

NOTES

Welcome to worship at The Church of the Pilgrimage. We hope you will join us for coffee hour following the service, and return to worship with us again soon!

Children will proceed to Sunday school following the time for children. Children under three are welcome anytime in the cribroom downstairs in the church building where our nursery worker Kristen Moses will watch over them. Parents of infants may also use the glider in the balcony of the sanctuary to soothe tired little ones.

We ask that everyone seated beside the center aisle fill out the **fellowship pad** and pass it down your row for others to sign it too. Please include your local address if you are a visitor and would like to be sent a newsletter. Thank you!

Prayer concerns may be voiced during Celebrations and Concerns or written on a note and placed in the prayer box in the upper vestibule before worship begins so that Pastor Helen can read them out at the prayer time.

Printed copies of the morning sermon and the readings are available on the marble table in the upper vestibule. **Hearing devices** may also be found on that table.

Pageant News: Second rehearsal today at 11:30am. There's still time to sign up, just show up at rehearsal! Call time on Christmas Eve is 6:30pm for a 7pm pageant.

Missions will be sponsoring the **Alternative Christmas Fair** once again today. Heifer International honor cards; Equal Exchange products; Granola Project; stuffed animals and jewelry from Uganda; and gift items from Saint Rock, Haiti will be available.

Sanctuary Choir Notes-

12/25 Service – No Sanctuary Choir
12/28 – No Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
1/1 Service – No Sanctuary Choir

Capital Campaign Update: 2016 Capital Campaign contributions must be in the church office no later than December 30th to qualify for this year's Federal Tax Deduction. Presently \$638,500 has been contributed towards our \$1,043,000 in pledges.

Leadership Retreat -- Committee chairs, please inform your committees that the Annual Leadership retreat is taking place on Saturday, January 28th. We would like wide participation in this important leadership reflection time.

Pajama Story Time: On January 1, the children will gather in the 3-5th grade classroom (adults will be upstairs in the JRC for worship that day) for this fun and relaxing Sunday. Kids (and

teachers) are invited to wear their coziest jammies, bring a snugly blanket and their favorite Christmas stories; we will bring books as well.

Anyone wishing to **donate flowers in January**, please call Joyce Ashley at 508-746-1077. Thank you!

From Nancy Reed, your Stewardship Chair: Martin Luther once said "I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all. But whatever I have "placed" in God's hands, that I still possess." Please consider making a pledge for the 2017 operating budget. Pledge cards and envelopes are available on the small table on the left side of the upper vestibule. Just "place" the envelope in the offering plate. We need about 25 more pledges to support the wonderful work of our beloved Church of the Pilgrimage.

Standing on the Side of Love: Free family friendly coffee house sponsored by the Town of Plymouth's *No Place for Hate Committee*. Sunday, January 15, 7-10pm, open to the public at First Parish (our neighbors) featuring live musical entertainment presented by Fred Meltzer, Ramshackle and some other friends. Celebrating Rev. Martin Luther King's vision of America for Everyone. FREE hot beverages, snacks and desserts (some gluten, dairy, and nut free too).

Fridge Notes: Beginning December 19, 2016

December 19: Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11am, Allerton Hall.

December 20: January Herald Deadline.

December 21: Choir rehearsal, 7:30 pm.

December 22 & 23: Church Office Closed

December 24: Family Service with Pageant, 7 pm; Christmas Eve Service with Communion, 11 pm.

December 25: Christmas Day in the morning! 10am Worship. 11 am Christmas meal served in Allerton Hall.



As an Open and Affirming Congregation we invite all into our faith, to fully share in all church life, including our work, worship, rites, and sacraments, with the assurance that we are all created in God's image, reconciled by Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE
8 TOWN SQUARE
PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS 02360

PHONE: 508-746-3026

FAX: 508-746-4362

SHELLIE SOUZA, OFFICE MANAGER

BRIAN GILDEA, SEXTON

WEBSITE: WWW.8TOWNSQUARE.ORG

EMAIL: OFFICE@8TOWNSQUARE.ORG

The Church of the Pilgrimage

United Church of Christ

Plymouth, Massachusetts

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 18, 2016

10:00 a.m.

