

## SUNDAY WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER

November 29 Rev. Dr. Eric C. Smith [Mark 13:24-37, Isaiah 64:1-9](#)  
 November 29 @ 7:00 PM: Advent Vespers with Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott  
 December 6 Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas [Mark 1:1-8](#)  
 December 13 Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas [Psalm 126](#)  
 December 20 Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas [2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:26-38](#)  
 December 20 @ 7:00 PM "The Longest Night" Service  
 December 24 @ 4:00 PM: Children & Family Christmas Eve Service  
 December 24 @ 7:00 PM: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service  
 December 27 Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott [Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40](#)



Worship with us remotely on Sundays at 10:00 AM at <https://bit.ly/FPCC-LIVE-Worship>  
 or view previous services on the [FPUCC YouTube Station](#).

## ADVENT 2020

Find links to Advent virtual offerings on the church calendar:  
<https://firstplymouthchurch.org/church-calendar-virtual-meetings/>

### ADVENT I: Sunday, November 29 @ 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Cozy up in some Christmas pajamas, grab a cup of hot cocoa, and join us for some holiday stories. Some of your favorite Sunday School teachers are joining us today with those great stories of the season. These have been designed to watch all at once or one at a time over the next few weeks. Enjoy!



### ADVENT I: Sunday, November 29 @ 7:00 PM

The Rocky Mountain Conference presents "The Fierce Urgency of Now" special Advent Vespers with The Reverend Anthony Scott preaching.

### ADVENT II: Sunday, December 6 from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

First Plymouth is hosting a Toy & Coat Drive benefitting [Clothes to Kids of Denver](#). Drop-off your gifts of warmth and joy of the season keeping in mind that Donations should be

- ◆ New or gently used (Would you give it to a friend?)
- ◆ Clean and ready-to-wear (no stains, holes or broken zippers)
- ◆ Current styles (purchased in the last 3-5 years)
- ◆ Age appropriate for youth and teens (sizes 4T through young adult)

### ADVENT III: Sunday, December 13 from 7:00 PM

Friends of First Plymouth send you "A First Plymouth Christmas Card" featuring some of your most-beloved holiday selections. You'll even be asked to join in a carol sing!

### ADVENT IV: Sunday, December 20 from 7:00 PM

Joy to the world? Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved one; it may be a time that has always been difficult.

The constant refrain on the radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation – all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern; we need to know that we are not alone.

Our spirits sink, as the days grow shorter. We feel the darkness growing deeper around us. We need encouragement persevere in the days ahead. For these reasons, First Plymouth offers an opportunity to worship on the "Longest Night" on December 20, 2020 at 7:00 PM. This service will be streamed via YouTube.

Join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle – and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. All are welcome.

## Stay in Touch!

First Plymouth uses MailChimp's to send semi-weekly and monthly updates to those who "opt-in" via a subscription form, whether members or not at <https://tinyurl.com/y5md9ytp>.

Members & Friends can maintain their own information in [ShelbyNext](#) with their own credentials. Need credentials? Contact the editor at [editor@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:editor@firstplymouthchurch.org).

Join virtual meetings and classes from the church calendar at <https://tinyurl.com/y2jvogy>.

## From the Pastor's Desk



Simone Weil, a Jewish writer, said, "Waiting patiently in expectation is the foundation of the spiritual life."

Advent is a season that invites us into patient waiting. These days...

Some of us are just waiting for the sun to set, so we can soon forget today, waiting for the moments to blend in under one blanket of ominous despair. The coronavirus has put us all in a holding pattern, waiting for it to be over, for life to be as it once was, for love to live in flesh and bone.

Yet, despite this reality, some are always waiting for the sun to rise, waiting for the opportunity to bring sunshine to somebody else's shade. They are waiting to create possibility and to illumine hope in the face of life's most difficult challenges.

They are Those Who Dream!

Many people are not waiting at all. They are just going and doing without a sense of being or a mind for that which they wait. Some people tend to see waiting as an interruption to the real work of the day; they see waiting as inherently weak as it means the world is no longer jumping at the sound of their call. Those who wait are merely lost in between here and where they should be, going and doing. To them, waiting is for the lowly, the meek, and the lost.

