**SCRIPTURE**

Luke 2.1-20

Dee Casanova

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

**INVITATION & DEDICATING OUR GIFTS**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

| Ecce, novum gaudium | Ecce Novum |
| Ecce, novum mirum! |
| Virgo parit filium, | A Virgin, who knew not a man, |
| Quae non nvit virum. | Bears a son. |
| Sed ut pirus prium, | She knew not a man, but as the pear-tree |
| Gleba fert papyrum, | bears the pear, |
| Florens lilium. |

Ola Gjeilo

**CHRISTMAS MEDITATION**

“Birthed Into Life” Rev. Rachel J. Bahr

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Silent Night

(congregation humming only)

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Joy to the World

Ray

Jonah Walters, piano

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Christmas Eve Service, 11 pm

Friday, December 24, 2021

Pastor: Rev. Rachel J. Bahr

Director of Music: William Bokhout

Accompanist: Jonah Walters

Sunday Sessions Director: Katie Hop

Plymouth United Church of Christ

www.plymouthchurchgr.org

616-455-4260
PRELUDE  The First Noel, Bell Carol, What Child is This
Jonah Walters, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP
One: Enlightened one! Burden-sharing one!
Many: Helpless-as-us one! Given-for-us one!
One: Counseling one! Peace-bringing one!
Many: Forever-and-ever one! Knit-us-together one!
One: The heavens are glad, fields exult, and trees sing out!
Many: The earth rejoices at your coming, Holy Child of Bethlehem!

OPENING HYMN  It Came Upon a Midnight Clear      NCH 131
(congregation humming only, please)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION  Rev. Rachel J. Bahr

CHRISTMAS LITANY
One: Every life in its particularity is precious to God,
who came to us in a particular body, in a particular time.
Many: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!
One: Black lives, queer lives, Indigenous lives – these are precious to God.
Many: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!
One: Trans lives, Palestinian lives, neurodivergent lives – these are precious to God.
Many: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!
One: Undocumented lives, disabled lives, migrant lives – these are precious to God.
Many: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!

One: All who face oppression, discrimination, war, and tumult
are precious.
Many: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!
One: All who are burdened by mental unhealth and/or by the stigma attached to it are precious.
Many: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!
One: All who find themselves outside of the inns of our society, lonely and outcast are precious.
Many: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!
One: All those who, like the shepherds, labor, and especially those who labor during this day of celebration are precious.
Many: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!
One: Liberation is here! Taste and see!
Many: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!

BELL ANTHEM  Advent Promise  by Anna Laura Page
Ringers: Forrest Hoppe, Jerry Hoffman, Becky Mickaus, Trish Spaulding, Jerome Omlor, Shari Hoppe, Rhonda Madole, Hannah Barnes, Directed by Sandy Swayman

SCRIPTURE  Isaiah 26.16-19     Sandy Swayman

SPECIAL MUSIC  The Christ Child's Lullaby
Traditional Hebrides   Arr. by Marilyn Pikaart
Caren Dobreff, flute   Marilyn Pikaart, celtic harp

SCRIPTURE  Psalm 68.4-11     Mandi Hyson

SPECIAL MUSIC  O Come Emmanuel
Tune: Veni Emmanuel   Arr. by Marilyn Pikaart
Natalie Hockamier, violin   Marilyn Pikaart, celtic harp