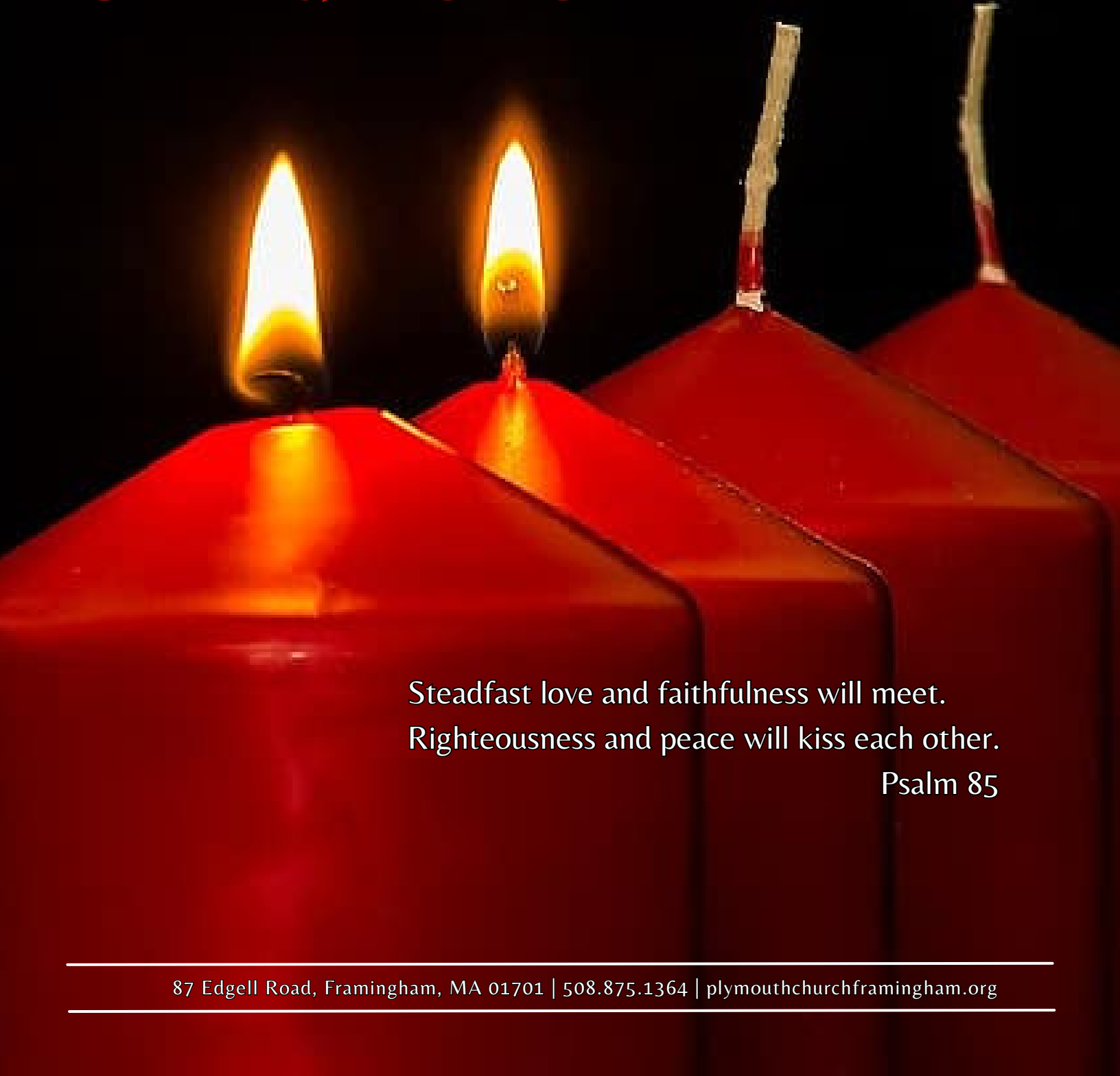


# Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023



Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet.  
Righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Psalm 85

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**Sunday, December 10, 2023**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

Tolling of the Bells

Prelude *In Dulci Jubilo* Bach

Call to Worship *Isaiah 40:1-5*

\*Opening Hymn *Watcher, Tell Us of the Night*

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace *Debbie Nichols*  
*Leona Dalton*  
*Sue Gaffey*

Unison Prayer

**God, light the way. We scramble and hurry things along. Remind us to be still and inhale deeply. \*pause\* Restrain our frenzied spirits. Slow us down to linger longer here at the threshold of your arrival. In the fullness of time, may the light of your peace shine clearly before us.**

Sung Response *He Came Down*

Passing of the Peace

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you!**

Choir Anthem *I Shall Know Him When He Comes* Wagner

Message for All Ages

Special Guest *Larry Fitzpatrick, The Friendship Project*

Luke 1:46-56

Sermon "The Peace of Christ"

\*Hymn *My Soul Gives Glory to My God*

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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Invitation to the Offering

Offertory                                      *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*                                      arr. Manz

Doxology                                      *Each week, we sing and sign an inclusive Doxology (ASL).*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise God all creatures here below.*

*Praise God for all that Love has done.*

*Creator, Christ, & Spirit one. Amen.*

\*Closing Hymn                                      *Now Bless the God of Israel*

Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude                                      *From Heaven Above*                                      Young

*Following the Closing Hymn, we encourage the congregation to remain risen, in body or spirit, to receive the Benediction, which is both blessing and commission. You may sit for the Choral Response and Postlude in quiet contemplation.*

*All are invited to the Parish Hall for coffee, tea, and snacks. We understand it can be difficult to step into a room of strangers. We hope, with every cup and cookie, we can deepen our connections and learn a little more about each other each week.*



## *The Friendship Project*

*Volunteers can make a significant difference in a person's life. The Friendship Project helps connect volunteers with members of our community who face many of life's challenges, including mental health, developmental and intellectual disabilities, and autism. These volunteer opportunities may include making a weekly check-in call, taking someone bowling once a month. Volunteers participate in a general introductory volunteer training, as well as training specific to the person and task involved in the volunteer experience.*



# Watcher, Tell Us of the Night

Isa. 21:11-12

John Bowring, 1825; alt.

1 Watch-er, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.  
 2 Watch-er, tell us of the night, high-er yet that star as-cends.  
 3 Watch-er, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.

Trav - eler, O a won-drous sight! See that glo-ry - beam-ing star!  
 Trav - eler, bless-ed - ness and light, peace and truth its course por - tends.  
 Trav - eler, shad-ows take their flight, doubt and ter - ror are with-drawn.

Watch-er, does its beau - teous ray news of joy or hope fore - tell?  
 Watch-er, will its beams a - lone gild the spot that gave them birth?  
 Watch-er, you may go your way; has - ten to your qui - et home.

Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el!  
 Trav-eler, a - ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth!  
 Trav-eler, I re - joice to-day, for Em - man - u - el has come!

*This hymn, a dialogue between watcher and traveler, was suggested by the dialogue in Isaiah 21:11-12. John Bowring was a gifted linguist, worker for political and social reform, member of Parliament, and governor of Hong Kong.*

Tune: ABERYSTWYTH 7.7.7.D.

Joseph Parry, 1879

Alternate tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

# He Came Down

137

He came down that we may have love; he

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

have love; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

*Leader:* Why did he come?

*Additional stanzas:*

- ... that we may have light
- ... that we may have peace
- ... that we may have joy

Because this traditional Cameroon piece begins with the refrain, it does not initially reveal that it is cast as a call-and-response song. Assigning the answers to the congregation rather than to the leader is a notable affirmation of the corporate wisdom of God's people.

# My Soul Gives Glory to My God

119

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Sam. 2:1-10

1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My heart pours out its praise.  
2 My God has done great things for me: yes, ho - ly is God's name.  
3 From age to age, to all who fear, such mer - cy love im - parts,  
4 Love casts the might - y from their thrones, pro - motes the in - se - cure,  
5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup - ports those in dis - tress,

God lift - ed up my low - li - ness in man - y mar - vel - ous ways.  
All peo - ple will de - clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.  
dis - pens - ing jus - tice far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.  
leaves hun - gry spir - its sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.  
re - mem - ber - ing past prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

*This New Testament canticle, with its mosaic of liberation motifs that proclaim the justice of God, is known as the "Magnificat," the opening word of its Latin translation.*

Tune: MORNING SONG C.M.  
Melody from Kentucky Harmony, 1816  
Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

Luke 1:68-79; Ps. 18:1-3; Isa. 9:2-7

Ruth Duck, 1985

1 Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, who comes in love and power,  
 2 Re - mem - ber - ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from fear,  
 3 In ten - der mer - cy, God will send the day - spring from on high,

who rais - es from the roy - al house de - liv - erance in this hour.  
 that we might serve in hol - i - ness and peace from year to year;  
 our ris - ing sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.

Through ho - ly proph - ets God has sworn to free us from a - larm,  
 And you, my child, shall go be - fore to preach, to proph - e - sy,  
 God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no more.

to save us from the heav - y hand of all who wish us harm.  
 that all may know the ten - der love, the grace of God most high.  
 Sing prais - es to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

*This text by United Church of Christ clergywoman Ruth Duck is a paraphrase of the "Benedictus," which is often sung at morning prayer. She came to appreciate daily prayer while studying at the University of Notre Dame.*

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.  
 Traditional English melody  
 Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

# The Plymouth Church in Framingham

## ADVENT SPIRAL

Join us on **December 10, at 5:00 p.m.**, for a holiday experience of quiet reverence. Participants carry a candle into the center of a spiral of greens, symbolizing the journey of Advent.



**Sunday  
December 10  
5:00 p.m.**

87 Edgell Road, Framingham | 508.875.1364 | [plymouthchurchframingham.org](http://plymouthchurchframingham.org)

### THE PLYMOUTH CHURCH IN FRAMINGHAM CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Orders for poinsettia plants given in memory, or in honor, of a special person (or persons) to decorate the Sanctuary for the Christmas Eve services may be called in to the church office or dropped by/sent with this form no later than Sunday, December 10. This year the price is \$19.99/plant. Please make checks payable to: Plymouth Church.

Given by \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Plants \_\_\_\_\_ x \$19.99 \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

I will take my poinsettia(s) home with me.

I would like the Sunshine Committee to deliver my poinsettia(s) to someone in need of holiday cheer.

*Please print legibly. Thank you!*