These "many" have forgotten how to dream.

Waiting points to a common experience among the waiters, revealing a core similarity between the haves and the have-nots. Waiting is a place, perhaps in location as in a line or as a number, but more so, waiting is a liminal place within the spiritual realm of being. It reveals to us the desire of our hearts and the responsibilities from which those desires arise. We are either waiting to gain or waiting to lose; we are waiting for answers or waiting to avoid them when they come. We are sometimes waiting on ourselves to make up our minds, to forgive a failure, to laugh when we feel like laughing or cry when we feel like crying. We are waiting, and in our waiting, we are "being."

Waiting often puts the one who waits at a disadvantage when measured by time, place, and all things black and white. The waiter waits upon another, finds himself out of control, under the thumb of time itself, and thus waiting presents her with a dilemma. To dream or not to dream?

Waiting is a cosmic chasm between two worlds; the one we get lost in as time slows down and dreamers dream, and the one that waits for no one, where dreams are lost and life, thus, leaves the dreamers behind.

This Advent season, as we wait patiently upon the Lord, we are invited to be Those Who Dream.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

Spirit is leading the way,  
 Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas



### First Plymouth Congregational Church

3501 S. Colorado Blvd., Englewood, CO 80113 303-762-0616

Find more information on our website at [www.firstplymouthchurch.org](http://www.firstplymouthchurch.org)

### 2020-2021 FIRST PLYMOUTH CHURCH COUNCIL

**Moderator**  
 Phil Thompson  
**Vice Moderator**  
 Liz Mascitelli  
**Treasurer**  
 Carole Westphal  
**Church Clerk**  
 Pat Olson

**Members at Large:**  
 June 2021: Allison Pasternak and Sandy Clough  
 June 2022: Laura Eley and David Stevenson  
 June 2023: Deborah Arca and Robert Henderson

### FIRST PLYMOUTH OFFICE CONTACTS

**Senior Minister**  
 Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas  
[pastor@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:pastor@firstplymouthchurch.org)

**Teaching Minister**  
 Rev. Dr. Eric C. Smith  
[esmith@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:esmith@firstplymouthchurch.org)

**Director of Music**  
 Joel Rinsema  
[jrinsema@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:jrinsema@firstplymouthchurch.org)

**Director of Administration**  
 Carol Hainsey  
[chainsey@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:chainsey@firstplymouthchurch.org)

**Director of Children's Ministry**  
 Alix Wright  
[fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org)

**Office Coordinator**  
 Lisa Medina  
[office@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:office@firstplymouthchurch.org)

**Pastoral Care**  
 Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott  
[pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org)

**Communications Coordinator**  
 Amy Turner  
[editor@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:editor@firstplymouthchurch.org)

**Parish Visitor**  
 Lois McCloskey (720-520-5186)  
[parishvisitor@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:parishvisitor@firstplymouthchurch.org)

**Facility Manager**  
 Don McLean  
[dmclean@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:dmclean@firstplymouthchurch.org)

## MINISTRY NEWS

Your continued support of the **Green Energy Fund** is essential in helping First Plymouth Church reduce its carbon footprint and in the process, become a UCC "Cool Congregation." Future projects under consideration include solar panel installations on portions of the roof, porticos or in the parking lot. Choose "Other/Green Energy Fund" when making your contribution. <https://firstplymouthchurch.org/how-to-give/>.

The **Outreach Ministry** has appointed Family Promise of Denver the recipients of the Angel Tree gifts. There are only a few gifts left for a few children. If you can help, please choose 1 or more children, and purchase a gift for each chosen. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/yxe2r5go> and complete the online form. After submitting your choices, you will receive a confirmation email with a "shopping list" of specifics for each individual chosen. The delivery deadline is December 2. Thank you for your help!

The **Outreach Ministry** thanks the First Plymouth Community, in advance of the December 2 deadline, for successfully providing 78+ Christmas gifts to the 8 families sponsored by Family Promise of Greater Denver. Your generosity make the holidays a bit better for these homeless families. Thank you!

