

The Plymouth Church in Framingham

Advent

Home by Another Way

Sunday, December 19, 2021

10:00 AM In-person and on YouTube

"And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, the Magi left for their own country by another road."

(Matthew 2:12)

DEACONS, USHERS, & GREETERS

Leslie and Robert Clark

2022 PLEDGE ENVELOPES

2022 pledge envelopes are available for pickup in the Parish Hall foyer.

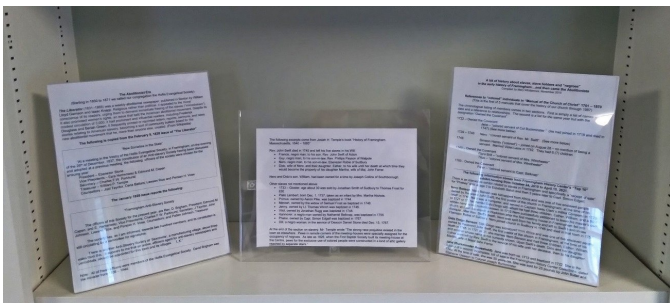
"JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM" CHRISTMAS PAGEANT...TODAY, AT 4:00 P.M.

Bring a candle or flashlight, dress for the weather, and join us at 4:00 p.m. for this year's Christmas Pageant: Journey to Bethlehem. Our pageant begins on the lawn, between the driveway and the church, and will travel around campus to a petting zoo near the Bell Garden, as we encounter scenes from the nativity story. Come celebrate the birth of Christ with us!

Note: *To stay in step with our petting zoo reservations, we will begin promptly at 4:00 p.m.*

RACIAL JUSTICE RESOURCES IN THE LIBRARY

The Racial Justice bookshelf in the Library has been updated recently. Thank you to those who donated new titles. We invite everyone to spend a few minutes browsing the shelves when you are in the building. If you choose to take out a book, please use the sign-out clipboard, so we have a record of borrowed books. Also now on display in the Library are three framed articles (*see photo below*) that provide information about Framingham's history with slavery, with specific references to individual slaves in our early church years, and, a century later, to the abolitionist period.



TORNADO RELIEF



Last Sunday, we lifted up the communities impacted by the recent tornadoes. We encourage each of us to love our neighbors through the United Church of Christ's 2021 Severe Storms Appeal. Visit ucc.org.

MAMA JUNIOR'S HOPE TREE

The Youth Group is raising funds to help Aisha's family recover from the fire that destroyed their home. You can sponsor an item on their wish list by choosing an ornament from Mama Junior's Hope Tree! Fill out your ornament, place it and your donation in the provided envelope, and add it to the offering plate any Sunday during Advent. *Please do NOT bring physical items to donate as shipping to Tanzania is cost prohibitive.*

ADVENT PREVIEW

December 19: Living Pageant, with Petting Zoo!

December 21: The Longest Night, 7:00 p.m.

December 24: Christmas Eve, 5:00 p.m.

December 26: Online only, *Facebook & YouTube*

January 2: Online only, *Facebook & YouTube*

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Angels herald good news to the Shepherds

Prelude *Puer Nobis Nascitur, What Star Is This with beams So bright, Hopson*

Welcome

Unison Psalm of Invocation (Luke 2:46-55)

One: And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

All: "For you have looked with favor on the lowliness of your servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for you have done great things for me, and holy is your name. Your mercy is for those who fear you from generation to generation. You have shown strength with your arm; you have scattered the proud in the thoughts of our hearts. You have brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; you have filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

One: "God offers us help in remembrance of mercy,
according to the promise made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and Sarah and to their descendants forever." Amen.

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20

Lighting of the Advent Candle for Peace

One: May this candle blaze brightly for all who journey in JOY

All: May this candle light the way home.

Message for All Ages

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *See Amid The Winter's Snow, Harlan*

Children may transition to Faith Workshop at this time

Sermon

Hymn *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

Benediction

Postlude *Puer Natus Est, Titcomb*

Announcements

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

Luke 2:10-11, 25-32; 24:46-51;
1 Thess. 4:13-18; Isa. 60:19-20

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring;
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3 Hail the Bear - er of God's peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous-ness,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ner rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time the Sav - ior comes, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life our Sav - ior brings, risen with ra - diant, heal - ing wings.

Joy - ful, all you saints a - rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh, the God-head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild - ly lay - ing glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

With the an - gel host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise us all from earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring!"