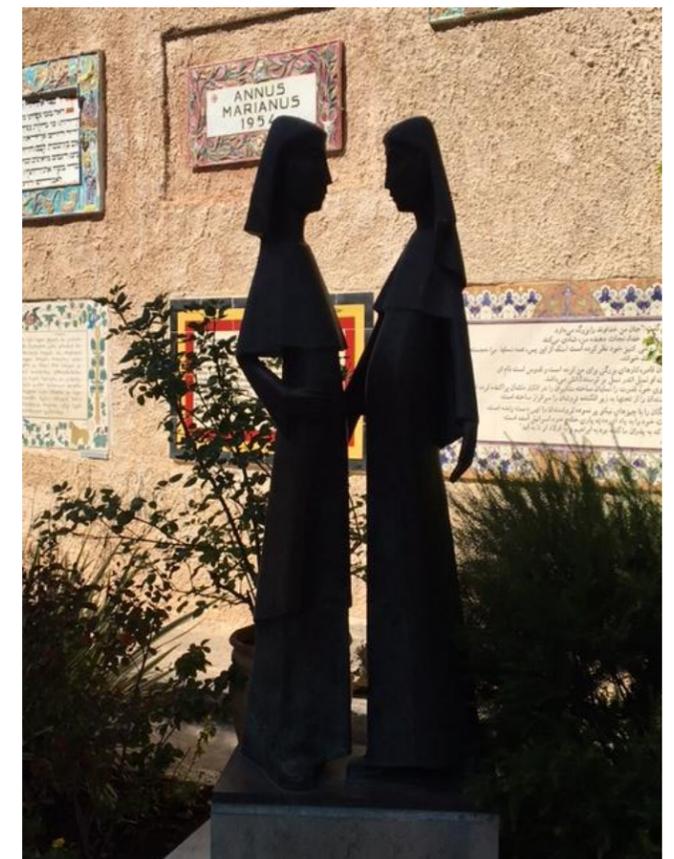


Photo by Pastor Helen from the Church of the Visitation in Ein Karem, Israel

Rev. Dr. Helen Nablo, PASTOR
Val Baumann, WORSHIP LEADER
Kelley DePasqua, MUSIC DIRECTOR
Michael Eaton, ORGANIST

Jenny Healy, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN ED

The Church of the Pilgrimage UCC

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

PRELUDE *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*
-Paul Manz 1919-2009

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsively)*
Your promise dawns upon us, Living God –
We wait expectantly.
Your hope arises among us, Living God –
We wait confidently.
Your Cherished One appears for us, Living God –
We wait in joy.

***HYMN** No. 113 *Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old*

LIGHTING THE 4th ADVENT CANDLE: Karla, Matthew and Sarah Fries

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** Tune: Dix
*Light a candle bright and tall
for a Love which knows no end.
Love that comes to one and all.
Fear and hatred to upend.
Shine within our hearts today.
Come, O Love, to us, we pray.*

***THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(debts/debtors)*
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI** No. 36

CHERUB CHOIR *Mary Had A Baby, Yes, Lord*
American Carol arranged by Mary N. Hawkes

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Jenny Healy

----Children depart for Sunday School----

ANTHEM (see hymn 137 for lyrics) *Hark, the Angels Sing*
Charles Wesley 1707-1788
Felix Mendelssohn 1809-1847
Arranged by Taylor Davis

SHARING OF CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:39-56 NT53 or 831

SERMON *Favored Ones* Reverend Dr. Helen Nablo

HYMN No. 124 *My Heart Sings Out With Joyful Praise*

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Christmas Day*
Arr. by Gustav Holst

Anne Smith, Mezzo Soprano
David Tyler, Bass
Allyson Lynch, Soprano
David Lynch, Tenor

Good Christian Men Rejoice (see hymn #158 for lyrics)

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen (see hymn # 601 for lyrics)

Come Ye Lofty

Come, ye lofty, come ye lowly, Let your songs of gladness ring;
In a stable lies the Holy, In a manger rests the king:
See, in Mary's arms reposing, Christ by highest heav'n adored:
Come, your circle 'round him closing, pious hearts that love the Lord.

(Descant - the chorus from the carol, *The First Nowell*)

Come, ye poor, no pomp of station robes the child your hearts adore:

He, the Lord of all salvation, shares your want, is weak and poor:
Oxen, round about behold them, rafters naked, cold and bare,
See the shepherds, God has told them that the Prince of Life lies there.

Come, ye children, blithe and merry, this one Child your model make;
Christmas holly, leaf, and berry, all be prized for His dear sake;

Come, ye gentle hearts, and tender, Come, ye spirits, keen and bold;
All in all your homage render, weak and mighty, young and old.

High above a star is shining, and the Wisemen haste from far;
Come, glad hearts and spirits pining: for you all has risen the star.
Let us bring our poor oblations, thanks and love and faith and praise.
Come, ye people, come, ye nations, All in all draw nigh to gaze.

***DOXOLOGY and PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(unison)*
You gave us a child, Lord, who grew into a man, teaching love and bringing healing. You gave us a child who grew into a Savior, suffering death and bringing life. We give you these gifts, Lord, insignificant by comparison. Bless them that they may grow to teach others of your love, to bring healing where there is hurt and to give life to your kingdom. Amen.

***HYMN** No. 155 *Once In Royal David's City*

BENEDICTION and CHORAL RESPONSE *(seated)*

POSTLUDE *Noël*
-Louis-Claude d'Aquin

At the time of the postlude you may remain seated or proceed to greet the pastor and go to coffee hour.

Our Deacons-in-Charge are Val Baumann and Mark Coombs.

The poinsettias are in memory of loved ones (see insert).

Our ushers are Diane & Bill Harting, Judy Mitchell and Jim Durmis.

Our greeters are Judy Fortini and Bonnie Peck

Christmas Eve and Christmas Services

December 24 – Family Service, 7pm

December 24 – Christmas Meditation with Communion, 11pm

December 25 - -Christmas Carol Sing with Communion, 10am

January 1 – Breakfast at 10am and worship at 11am in the JRC
Come welcome the new year in an informal worship setting

*Those who are able, please stand.

Please turn off all electronic devices so that we can be fully present to the Spirit and to one another.



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