

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 17, 2017 10 AM 3rd Sunday of Advent

ENTER INTO HIS PRESENCE: GOD AWAITS US!

Prelude "In Dulci Jubilo" Franz Liszt
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"
arr. Hal Hopson

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Opening Prayer

*All Sing "Once In Royal David's City"
Lift Up Your Hearts 87: 1 – 2

*Welcome

*God's Greeting

*Greet One Another

*All Sing "What Child Is This"
Lift Up Your Hearts 95: 1 – 3

[Children and Youth participating in the
Christmas Program come forward during this song]

THE SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS
Youth Christmas Program

Symbol 1 Evergreen Tree
Symbol 2 Ornaments
Symbol 3 Lights and Candles

All Sing "All Earth Is Waiting"
Lift Up Your Hearts 57: 1 – 3

Symbol 4 Bells

Choristers "Stay Awake, Be Ready"
by Christopher Walker

Symbol 5 Candy Cane

Symbol 6 Star
Symbol 7 Angel

Choristers "Come, Lord Jesus" by Carey Landry

Symbol 8 Presents

Symbol 9 Gift Wrapping

*All Sing "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
Lift Up Your Hearts 80: 1 – 3

[Children ages four through First Grade dismissed for
Praise and Play, & Children in Worship]

Concerns of our Church Family
Congregational Prayer

OFFER OUR THANKSGIVING: GOD BLESSES US!

Offering Ministry and Christian Education Funds

Offertory "Welcome to Our World" arr. Carol Tornquist

OPENING HIS WORD: GOD SPEAKS TO US!

Choir "Nativity Carol" arr. John Rutter

Scripture Exodus 20:17 (p. 117)
Luke 1: 39 – 56 (p. 1591)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon **Longing for Peace**
Prayer

*All Sing "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
Lift Up Your Hearts 56: 1 – 4

GO BOLDLY AND SERVE:
GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US!

*Invitation

*God's Parting Blessing

People: **Amen.**

*All Sing "Magnify the Lord" Psalter Hymnal 622
(sing twice)

*Postlude "Joy to the World" arr. Hal Hopson

(*stand, if you are able)

Minister Rev. Sarah Albers
Organist Annelle Dekker
Sanctuary Choir Doug De Vries
Drums David Exoo
Pianist Rachel Plasman
Congregational Prayer Schuyler Van Eck
Scripture Reader David Exoo
Mom Karen Vander Laan
Children Alison Buist, Natalie Schmidt,
Harrison Start, Kieren Underland,
Cassandra Block

Readers Jenna Buist, Ian Blom, Nathan Diepstra,
Jacob VanDenHeuvel, Ava Leder, Zach Hall,
Precious Acree, Freddy Ramos, Garrit Harkema,
Anna VanDenHeuvel, Jackson Ouwinga

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP

December 17, 2017

Good morning and welcome to Plymouth Heights Christian Reformed Church! Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, and Pastor Albers will continue our Advent Series on the Tenth Commandment. This morning's message is **Longing for Peace**, and is based on Exodus 20:17 and Luke 1:39-56. This morning's service will also include our children's Christmas Program. This afternoon Mr. Norm Underland will lead worship with a meditation on Psalm 98.

Next week Sunday Pastor De Vries will lead the morning service, preaching on Exodus 20:17 and Matthew 2:9-12, **Presents!** There will be no afternoon service, but we'll gather again on Christmas morning for our annual Christmas Service. Pastor De Vries will lead worship and the sermon will be based on Exodus 20:18-21 and John 1:14-18, **Seeing God.**

Giving at Plymouth: Plymouth Heights encourages members and regular attenders to follow the Biblical model of giving cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7), consistently (1 Cor. 16:2) and sacrificially (Ps. 4:5). Contributing to the work of the church is both a renunciation of greed as an idol and an acknowledgement that all we have has been given to us by God and is meant to be used for his purposes (Matt. 25:14-30). Giving is an expression of grateful worship in response to all God has done for us. It's our prayer that God blesses us all with the gift of generosity!

Christmas Worship Schedule: Plymouth will be holding worship services through the Christmas season at the following times:

Sunday, December 17 at 10 AM Children's Program
Sunday, December 24 at 10 AM
Monday, December 25 at 10 AM (Christmas Day)
Sunday, December 31 at 10 AM
Sunday, December 31 at 7 PM (New Year's Eve Communion Service)

BANNERS

During the season of Advent (which means "coming") we celebrate the birth of Jesus in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. With this double focus on past and future, Advent symbolizes the Christian journey affirming that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power. With this acknowledgment, we are called to holy living "between the times of Christ" and commissioned to "love the Lord your God with all your heart" and to "love your neighbor as yourself."

The rich blues and purples represent penitence (marked by a spirit of preparation, expectation, longing and anticipation) as well as the color of royalty to welcome the Advent of Jesus the King. The four panels on each banner represent the four Sundays of Advent. Cut into the bottom of each banner is one of three symbols. The arrow that points down represents the birth of Jesus. The stepped arches represents the here and now. The arrow pointing up represents the second coming of Christ. The white chords represent Christ in the middle of everything and remind us that, as Isaiah 53:5 says, "by his stripes we are healed."

