

10:30 AM SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025

WELCOME!

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*“Whether you are a seeker, skeptic, believer
or somewhere in between on life’s journey, you are welcome here.
We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate
in worship and service of Plymouth Church.*

PLYMOUTH UCC PURPOSE

Growing people of faith who participate in God’s work in the world.

PLYMOUTH UCC VISION

Plymouth Church UCC is a Christian Community open to the transforming Spirit of God.



Thank you for worshipping online with us today. Please like and send us a greeting on
Facebook and Instagram.



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Facebook and Instagram.

The church office is open during limited hours.

Contact Info@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

All pastoral care will be via telephone or other electronic means.

If you have personal concerns, you may contact a minister or member of the Pastoral Care Team
via e-mails below, or call the pastoral care line, **206.639.7739**, checked daily.

KBrown@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

For administrative needs, or other non-pastoral care questions, please email:

DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

10:30 AM SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025
BAPTISM OF CHRIST

*When you enter Plymouth Church UCC,
may you feel the peace, intimacy, belonging,
acceptance and refuge of Sanctuary.*

*Worship with Plymouth Church UCC begins with meditation.
The quiet of this place is meant to encourage and deepen your own inner work.
Thank you for entering this place, this hour, by honoring the spirit of worship.*

PRELUDE *PRELUDIO*

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah arranged by Dr. Lee Peterson
Dr. Lee Peterson, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Kevin Bechtold
LLAMADO A ADORAR

One: Come, beloved of God, to remember who you
are and whose you are.

Many: God in Christ, has named us all “Beloved.”

One: Yes, here and now, God’s heaven of love is being
poured out anew.

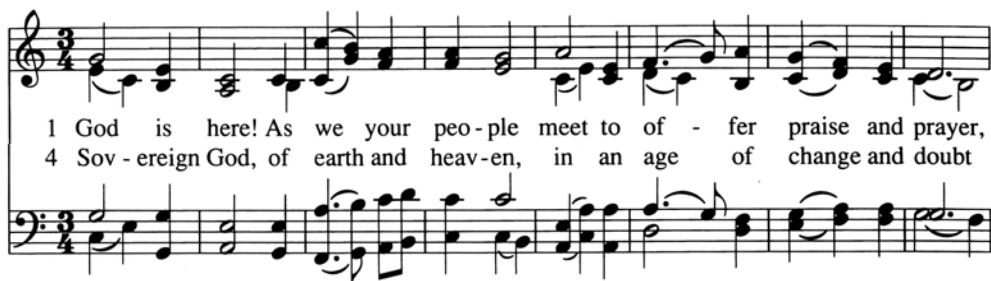
**Many: May this motion of the Holy One, shape
our hearts and minds.**

One: May it brighten the Epiphany light in us and the
whole creation.

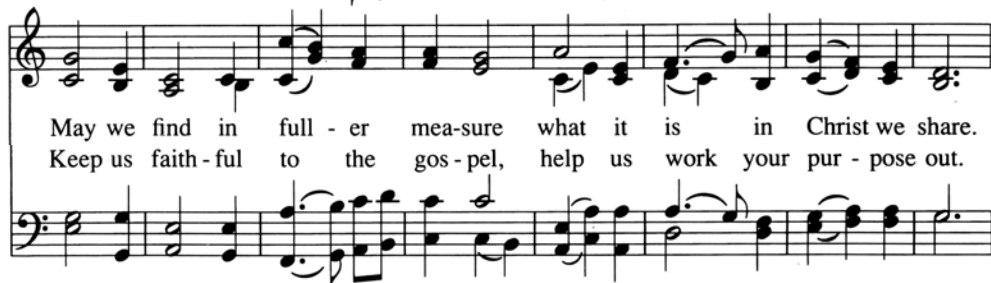
**All: And may it shape our words and work into
good news for the world!**

OPENING HYMN *HIMNO DE APERTURA*

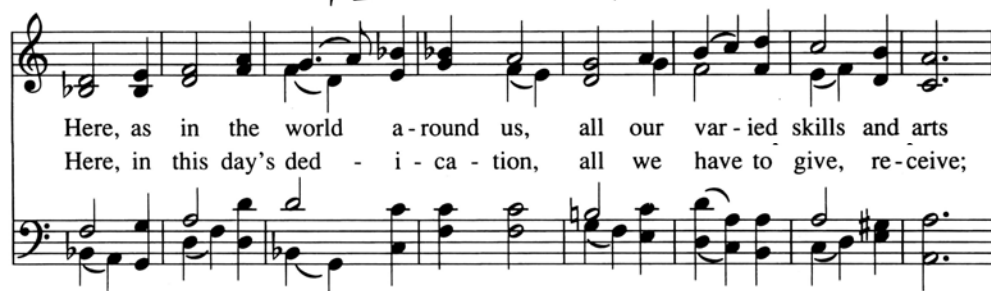
God Is Here! As We Your People Meet (NCH #70) vss 1,4 ABBOT'S LEIGH



1 God is here! As we your peo-ple meet to of - fer praise and prayer,
4 Sov - ereign God, of earth and heav-en, in an age of change and doubt



May we find in full - er mea-sure what it is in Christ we share.
Keep us faith - ful to the gos-pel, help us work your pur - pose out.



