

Illumine

10:30 AM SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023

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, Twitter and Instagram.



The church office will be closed during concerns about the coronavirus.

Check PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for updates.

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

DBlair@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 29, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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.

153RD ANNUAL MEETING TODAY

Plan to attend Plymouth's 153rd Annual Meeting today after worship.

The Annual Report will be reviewed, and your vote is needed to install new lay leadership and approve the 2023 budget for our church family.

Celebrate 2022 and look ahead to 2023. Join in person or online.

PRELUDE *Evening Shade*

From *Thumbnail Sketches of A Day in the Life of a Washerwoman*

by Florence Price (1887-1953)

Joe Williams, Piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Kevin Bechtold

One: Children of God: welcome!
Welcome to this place of love and grace,

Many: Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

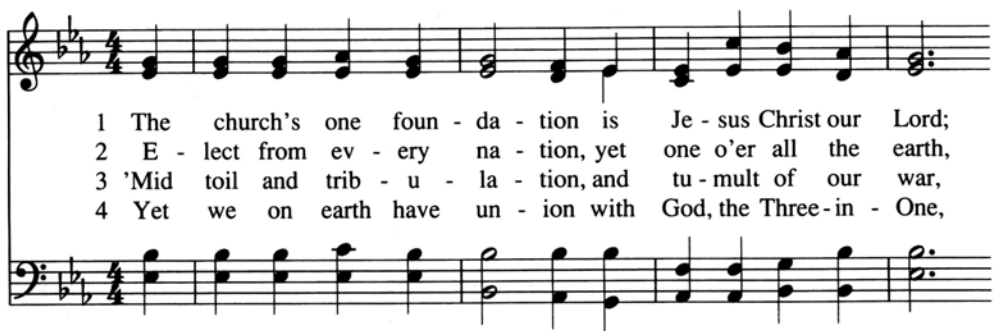
One: God invites all of us to be a part of the
beloved community,

Many: God invites all of us to share in the good news:

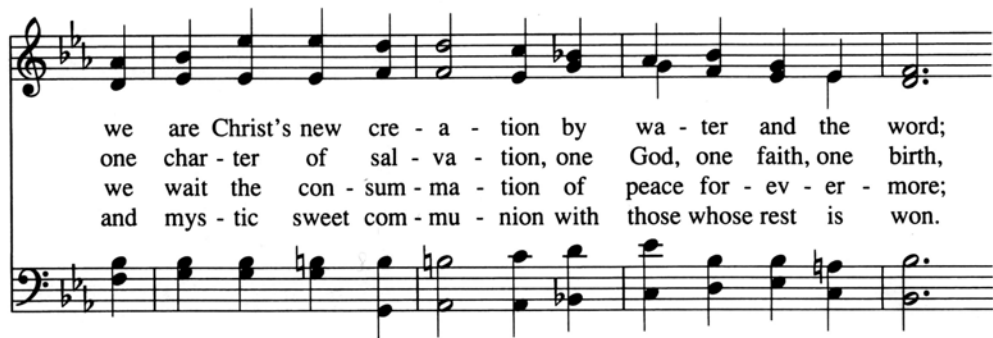
One: We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved,
just as we are.

All: In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

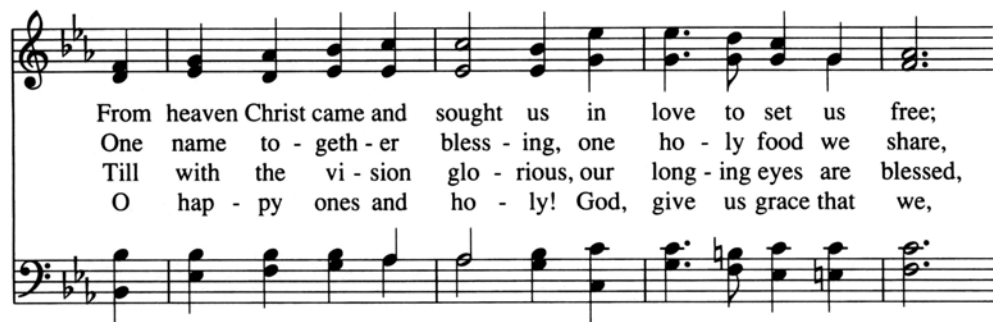
HYMN *The Church's One Foundation* AURELIA



