

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2017 10 AM 4th Sunday of Advent

ENTER INTO HIS PRESENCE: GOD AWAITS US!

Prelude "The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came" arr. Hal Hopson
"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" arr. Charles Callahan

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

Advent Candle Lighting Gregg and Sarah Start
Advent Prayer

*All Sing "All Earth Is Waiting" Lift Up Your Hearts 57: 1 – 4

*All Sing "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" Psalter Hymnal 215: 1 – 6

*Welcome
*God's Greeting
*Greet One Another

*All Sing "Angels We Have Heard on High" Lift Up Your Hearts 82: 1 – 3

HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE HIM:
GOD ACCEPTS US!

*All Sing "O Shepherd, Hear and Lead Your Flock" Lift Up Your Hearts 64: 1 – 3

Call to Confession Ten Commandments
Prayer of Confession
Assurance of Pardon Luke 2: 10 – 11

*All Sing "How Great Our Joy" Lift Up Your Hearts 90: 1 – 4

[Children and parents come forward during last stanza of this song for Children's blessing]

Children's Worship Blessing

Leader: People of God, what is our prayer for these children?
People: **May the Lord be with you as you learn of Jesus and his love.**
Children: And also with you.
People: **May the word of the Lord grow in your hearts.**
Children: Thanks be to God.
People: **Go in peace.**

[Children ages four through young fives dismissed for Praise and Play]

Concerns of our Church Family
Congregational Prayer

OFFER OUR THANKSGIVING: GOD BLESSES US!

Offering Ministry/ Christian Education and Special Mission Funds
Offertory "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" arr. Jason W. Krug

OPENING HIS WORD: GOD SPEAKS TO US!

All Sing "Of the Father's Love Begotten" Lift Up Your Hearts 78: 1, 4

Scripture Exodus 20: 17 (p. 117)
Matthew 2: 1 – 12 (p. 1501)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon **Presents!**
Prayer

*All Sing "As with Gladness Men of Old" Lift Up Your Hearts 105: 1 – 3

GO BOLDLY AND SERVE:
GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US!

*Invitation
*God's Parting Blessing
People: **Amen.**
*All Sing "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow – Rejoice! Rejoice!" Lift Up Your Hearts 61
*Postlude "As With Gladness Men of Old" arr. Conrad Kocher

(*stand, if you are able)

Minister Rev. Steve De Vries
Organist Annelle Dekker
Violin Rachel Bardolph, Ruth Bolt, Betsy Van Zytveld
Cello Luke Tilma, Calvin Van Zytveld
Trumpet Zach Hall, Ethan Lonsway
Trombone Andrew Van Zytveld
Tuba William Van Zytveld
Guitar Nathan Diepstra
Pianist Rachel Plasman
Scripture Reader Harrison Start

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP

December 24, 2017

Good morning and welcome to Plymouth Heights Christian Reformed Church! Today Pastor De Vries will lead the morning service, preaching on Exodus 20:17 and Matthew 2:1-12, **Presents!** There will be no afternoon service, but we'll gather again tomorrow, 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, **Grace in Place of Grace.**

Next week Sunday Pastor De Vries will lead the morning service and his sermon, **A Time and a Season**, will be on Ecclesiastes 3. Pastor Albers and Pastor De Vries will lead our New Year's Eve Communion service at 7 PM.

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:

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 24, 2017 AM: Ministry/Christian Education and Special Mission Funds

December 25, 2017 Christmas Day: World Renew

December 31, 2017 AM: Ministry/Christian Education Funds

December 31 2017 PM: Friendship Ministries

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: 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 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.

OUTREACH

Basketball Snack Sign Up: Basketball resumes Tuesday, January 9 and will continue through May 8. If you are willing to help out with snacks, please find a sign-up sheet on the table by the elevator. If you have any questions, contact Mark Bardolph at 616-583-8376.

OUTREACH

Meijer Simply Give/Mobile Food Pantry: This is the final week for Simply Give Holiday Campaign. It will be through Saturday December 30 at the Meijer Store on 28th and Kalamazoo SE. 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.

Family Promise guests at our church this week: 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. The specific schedule and sign-ups are at the Family Promise link on the PHCRC website or you can call Jane (560-2902) with questions or to volunteer.

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, Dave DeMaagd, Dennis Sikkema, Becky Jansen

Kingdom Kidz will resume after the New Year (2 & 3 yrs old)

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

Children in Worship:Not meeting today (5 yrs old through first grade)

Coffee Fellowship:
Paul & Susan Holwerda, Pat Schmidt

Monday

10:00AM

Christmas Day Worship Service

Nursery: Amy Blom, Rachel Harkema, Garrit Harkema, Mary Ma, April Van

Coffee Fellowship: Doug & Kathy Kool, Mike & Deb Feys

Sunday December 31, 2017

10:00AM

Morning Worship Service

Usher: Deacons

Prayer Servants: Eric Utivlugt, Linda Mulder

Nursery: Susan Holwerda, Mandi Markosky, Jack Markosky, Jane Tiesenga

Kingdom Kidz will resume after the New Year (2 & 3 yrs old)

Praise and Play:
(4 yrs old through young 5's)
Lori Tilma, Emma Tilma

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

Coffee Fellowship:
Todd & Missy Harkema