## VIRTUAL LOFT THANKSGIVING A GREAT SUCCESS!

First Plymouth's community rose to the challenge of the new normal for the 10th Annual LOFT Thanksgiving DICP dinner. We asked for grocery store gift cards for the DICP community and you were there for us. We well exceeded our goal! There were 503 gift cards donated, valued at \$5,105 and monetary donations of \$1,405 (including a \$700 grant from the First Plymouth Foundation) which will be used to purchase another 140 gift cards. Total gift cards provided to Denver Inner City Parish was 643, well over the goal of 500. Other church members contributed their cards directly to DICP. We hope that by our 2021 dinner the country will be recovered from the COVID crisis and we will meet once again with at 1212 Mariposa to celebrate Thanksgiving in person with DICP. Happy and safe Thanksgiving to all! Thank you!

-Noanie Geistert & Anne Kleinkopf.



## DECEMBER SHARE-THE-PLATE

**Family Promise**, a Denver organization for 22 years, is First Plymouth's December Share-the-Plate recipient. They provide shelter and Stabilization and Case Management Programs for homeless families. For many years there was no shelter for families so they have filled a huge gap for the homeless population, but as we know the needs are growing. On one night in January 2019, 429 families (1402 individuals, including many children) were counted as homeless throughout the metro Denver area. On the bitter cold night accompanied by snow, 18 family members were counted as unsheltered, staying in their car or outside. Due to the pandemic, the numbers this year will be significantly higher.

Also, through Christmas Eve, we will be accepting donations to the **UCC Christmas Fund**, formerly "Veterans of the Cross." For decades this fund has helped provide supplemental monies for pension and health insurance premiums to low-income retirees. At Christmas, the offering provides gift checks to hundreds of annuitants, but it also provides emergency assistance to clergy and lay employees and their families throughout the year.

Please contribute to Share-the-Plate via [Text-to-Give](#), [ACH or Credit Card](#) or by check **made out to First Plymouth Church with "STP" or "Christmas Fund" noted on the memo line and mailed to the church.**



Jerry Arca  
Raeanna Biddle  
Jim Brenkendorff  
Fletcher Brown  
Jennifer Brown  
Marvin Buckels  
Patricia Bugh  
Marty Bushey  
Sylvie Diane Chitamitre  
Linda Cunningham  
Nino de Paz  
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Lauren Emily Falconetti  
Martha Faust  
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Peggy O'Brien  
Pat Olson  
Allison Pasternak  
Beatrice Jane Pasternak  
Megan Ray  
James Roe  
Grace Rooney  
Pam Schindelar  
Eric Smith  
Dave Thomas  
Penny Trask  
Carolyn Weaver  
Carolyn Weese  
Mark Westlund  
Kristi Zahnow  
Paige Zahnow

## MANY THANKS!

Many thanks to the church members responsible for transforming our church for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany:

Bruce Glenn, Bill Blunden, Fletcher Brown, Rich Dangremond, Jack Cattell, Paul Erickson, and Bob Reilly.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

Men's Fellowship meets via **ZOOM** on Saturday, December 12 at 10:00 AM. "Origins and History of the FP Highline Canal Yacht and Donut Club". Join Jim Vandermill and Jim White (invited) for a trip down memory lane about the oldest social groups at First Plymouth. The group has been gathering early every Wednesday morning for over 50 years for a highly unorganized or planned discussion of current events. Please come and bring your own recollections.

"Colorado Gives Day" is Tuesday, December 8. This annual statewide movement celebrates and increases philanthropy in Colorado through online giving. Go to <https://www.coloradogives.org/> to learn more. To find a list of prior FPC Share-the-Plate recipients, go to the church website under [Community & Caring > Outreach > Share-the-Plate](#).

## ADULT FORUM SUNDAYS AT 11:15 AM

December 6: Courtney Jensen, Executive Director of Family Promise, will share information about Family Promise and how we can support their work.

December 13: Heidi Thomas' holiday music

December 20: Heidi Thomas' holiday music

[Join us for these virtual programs with the links from the church calendar.](#)

## November's Joys and Concerns



For our members' privacy, a list of the prior month's Joys and Concerns is available on the church website under the [FP Members](#) section. Email your Joys and Concerns to Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott at [pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org) for inclusion on our webpage.



First Plymouth Congregational Church UCC  
3501 South Colorado Boulevard  
Englewood, CO 80113

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER