



Searching for Jesus | Pastor Dillon Shipman

**Second Sunday after Christmas
Celebration of Epiphany | Sacrament of Communion
January 5, 2025**

"My house is a house of prayer for all people." (Isaiah 56:7)
Plymouth is A Just Peace Church and An Open and Affirming Congregation

WELCOME!

Here we believe that God is love;
and that love is for everyone.

God's extravagant love changes the world
and moves us to respond in gratitude.

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here,
and you are invited to shape this community with your God-given gifts.

Sacrament of Communion

At Plymouth Church, we celebrate the sacrament of communion on the first Sunday of the month. We believe that the communion table is the largest table in the world, and everyone is welcome. We practice an open table, where the only requirement to share in the sacramental meal is a hunger for the gifts offered by Jesus Christ. All ages are welcome to receive the sacrament, and parents/guardians are welcome to discern their children's participation. It is not necessary to be a member of this congregation or to be a baptized Christian to participate. Communion is served with grape juice, and gluten-free bread is available. Those who do not wish to receive communion may still come forward to receive a blessing from the minister, or to remain in your seat.

Families with Children

Children of all ages are always welcome at Plymouth! We offer many programs and events throughout the year to foster faith development in children and fellowship among our families. We strive to make worship family-friendly and to provide support to families while attending church by offering Busy Bags, Children's Worship Bulletins, a comfort room with toys and a changing table, and a Children's Worship Space with quiet activities. Professionally-staffed childcare for kids 4 and under is available every Sunday from 9am-12pm on the second floor. Sunday School for kids Pre-K to 8th grade takes place during worship, except for on the first Sunday of the month when there is no Sunday School to encourage families to worship together and receive communion.

Large print bulletins and hearing enhancement devices are available.
Please ask an usher.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Our Approach to God

Music calls us to worship so we may listen for God speaking to us. When the service begins with preparation music, please silence your voices and devices.

**All are invited to rise in body or spirit*

Preparation Music Prelude sur l'Introit de l'ÉpiphanieMaurice Duruflé
George A. Sargeant, organ

Welcome

*Call to Worship:

One: Today we welcome the magi into our Christmas story.

All: A story of wonder and light, of angels, shepherds, virgin births.

One: In the midst of dark shadows, the magi chose to follow the light.

All: Their story gives us hope that God still sends light for us to follow.

One: We come today knowing we too are on a journey, seeking and searching.

All: May we be faithful followers of the light of God so that we too can be bearers of hope and justice for a weary world.

***Hymn #159** (black hymnal) As With Gladness Those of Old *Dix*

Prayer of Confession

O God of life, we confess that we have not consistently followed the light by which you lead us. We seek answers, but we have not paid enough attention to important questions about the way of faithfulness, and what the journey of faith will require of us. We confess our need to have more patience with others, and also with ourselves. Forgive the narrowness of our vision and the shallowness of our compassion. Give us a star to lead the way. Amen.

Silent Reflection

Words of Assurance

ONE: Lift up your hearts!

ALL: We lift them up to God!

***Hymn of Praise** *Morning Star*

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our midnight and lend us your aid.
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

***Passing of the Peace**

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you!

ALL: And also with you!

*Children of all ages remain in worship for communion Sundays.
Sunday School will resume next Sunday.*

The Proclamation of God’s Word

Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon *Searching for Jesus* Pastor Dillon Shipman

***Hymn #144** (red hymnal)

What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright *Puer nobis nascitur*

Prayers of the People & 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.

Prayer Response Christ, Mighty Savior *Innisfree Farm*

Christ, mighty Savior, Light of all creation,
You make the daytime radiant with the sunlight
And to the night give glittering adornment, stars in the heavens.

Give heed, we pray you, to our supplication,
That you may grant us pardon for offenses,
Strength for our weak hearts, rest for aching bodies, soothing the weary.

Living Out the Word of God

Announcements of Church Life

Call to Offering

Offertory Arise, Shine, for Thy Light Is Come Healey Willan
Plymouth Choir

Arise, shine for thy light is come,
And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. Alleluia!
O praise the Lord, all ye nations,
And laud Him, all ye people!
For His merciful kindness is great toward us,
And the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Alleluia!

***Doxology**.....Cranham

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

***Prayer of Dedication**

O God, with devotion to Christ, we commit our best, that the church may bear witness among the principalities and powers of the world. Like the magi, we offer our gifts and dedicate them to Jesus, that they may bring the love of Christ to the world in meaningful and tangible ways. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Music at Communion Nocturne in F# Major, op. 15, no. 2Frédéric Chopin
Lynna Bao, piano

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, we cherish this table in a season when the nights are long and cold. Through this meal, through Jesus, and our community, our hearts have been warmed. May the comfort in our souls sustain us through winter and nudge us to create welcoming spaces for our neighbors. With gratitude, we leave here energized to kindle your light and love in this world. Amen.

***Hymn #158 (black hymnal)**

O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright*Wie schön leuchtet*

***Commission and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** *Author*

REFRAIN

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (refrain)

Voluntary O Morning Star, How Clear and BrightMax Drischner
George A. Sargeant, organ

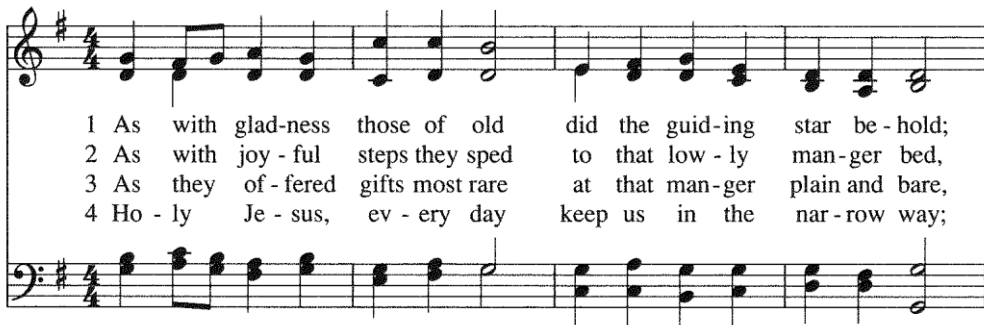
Many in the congregation wish to remain seated for the Voluntary. If you choose to leave, please be aware of those still participating in this part of the service. The Voluntary is music for worship and we ask that all be respectful of one another's worship practices, including those participating via livestream. Following the Voluntary, you may greet the ministers.

As with Gladness Those of Old

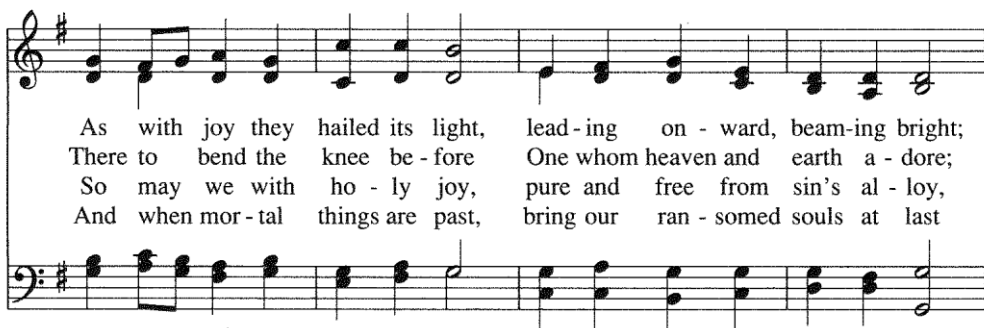
159

William C. Dix, 1861; alt.

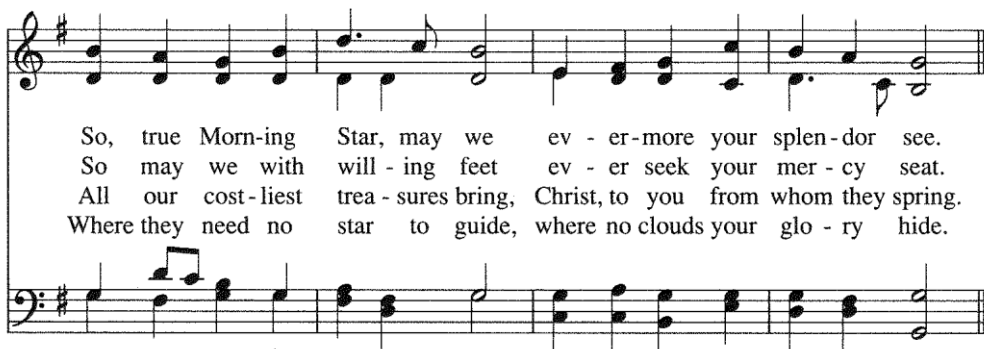
Matt. 2:1-12



1 As with glad-ness those of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man-ger bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man-ger plain and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;



As with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be - fore One whom heaven and earth a - dore;
So may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
And when mor - tal things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last



So, true Morn-ing Star, may we ev - er-more your splen-dor see.
So may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek your mer - cy seat.
All our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glo - ry hide.

