

**A SERVICE TO UNITE US IN SPIRIT
FOR SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2022
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
2401 Atwood Avenue, Madison WI*



Pastor: Rev. Leslie Schenk

Accompanist: Lyle Anderson

Ministers: All the people of Plymouth Congregational UCC

Worship Help: Alan Green (reader), Carol Martell (greeter), Kevin Voit (usher), Marleen Lippert (choir director), Bill Mollway (tech and audio support), Marianne Mollway (Social Hour)

The Community Gathers

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

♪ **Prelude** *Rejoice, the King Shall Come* (Chancel Choir)

Advent Candle Lighting Prayer

Leader: *What gives us hope? One group's survey on this question elicited responses ranging from "my children" to "kindness from a stranger" to "spending time in the woods" to*

All: **"hands clasped in prayer" to "social progress" to "a baby's first steps"**

Leader: *to "the Christian community" to*

All: **"the sunrise every single morning."**

Leader: *Today we light the candle of hope to remind ourselves that God is truly at work in this world.*

All: **From generation to generation, God has brought good news of love and compassion, justice and community. Let us rest and abide in that good news. Amen.**

[The candle of Hope is lit.]

Children's Message

♪Opening Hymn *Gather Us In* (verses 1-2, 4)
**Here in this place, new light is streaming,
Shadows of doubt are vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
Gather us in; our spirits in flame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken;
We shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**We are the young- our lives are a mystery;
We are the old, who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
Called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
Gather us in- the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly;
Give us the courage to enter the song.**

**Not just in buildings, small and confining,
Not in some heaven, light years away,
Here in this place the new light is shining;
Now is God present, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

The Community Shares God's Word

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Sermon

The Community Responds to God's Word

♪Hymn of Response No. 408 *All My Hope on God is Founded*

All my hope on God is founded: who else can my hope renew?

Still through change and chance God guides me, only good and only true.

God unknown, grace alone, calls my heart to be God's own.

Well does the almighty Giver bounteous gifts on us bestow!

With delight our souls are nourished; pleasure leads us where we go.

At God's hand does love stand; joy awaits each new command.

In glad hymns to God eternal sacrifice of praise be done,

High above all praises praising for the love in Christ made known.

Hear Christ's call, one and all; those who follow shall not fall.

Announcements, Joys & Concerns, Prayers of the People

Pastor: *Let us pray...as Jesus taught us to pray to You, singing*

♪Sung Lord's Prayer (to the tune of *Away in a Manger* #124)

Our Father, in heaven, all praise to your name.

Your kingdom among us, your will done the same.

By mortals and angels, come Lord, reign alone.

Oh, hear us and bless us, make us truly one.

The bread that we yearn for, provide us each day.

As we forgive others, our sins take away.

In time of temptation, to lead us be near.

From evil deliver, your children most dear.

For yours is the kingdom, o'er all things your reign.

And yours is the power; all things you maintain.

To you be the glory, resounding again

From all of creation, forever! Amen.

Offering

Thank you for your offerings (in-person, electronic, or mailed in) for the ministry and

mission of this congregation. Through your generosity, we are doing God's work in the world.

Offerings can be placed in the basket by the door at the back of the sanctuary, for those attending in person.

Thank you for your pledges of support for our 2023 ministry and mission! You can put your pledge cards in the offering basket on the communion table, or get them to the church office (mail, email, drop off, or pony express). If you haven't gotten a pledge card/mailling, please let the church office know and we will get it to you (or there are blank pledge cards at the table at the back of the sanctuary).

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Pastor: *We give thanks for all God's blessings.*

All: **We give thanks with glad and hopeful hearts.**

Pastor: *We believe in a God who promised to Abraham,*

All: **who wrestled with Jacob,**

Pastor: *who walked with Ruth,*

All: **who spoke with Moses,**

Pastor: *who grieved with Bathsheba,*

All: **who danced with David,**

Pastor: *who dreamed with Joseph,*

All: **and who hoped like Mary.**

Pastor: *We believe in a God who has been loving, inviting, transforming, and challenging us from generation to generation. And we believe that same God is here with us now, saying,*

All: **"Come on in; there's room for you here." Amen.**

The Community Goes Forth

♪ Sending Hymn No. 104 *We Hail You God's Anointed* (verses 1-2, 4)

We hail you God's anointed, the long-awaited One!

Hail in the time appointed, your reign on earth begun!

You come to break oppression, to set the captive free;

To take away transgression, and rule in equity.

You shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;

And joy and hope, like flowers, spring in your path to birth.

Before you on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go,

And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

**O'er every foe victorious, you on your throne shall rest;
From age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blessed:
The tide of time shall never your covenant remove;
Your name shall stand forever, your changeless name of Love.**

Blessing and Sending Prayer

Pastor: *As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation,*
All: **we have been claimed and loved.**

Pastor: *From generation to generation,*
All: **God has been with us.**

Pastor: *From generation to generation,*
All: **we are not alone.**

Pastor: *The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth, saying, "Go be the people you are called to be, love wildly, do justice, and walk with me.*

All: **Our worship has ended, our service begins, as we take God's light out into the world with us!**

♪ **Postlude** *Fantasia No. 12,* by Georg Philipp Telemann

Today's liturgy is adapted from the resource "From Generation to Generation...", prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org; used with permission.