We Go Out Into the World to Share the Light of Christ

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE                 The White Family
Pastor Rachel sings/all else hum Silent Night

Reader 1: Rejoice, people of God!...
Reader 2: With the company of heaven...
Reader 1: The prophet Isaiah proclaimed... This great light lives among us. By it we behold God’s glory - full of grace and truth. At Christ’s nativity, we now rejoice.

ALL: God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming this night to us. Thanks for transforming all heaven and earth with your splendor. In every corner of the world, shine this night with your peace. In every corner of our hearts, shine this night with your grace. Amen.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE            Go Tell it On The Mountain

We Gather to Celebrate the Christ Child

GATHERING MUSIC
Star of the County Downs
O Come O Come Emmanuel
Jesus, Jesus, What A Wonderful Child

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS        Rev. Rachel J. Bahr
(We invite you stay after and help us to light the luminaries after worship, as we go into the world sharing the light of Christ with others.)

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
INTROIT  Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy  Tchaikovsky
   Zephyr White, piano

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  O Come All Ye Faithful

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!

We Hear the Good News Of Christ’s Birth

SPECIAL MUSIC  The Little Drummer Boy
   Evelyn Schreiber, glockenspiel

CHILDREN’S MOMENT  The (Silent) Noisy Night
   by Jill Roman Lord
   Katie Hop

CAROL  Angels We Have Heard On High

INTERACTIVE SCRIPTURE LESSON
   Adapted from Matthew 1-2, Luke 2

CAROL  O Little Town of Bethlehem

INTERGENERATIONAL MESSAGE  “Gifts for Baby Jesus”
   Rev. Rachel J. Bahr

INVITATION AND DEDICATING OUR GIFTS