Here, as in the world a-round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re-ceive;



wait the com-ing of the Spir-it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
we, who can - not live with-out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION June Hayakawa-Fung

ORACIÓN DE CONFESIÓN

One: Loving God, let me enter again Your baptismal river of grace. Let it soak every stain attached to the fabric of my life and longings.

Many: **Yes, Holy One, submerge me in You again and again and again. Cleanse every distracting impulse luring me away from You who are my heart's deepest desire.**

One: Let no urgency be more important than Your forgiving love, always transforming.

All: **Today, help me choose you above every temptation that lures me to worship lesser things. Forgive me, renew me, and grant me the grace promised by You in Jesus Christ.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

SEGURIDAD DE GRACIA

Before we thought to turn to God, God already turned toward us in love. The saturating grace of God is trustworthy and true. Our prayers of transformation have been met with God's outpouring of forgiving love. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

WELCOME BIENVENIDA Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Bechtold

ORACIONES DEL PUEBLO

Afghan Family (Siblings of Plymouth), Toni Arthur, Ahmed Black (Nephew of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Wendy Carpenter (Friend of Jocelyn Coit-Durland), Diane Folkert (Mother and Mother-in-Law of Alex & Ara Lawrence), Louis Ford (Friend of Karen Clark), Elvis Gordon (Brother of Michael and Elizabeth Gordon), Floyd Gossett, Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Kay Heekin (Mother-in-Law of Kate Forrester), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Julie (Friend of Karen Clark), William Chapman Nyaho, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Gevan Woodke (Friend of Karen Clark), Shaniece (Friend of Karen Clark)



PRAYER OF JESUS *ORACIÓN DE JESÚS*

**Our parent, who is among us, blessed be your Creation.
May your loving presence be a reality here on earth.
May we become more interested in building your kingdom
here and now than in waiting for it to come down from above.
Let us share our bread with those who hunger.
Let us learn to forgive as well as to receive forgiveness.
Help us through the time of temptation, delivering us from all evil.
For ours are the eternal blessings that you pour upon the earth. Amen.**

CALL TO OFFERING & SHARING PEACE Rev. Bechtold

LLAMADO A LA OFERTA Y COMPARTIENDO LA PAZ

The outpouring of God's spirit described in the baptism of Jesus reminds us that God's very nature is generous, self-giving love. It is the source of our deepest joy. When we open our hearts in generous giving, we give space for God's love and joy to grow in us for the good of others. May our hearts be stretched wide by this motion of the Holy One, as we joyfully bring our gifts.

DOXOLOGY *DOXOLOGÍA*

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

ORACIÓN DE DEDICACIÓN

**O Gracious God, we thank you for the invitation to
grow through giving, made possible by Your outpouring
spirit. May these gifts we bring be used to form ever-new
blessings in this congregation and around the world. And
may our lives be the instruments of love and joy you desire.
Amen.**

OFFERING MUSIC OFRECIENDO *MÚSICA*

Andante from Concerto in E Flat Major Franz Joseph Haydn
Peter Nelson-King, trumpet; Dr. Lee Peterson, piano

CONTEMPORARY VOICE *VOZ CONTEMPORÁNEA*

Angels Still Appear, by Ann Weems

Angels still appear to those
ready to receive blessings
in spite of the barren
impossibility of their lives.

Elizabeth still recognizes Jesus
and calls him Lord,
receiving him to her heart,
in spite of the distraction of her own blessing.

Blessings still come
to those who believe
that nothing is impossible
in the hand of God.

Mary still gives birth,
not just every Advent;
Mary still gives birth
each day – to this Child
who advents into hearts,
unexpectedly and forever.

Herods still live
who would kill this Child,
but Mary and Joseph
still flee into the desert, and the night,
to protect the One given
into their keeping.

Doors still slam in the
inns of the world.
Herods still plot to kill,
deserts and the unknown
still threaten our safety,
but God still lives.

In spite of war and terror,
Mary gives birth



*Ann Weems was a
Presbyterian elder,
a lecturer, and a
popular poet*

to the Prince of Peace.
In spite of hunger,
Mary gives birth
to the Bread of Life.
In spite of lost sheep,
Mary gives birth
to the Good Shepherd.
In spite of hearts
pregnant with hatred,
Mary gives birth to LOVE.

It is not done!
It is not done!
It is not done!
The birthing is not over.
The blessings continue.
Angels wait in the wings.

SCRIPTURE READING *LECTURA DE LAS ESCRITURAS* Genesis 21:14-19
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Rev. Bechtold

So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar. He placed it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. Then she walked away and wandered in the wilderness of Beer-Sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she thrust the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat herself down before him some way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, “Let me not see the death of the child.” So, she sat before him and she lifted up her voice and she wept. And God heard the voice of the boy, and the messenger of God called to Hagar from the heavens, and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Rise, lift the boy and hold him with your hand, for a great nation of him I will make.” Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and let the boy drink.

