

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



**December 24, 2022**

**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

We are striving to be a Racial Justice Church

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

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

*Please inquire with people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.*

## Prelude

Rocking: A Czechoslovakian Carol

Martha Robaje

*The prelude is an invitation to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God; many thanks to Wesley Ball for serving as an acolyte this evening, and for all our readers.*

## Words of Welcome

*A special welcome to any guests or church family who has been away for some time – we are delighted to celebrate Christmas with you! Please know that ‘wiggling worshippers’ are always welcome. While we do not have childcare or a message for all ages this evening, we are happy to hear children in our service. There is a nursery on the lower level if it is needed for a respite. Also, through the doors in the western direction of the sanctuary, a lovely chapel and parlor may be found which can be helpful for young parents. Please, if this is your first time here, do join us again on a Sunday morning at 9:30 am. We will also be holding casual evening services at 5:30 pm beginning on January 22<sup>nd</sup> in the new year.*

## Introit

On Christmas Night

Paul Manz

## Lighting the Advent Wreath and the Christ Candle

**A Word from Pemi-Valley Habitat for Humanity – Dale Mosher, Board Member**

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

### \*Litany to Open

One: Loving Spirit, in Jesus you join earth and heaven. In Christ’s light, we see the holiness of creation.

**All: Christ is coming, to be with us!**

One: Blessed Creator, for the presence of Christ and for the gift of compassion, we thank you.

**All: Christ is coming, to bring peace to all.**

One: Loving God, whose glory outshines the sun, open our hearts to the inspirations of the Spirit so our lives may more fully reveal the power and the beauty of your presence.

**All: Christ is coming, let us proclaim with the angels, the shepherds and all who look with wonder. Let us receive Christ with joy!**

### \*Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
Verses 1 & 2

PH (red) #120



**\*Hymn**

O Come, All Ye Faithful  
Verses 1-3

PH (red) #132

**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.**

\*\*We believe that God is revealed in persons of all genders and sorts; we also honor tradition.

**Offertory Anthem**

Angel's Carol

John Rutter

*The offering this evening will go to Pemi-Valley Habitat for Humanity.*

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God, all creatures here below  
Praise God above, you heavenly host:  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*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.**

## 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 please keep a close eye on youngsters. 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

Verses 1 & 2; final verse, hummed

## \*Benediction

## Postlude

On Christmas Night

arr. by Wayne L. Wold

*The Postlude ends our gathered worship.*

*When the service ends, we are invited to carry the love of Christ into the world! Merry Christmas!*

# Update on Pemi-Valley Habitat for Humanity

From Dale Mosher

The big news at Pemi-Valley Habitat for Humanity this year is purchasing the Restore building and receiving a donation of 60 acres of land in Plymouth NH where we hope to build an entire neighborhood of Habitat houses! This year we finished a house in Plymouth for a very happy client, started building another house in Plymouth, purchased a burned-out house in Plymouth that we will demolish and rebuild, received three donated building lots in Ashland and one in Sanbornton, plus two lots we already own in Franklin. The Ashland lots are now in the closing process. We have a lot of work to do!



*Interior being done over winter*



## Poinsettia Dedications 2022



### In Loving Memory of:

Loved Ones in the Pierson, Hahn, Love, & Torres families  
Elizabeth W. Cheney  
Loved Ones of Edie Doherty  
Rick Fabian  
Gerry Gontarz  
Herbert Bartron  
Edwine Martz & Mary Majeski  
Parents, Annie & Abbott Rice, and brother James  
Mac Bownes  
Sara and Harold Moses & Guy Taylor  
Winnie Oustecky  
Our Parents  
Clifford & Georgia Canfield  
Harold Irving Woodward  
Winnie & Joe Oustecky  
Tina Leehr

### In Thanksgiving of:

Family  
Family and Friends  
The PCUCC Congregation  
Our Family Near and Far  
Our 2 Children & 4 Grandchildren  
Family and Friends  
Family & Church Family

### In Celebration of:

The family of Butch & Donna Castor

### Submitted by:

Carol Hahn  
Ann Thurston  
Edie Doherty  
Georgene Fabian  
The Gontarz Family  
Dawn, Jim, & Rose Shimberg  
Ruth Martz & Steve Majeski  
Beverly A Tedeschi  
Arline Bownes  
Paul Belyea  
Fran & Tink Taylor  
Larry & Eleanor Spencer  
Mark Canfield  
Rebecca Woodward  
Kim Berman & Kevin Oustecky  
Sara M. Holland & Libby Coley

Edie Doherty

Margot W. & Robert Swift  
Ruth Martz & Steve Majeski  
Rebecca Larson  
Wayne & Peggy Martin  
Jim & Linda LaPrad  
Eileen & Bill Torrey

Butch & Donna Castor

\* The White Poinsettia is a gift of our choir members to honor all who are now members of the heavenly choir.