After reading the Epiphany gospel, William C. Dix penned this hymn. Dix, the manager of a marine insurance company, was also a gifted hymnwriter. Among his many fine contributions is "What Child Is This."

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7.7.
Conrad Kocher, 1838
Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright

144

Charles Coffin, 1676-1749
Tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, alt.

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR L.M.
Adapted by Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621
Harm. by George R. Woodward, 1848-1934

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, More love - ly
2 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From Ja - cob
3 O Je - sus, while the star of grace Im - pels us
4 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, To Christ, re -

than the noon - day light? 'Tis sent to announce a new - born
shall a star pro - ceed"; And lo! the east - ern sa - ges
on to seek thy face, Let not our sloth - ful hearts re -
vealed in earth - ly night, To God the Ho - ly Ghost we

king, Glad ti - dings of our God to bring.
stand, To read in heaven the Lord's com - mand.
fuse The guid - ance of thy light to use.
raise An end - less song of thank - ful praise! A - men.

Another harmonization may be found at No. 39

BIRTH

O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright

*Isa. 60:19-20; Rom. 15:7-13**Philipp Nicolai, 1598**Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.*

1 O Morn-ing Star, how clear and bright, your beam shines forth in
2 Come heaven-ly Bright-ness, Light di-vine, and deep with-in my

truth and light! My Sov-ereign meek and low-ly! O Root of Jes-se,
heart now shine, there make your-self an al-tar! Fill me with joy and

Prom-ised One, my God and Rul-er, you have won my heart to serve you
strength to be your mem-ber, joined e-ter-nal-ly in love that can-not

sole-ly! You are ho-ly, great and glo-rious, all-vic-to-rious,
fal-ter; Long-ing for you does pos-sess me; turn and bless me;

Rich in bless-ing, rule-and might o'er all pos-sess-ing.
Here in sad-ness eye and heart long for your glad-ness.

MUSIC NOTES

Twentieth-century French organist and composer Maurice Duruflé studied organ with Charles Tournemire. He became titular organist of St. Etienne-du-Mont in Paris in 1930, a position he held until his death. Eight years later, he became professor of harmony at the Conservatoire de Paris, where he worked until 1970. His compositional output was small compared to his contemporaries, due largely to the very high standards he set for himself. His *Prelude sur l'Introit de l'Épiphanie (Prelude on the Introit for Epiphany)* is a short meditation that takes as its subject the plainchant sung at the entrance of the priest at Mass on the Feast of the Epiphany.

Healey Willan was born in England in 1880 and emigrated to Canada in 1913. He settled in Toronto and served first music director of St. Paul's Church, Bloor Street, and later and more famously at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, where he stayed until shortly before his death in 1968. He also taught music theory at Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music. *Arise, Shine, for Thy Light is Come* was commissioned by and dedicated to the choir of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Sappington, Missouri and dates from 1956.

Frédéric Chopin's Opus 15 Nocturnes are a set of three pieces for solo piano written between 1830 and 1833. They display a more personal approach to the nocturne form than that of the earlier Opus 9. The melodies and emotional depth of these nocturnes have thus been thought of as more "Chopinesque." Op. 15, No. 2 follows ternary form. The first section, marked *Larghetto*, features an intricate, elaborately ornamental melody. The second section, labeled *doppio movimento* (double speed), resembles a scherzo. The final section is a shortened version of the first (14 bars rather than 24) with characteristic cadenzas and elaboration, finishing with an arpeggio on F# major, falling at first, then dying away.