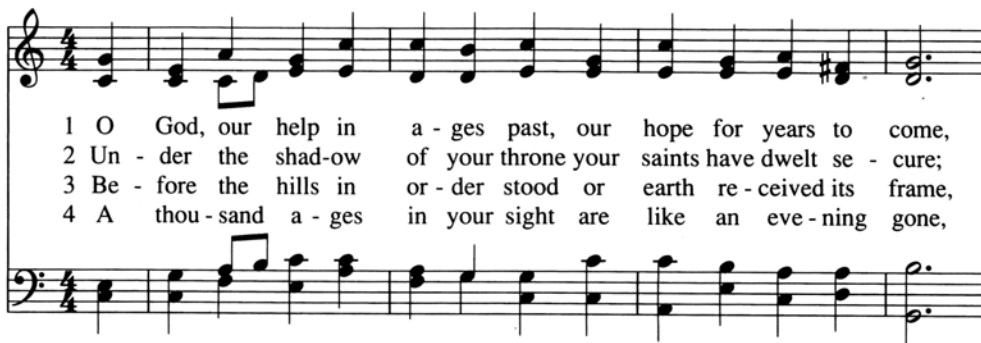
ANTHEM *EL HIMNO*

Peace I Leave With You Amy Beach
Plymouth Choir; Eliza Woodyard, Director

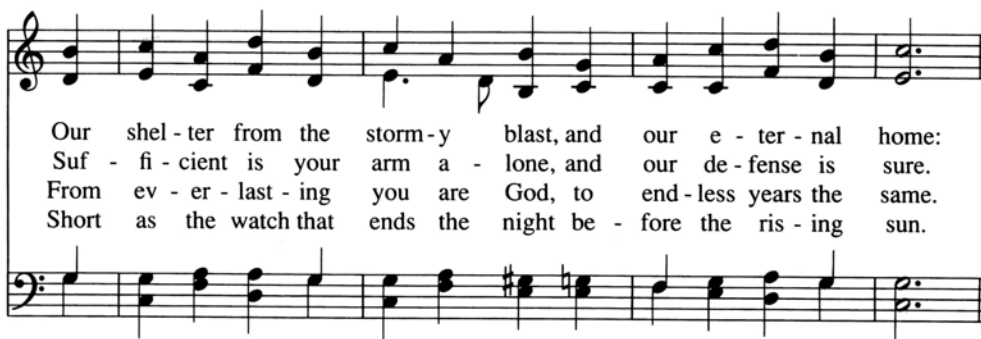
SERMON *SERMÓN* Rev. Bechtold

HYMN OF COMMITMENT *HIMNO DE COMPROMISO*

O God, Our Help in Ages Past (NCH #25) ST. ANNE



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad-ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream,
soon bears us all away;
We fly for - got - ten, as a dream
fades at the o - pen - ing day.

6 O God, our help in a - ges past,
our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while trou - bles last,
and our e - ter - nal home!

BENEDICTION *BENDICIÓN* Rev. Bechtold

POSTLUDE *POSTLUDIO*

Trumpet Air Georg Philipp Telemann

Peter Nelson-King, trumpet

Dr. Lee Peterson, piano



ANNOUNCEMENTS

American Mosaic Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Immersion Workshop Series continues every Sunday through February 2, 12–1:30 pm in Hildebrand Hall. Gain new insights and practical tools to build respect, inclusion and belonging in organizations and communities. Please join us.

We Rise AGAINST Project 2025 Rally and march on MLK Day, Monday, January 20: 11 am rally at Garfield High School (400 23rd Ave, Seattle) with Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown as keynote speaker. March begins at 12:30 pm. Read more in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Plan to Attend Plymouth's 155th Annual Meeting Sunday, February 16, after worship in Hildebrand Hall and live online. Light lunch provided. The Annual Report will be reviewed, and your vote is needed to install lay leadership and approve the 2025 budget for our church family.

Volunteers Wanted to staff a children and youth table in the Lounge during the service. We are looking to provide a space geared towards the youngest in our midst with activities during worship. If you feel called to be a part of this ministry, please email Rev. Kevin Bechtold, KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Help Provide Comfort The Community & Care Board requests your help to provide items for comfort bags to be distributed to visitors in need. Please bring gloves, socks, tissues, hand sanitizer and shelf-stable snacks. Items can be left in the bin by the Welcome Table in the Lounge on Sundays.

Born to be Wild Conference Men's Retreat at Pilgrim Firs January 31–February 2, 2025, led by Pastor Bill Comfort. All believers, seekers and doubters who identify as male are welcome.

Registration deadline is January 15. Link to register and more info in news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Believing that God's love transcends all human distinctions,
Plymouth welcomes people of all races and cultures,
of varied social and economic conditions
and regardless of sexual orientation.

We are open and affirming of all people,
and we call all people to the cost and joy of Christian discipleship.