TITHING OPPORTUNITIES

December 17, 2017 AM: Ministry/Christian Education Funds

December 17, 2017 PM: Home Repair Services

December 24, 2017 AM: Ministry/Christian Education Funds

December 25, 2017 Christmas Day: World Renew

Online Giving available at phcrc.org

Your budget boxes for 2018 are on the table in the narthex. Please pickup your box whether you give online or with the envelopes we appreciate it if you will take them home. Thank you.

YOUTH AND EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Discovery Hour: This is our last morning of the semester! Please meet in the sanctuary at 9AM to practice for the Christmas program. We will resume Discovery Hour on Sunday, February 4.

Breakaway: Thanks for a great semester! Our first gathering of the New Year will be on Sunday, January 14 from 5:30pm - 7:30pm in the Youth Room. Please, everyone, bring a 2-liter of pop.

Lifeline: Thanks for a great semester! Reminder that if you would like to go on the summer SERVE 2018 trip to Muskegon, Rachel needs a deposit of \$50 by December 20 to hold your spot. Please let her know ASAP if this is a problem for you and we can talk together. Please make checks out to Plymouth Heights CRC and place them in Rachel's office box. Our first gathering of the New Year will be on Sunday, January 7 from 5:30pm - 7:30pm in the Youth Room.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The Friendship group would like to thank all who helped to make our annual Christmas program a wonderful and joyous event. Thank you for your Angel Tree gifts, for your cookies and treats, for helping to set up, to serve and to clean up. Most of all, thank you for joining our Christmas worship, and for helping to celebrate God's gift of salvation and the gifts of all His people.

Bassinets Blessings: To help welcome Liesel Marie De Maagd to our church family, we have the opportunity to give a small wrapped anonymous gift to her and her family. The bassinet will be out through today. Blessings abound!

New Address: Todd, Katie, Reyna and Lena Sytsma, 5760 McCord Ave. SE, Alto, MI, 49302.

OUTREACH

Meijer Simply Give/Mobile Food Pantry: Meijer Store on 28th and Kalamazoo SE has selected Plymouth Heights Food Pantry as the recipient for their Simply Give Holiday Campaign. The Holiday Campaign will be through December 30. For every \$10 card that is sold, Meijer will match. Simply Give cards are available at the store checkout or at church on the table by the elevator. If you have any questions contact Frank Diepstra at 616-452-3240.

Our next week to host Family Promise guests at our church is Christmas week, but due to the holidays, our schedule actually starts on December 26 (Tuesday) at 5pm and ends on December 30 (Saturday) mid-morning. For the Christmas and New Year holidays, Family Promise puts the families up in hotels for a couple of days if they do not have relatives or close friends who they can stay with. We need a crew at church to set up on Saturday, Dec. 23 around 1pm; then our regular volunteers for Tuesday through Friday, with clean-up folks on the afternoon of December 30. And we'll have laundry waiting at church on Sunday, December 31. The specific schedule and sign-ups are at the Family Promise link on the PHCRC website or you can call Jane (560-2902) or Ellen (868-0610) with questions or to volunteer.

Sunday December 17, 2017

8:45AM Sanctuary Choir
9:00AM **Discovery Hour:**
K-2nd grade will meet in Room 104
3rd- 5th grade will meet in Room 105
6th-12th will meet in the Youth Room

10:00AM Morning Worship Service

Usher: Dave Kline, Mary Kline, Tom Diepstra, Ernie Noorman

Prayer Servants: Mary Gerritsen, David VanZytveld

Nursery: Steve DeVries, Mary Kline Pam Menkveld, Megan Wunderink

Kingdom Kidz:
(2 & 3 yrs old in nursery)
Janeen VanSwol, Sophia Wunderink

Praise and Play:
(4 yrs old through young 5's)
Wendy Brummel, Katie Sytsma

Children in Worship:
(5 yrs old through first grade)
Marion VanDenHeuvel, Liz Brouwer

Coffee Fellowship:
Michael & Andrea Lautenbach

5:30 PM Evening Worship Service

Tuesday
7:00PM Basketball
Basketball Snack: Karen VanderLaan

Thursday
9:45AM Women's Bible Study
Christmas Brunch (Library)

Sunday December 24, 2017

10:00AM Morning Worship Service

Usher: Larry Tilma, Jeff Peterson, James Vazquez, Lori Tilma

Prayer Servants: Nancy Van Lopik, Huds Nyenhuis

Nursery: Alyssa DeMaagd, Dennis Sikkema, Becky Jansen

Kingdom Kidz:
(2 & 3 yrs old in nursery)

Praise and Play:
(4 yrs old through young 5's)
Kristin VanHall

Children in Worship:
(5 yrs old through first grade)
Liz Brouwers, Jenna Buist

Coffee Fellowship:
Paul & Susan Holwerda, Pat Schmidt