

return to worship with us again soon.

Children will proceed to Sunday school following a blessing. 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.

Memorial Poinsettias-Christmas is fast approaching. By your loving purchase of poinsettias, we can enhance the beauty of our church for the Christmas service. Sign up in the lower vestibule following the service today and next Sunday. An insert listing the donors and those memorialized or honored will be included in the December 18th bulletin. The suggested donation for a poinsettia is \$15, although a donation of any amount is welcome. The flowers may be designated for shut-ins, or picked up after the Christmas Eve services or the following Sunday. Volunteers will be welcomed to take flowers to shut-ins following the December 20th Sunday service.

Missions will be sponsoring the **Alternative Christmas Fair** once again today and also December 11 and December 18. 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.

Pageant Sign Ups! The poster is up in Allerton Hall! Be sure to swing by and fill in your name. There is room for everyone! If your child wants a speaking part and they are filled, let me know and we can write something in. The more they participate, the better they learn the story. **Rehearsals** will be Dec. 11 and 18

heard! Refreshments will be served.

The Wednesday Bible Study Group will meet from 10:30am to 11:30 am at the home of Amy Simpson. Our text will be Luke 1:26-38.

A Service of Comfort and Peace will be held in our sanctuary this Wednesday evening, December 7th at 7 pm. This is a special service that will speak to those who find the holidays a difficult time. Think about coming and invite a friend. A time for conversation about strategies for dealing with the holidays will follow in Allerton Hall, led by Gary and Scott Sturgis.

The Women's Walking Group will walk this Saturday, December 10th meeting at 9 am at Nelson Park. We head to Kiskidee Coffee House after our walk. Walkers of all ages and

December 11th Toy Drive: On the little Christmas tree in Allerton Hall you will find paper ornaments. On one side is written the name and age of the child; on the other, what the child needs/wants. take one (or more if you are able and so inclined and bring back the gift next week, December 11, **WRAPPED** with the ornament securely attached so we can be sure the gifts get to the correct family. If the ornaments are gone feel free to purchase a gift and bring it unwrapped; we will find it a home!

Caroling at the Newfield House will happen on December 11th at 2pm. All levels of singing ability and all ages are welcome. Come spread Christmas joy and love to the residents of Newfield House, just minutes from our church. See Barbara Northrop or Marna Blomberg for questions.

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
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PRELUDE

Wake, Awake for Night is Flying
-Johann Gottfried Walther 1684-1748

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsively)*

A young woman will conceive and bear a child, and the child shall be called Emmanuel, a name which means "Emmanuel."

Come God

Come with the frightened

Come with the grieving

Come with the children

Come with the poor

Come with the mentally ill

Come with those who seek to be your friends

Come and lead us where you are living

And show us what you want us to be and do.

Come Emmanuel...

*HYMN No. 114

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LIGHTING THE 2nd ADVENT CANDLE

George & Pat Svajian

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Tune: Dix

*Light a candle bright and tall
For the peace we wish to know
Peace on Earth for great and small
God's Good News on us bestows.
Shine within our hearts today
Come, O Peace, 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

Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in his hand
Christ our Lord to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood;
Lord of lords in human vesture
In the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank, the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of light descendeth,
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord most high."

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS *(see insert)*

Sheri Pellisier
Gerry Pellisier
Rich Vannozzi
Julie Witherow

SHARING OF CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE LESSON Joel 2:12-13, 23-24, 26-29 798 or 741

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

MEDITATION

Reverend Dr. Helen Nabl

*HYMN No. 512

Let There Be Peace on Earth