Max Drischner was an early leader in the organ reform movement and Baroque revival in Europe, and his music hearkens back to that earlier time rather than following more modern trends. His teachers included the famed harpsichordist Wanda Landowska. Though never a pupil, he also had several opportunities to meet and have his thinking shaped by Bach scholar and humanitarian Albert Schweitzer. The turmoil in Europe through the mid 20th century kept him from settling down and holding a single position for any length of time. His setting of *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern (O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright)* treats the melody of this Reformation-era Epiphany hymn sectionally, with each phrase serving as the basis for a brief fughetta.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

Ushers: Team 5

Greeter: Michael Schiavoni

This Week at Plymouth

Fossil Fuel – Join us this Wednesday, January 8, at 8:30 am in the Candy Circle Room. Michael Schiavoni will be leading the presentation "Steve Jobs – CEO Apple - Act I, Act II & Act III" and will cover "a vivid portrait of a brilliant, complicated genius" with a brief bio and several quotes.

Upcoming Events

Lunch Club – Join us Wednesday, January 15, for Lunch Club! We will be meeting at 12:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up by next Sunday for planning purposes.

OWL Parent Meeting - Plymouth Church will be offering an O.W.L. (Our Whole Lives) program for students in kindergarten & first grades this year. Our Whole Lives is a positive and age-appropriate educational program that promotes sexual health and safety. Each class will be 1 hour on Sundays after church, beginning February 23 and running for seven weeks through April 13, with one week off for spring break. We invite you to a brief informational family meeting on Sunday, January 19th at 12:00 pm in the Parlor. Children are welcome to come. We would like to answer questions, give you more information, and get a sense of how many children will be participating. If you are unavailable on January 19th, or for questions or more information contact Leslie Szalay at lszalay@plymouthchurchucc.org or Jeannie Clarkson at jeannie.m.clarkson@gmail.com

Lead with Humility – On Saturday, February 1, Plymouth ARE has invited Dr. James Knight to speak in Fellowship Hall from 10am-12pm. He is a speaker/teacher, equity and inclusion strategist, and coach/mentor. His primary goal is to assist others in building safe environments where everyone can thrive and bring their best selves. You can learn more about him on his site: leadwithhumility.org. Mark your calendars!

Community Life

Pastoral Care - If you have a Pastoral Care need or have an emergency, please contact Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster at 330-714-9471.

Little Free Pantry - Shelf stable food is available 24/7 from our Little Free Pantry, located in the north end of the parking lot, near the Children's Garden.

Financial Assistance - Do you need help paying a bill, rent, or buying food and other essentials? Through the loving support of this community, funds are available. If you are in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to email Rev. Matt Wooster at mwooster@plymouthchurchucc.org (this is confidential) with your needs.

Plymouth Family

Happy Birthday to: Jeff Pollock, Sam Morris, Suzanne Schiavoni, Anna Graves, Dan Wilson, and Devan Bhatia

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, January 5

10:30 am Worship @ Sanct
11:00 am HCC Worship @ Chapel
11:30 am Coffee Hour @ FH
5:00 pm High School OWL @ KR

Monday, January 6

5:30 pm Bible Study @ Zoom

Tuesday, January 7

No events scheduled

Wednesday, January 8

8:30 am Fossil Fuel @ Candy Circle
1:00 pm Meditative Arts @ Atrium
8:00 pm AA Meeting @ KR

Thursday, January 9

6:30 Plymouth Ringers @ Bell Room
7:00 pm Boy Scouts Meeting @ FH
7:30 pm Plymouth Choir @ Choir Room

Friday, January 10

1:00 pm Women's AA Meeting @ Parlor

Saturday, January 11

No events scheduled

Sunday, January 12

10:30 am Worship @ Sanct
11:00 am HCC Worship @ Chapel
11:30 am Coffee Hour @ FH



Give Online

Use this QR Code to give online. If you would like to make recurring online gifts, please use your REALM login. If you don't have an account, please email

kkundrat@plymouthchurchucc.org to request access.

Ministers of Plymouth Church

The Congregation of Plymouth Church

Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster

Designated Associate Minister, Pastor Dillon Shipman

Director of Music & the Arts, George Sargeant

Director of Christian Education, Leslie Szalay

Facility Manager, Paul Holter

Office & Communications Administrator, Brenna Threatt

Finance Administrator, Kathryn Kundrat

Church Sexton, Derrick Williams

Organ Scholar, Lynna Bao



2860 Coventry Road
Shaker Heights, OH 44120

216.921.3510 | office@plymouthchurchucc.org