Steve Majeski
Peggy and Wayne Martin
Margot and Robert Swift

By:

Eileen and Bill Torrey

**The white poinsettia given by the choir in remembrance of
all former members who are now in the heavenly chorus.**

After Christmas, you may pick up your poinsettias on Sunday, December 27th, between 10:30 am-11:30 pm. Eileen and Sara will be at church to let you in. Or on Monday thru Thursday, the following week, during regular church office hours between 9:00 am-2:00 pm. If you would like to pick up a poinsettia to take to a shut-in or to those that are ill, please do so. Let us know who you are taking the poinsettia so we don't duplicate. Please contact the Church office by the e-mail or phone number below if you are unable to grab your poinsettia today.

Many thanks to Fran Taylor & Arline for ordering and picking up the poinsettias from Moulton Farm and helping arrange the poinsettias to prepare our sanctuary for Christmas!

Welcome to Worship!

We are grateful for your participating this evening. If you are new to worshipping with Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, the following information may be helpful:

- We are an Open & Affirming congregation where LGBTQ+ people are invited into the life and ministry of our church
- We are a Just Peace church that affirms that peace is possible in human history and prays ceaselessly that peace may prevail on Earth.
- We celebrate our Christian heritage and seek to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- We worship regularly on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Church School is currently on 1st & 3rd Sundays at 10 am.

The Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor	plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org
Eileen Torrey & Linda LaPrad, Interim Office Administrator	office@uccplymouth.org
David A. Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
Ashley Rose, Organist/Pianist	organist@uccplymouth.org
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Liturgists: Troy Tedeschi, Rohan & Tucker Magrauth,
Anna & Natalie Boyer, Bill Torrey

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264
(603) 536-2626 - office@uccplymouth.org - www.uccplymouth.org

Angels, From the Realms of Glory

117

James Montgomery, 1771-1854

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.

Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,



Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, Now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with man is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant light:

REFRAIN



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

125

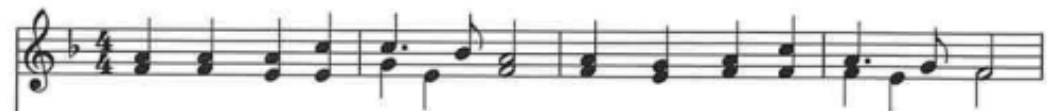
Angels We Have Heard on High

Luke 2:15

Traditional French carol

Transl. st. 1-3, "Crown of Jesus Music II," 1862; alt.

St. 4, "Carols Old and Carols New," Boston, 1916; alt.



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heaven-ly song.
Come a - dore on bend - ed knee, God, our world now en - ter - ing.



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o,

Glo

ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

129

Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876, alt.

CAROL C.M.D.
Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

1 It came up - on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, With peace-ful wings un - furled,

From an - gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold;
And still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world;

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heaven's all gra - cious King."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hover-ing wing,

The world in sol-emn still-ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
And ev - er o'er its Ba - belsounds The bless-ed an - gels sing.

Verses 1, 2 & 4

132

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Latin: John F. Wade, 1711-1786
Tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, and others

ADESTE FIDELES *Irregular*
John F. Wade's "Cantus Diversi," 1751

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
We would em - brace thee, with love and awe;
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 Who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord! A-men.

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks 146

Nahum Tate, 1652-1715

WINCHESTER OLD C.M.
Thomas Este's "Whole Book of Psalms," 1592

1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, All seat - ed on the ground,
 2 "Fear not," said he, for might-y dread Had seized their trou-bled mind,
 3 "To you, in Da - vid's town, this day Is born of Da - vid's line
 4 "The heav-en-ly babe you there shall find To hu - man view dis - played,

The an - gel of the Lord came down, And glo - ry shone a - round.
 "Glad ti-dings of great joy I bring To you and all man-kind.
 The Sav - ior, who is Christ the Lord; And this shall be the sign:
 All mean - ly wrapped in swath-ing bands, And in a man-ger laid." A-men.

120 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.D. with Refrain
Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847
Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3 Hail the heav-en-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of right-eous-ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold him come, Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, Risen with heal - ing in his wings,

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

REFRAIN

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!" A - men.

138 Silent Night, Holy Night

Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848
 Tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

STILLE NACHT *Irregular*
 Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Shep - herds quake at the sight,
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,
 Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, Heav - en - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
 Ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.