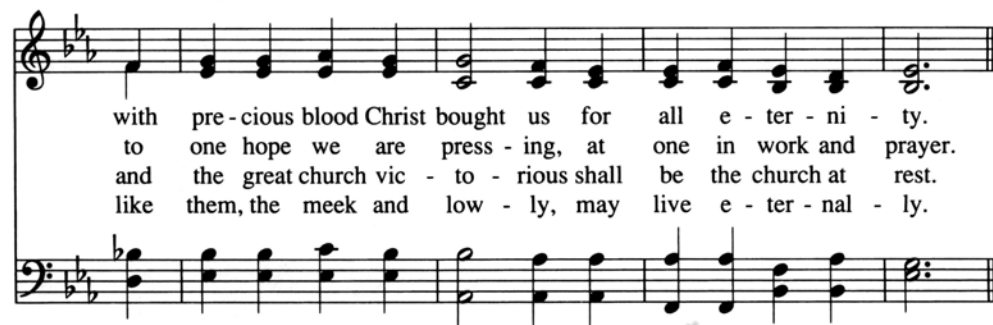
1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ our Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,
 4 Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three-in - One,



we are Christ's new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;
 one char - ter of sal - va - tion, one God, one faith, one birth,
 we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
 One name to - geth - er bless - ing, one ho - ly food we share,
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blessed,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! God, give us grace that we,



with pre - cious blood Christ bought us for all e - ter - ni - ty.
 to one hope we are press - ing, at one in work and prayer.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION. June Hayakawa-Fung

As people of faith, let us confess our sin and our need for
God and one another. May this prayer of confession hang in
the air, and invite us to be more than we've been as a people.
Hear this poem:

When I Realized My Friend Was White
by Keith Yamashita

I am five
He is five
His name is Greg
He has an older brother Mark
We are playing
He says, “You are a ch*nk, and I can’t play with you.”
“Am I what?” I ask
“You are a dirty ch*nk. I can’t play with you.”
I didn’t know what he meant, so I rebuffed him
“I am not dirty. I just took a bath.”
“No, you are a ch*nk. My brother says you are a ch*nk, and we can’t
play with ch*nks.”
“What is a ch*nk?” I ask
“Don’t know, but you are one.” Greg says
But I didn’t know
I had never heard that word before
I didn’t know why I was one
“Are you a ch*nk?” I ask Greg.
“I don’t know. I need to go ask Mark.”
Mark comes back.
He pulls his round eyes flat with his fingers, like this.
“All slanty, and that is why we ain’t gonna play with you.”
I tried for the next week to open my eyes wide.
I failed.
My parents had to explain to me that
Greg and Mark were white
And that I was Chinese and Japanese
Years later, I found out that my parents moved me
to this all-white neighborhood so we’d fit into America—
So that we’d become Americans



*Keith Yamashita is
founder and chairman
of the consulting firm
SYPartners and
occasional poet.*

ASSURANCE OF GRACE Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

The One who raises the sun each morning
and lifts high the moon at night,
ushers us too,
through cycles of rising, falling, and rising again.
Though we stumble, God lifts us.
Though we doubt, God remains.
Though we get weary, God revives.
We must, however, tell the truth.
We must, however, hear the truth
without running or hiding.
Where there is truth, there is God.

SHARING OF PEACE Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

Those online are invited to put greetings in the chat on the website or on YouTube.

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

Happy birthday to you;
Anniversary, too!
We are so excited to share them with you.
May God bless and keep you in all that you do.
Happy birthday! (And anniversary!)
Happy birthday! (And anniversary!)
Happy birthday to you!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLERev. Donene Blair

God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Emily Blaine-Davis, Sue Ellen Daniel (Friend of Barb Laski), John Daniels, Lauren Davis, Mark and JT Edwards, Susan Emerson (Mother of Kate Forrester), Diane Folkert & Family (Mother-in-law of Ara Lawrence), Megan French (Niece of Sue Jones) & David Dixon & Family, Michelle J. Bennett, Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), Mamadou Diakhate (Friend of Floyd Gossett), Montecino Family, Jose Robles and Family, Doug Ryan (Brother of Mary Ryan), Abby Scott (Friend of Anne Mohundro), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon)

Our hearts are with Albert Gordon and family on the passing of his wife Della Gordon May 4, 2022.



PRAYER OF JESUS

**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 Rev. Bechtold

Jesus felt tender compassion for the suffering people he met. He realized that many workers would be needed for a great harvest of mercy and love. This day you and I are called to this way of being in a garden that longs for our touch. This very day, you and I are called to a sweet labor of generosity, healing, and peace. Let us bring our gifts, then, so that the ministry of this church will be a growing, vibrant witness to God's love. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

*To set up a one time or recurring donation to Plymouth Church
click on the "Give" link on PlymouthChurchSeattle.org or
CashApp your donation to \$PlymouthUCCSeattle.
We give thanks for your generosity.*

OFFERING MUSIC

Sonatine part 1, Pierre Sancan
Reanna Lee, flute; Joe Williams, piano

DOXOLOGY

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Rev. Bechtold

Loving God, we have so many reasons to say “thank You” to You. Your generosity, grace, and mercy are astounding and we pray that the gifts we offer in worship and throughout the week might be used in Your name. Help us to be generous with our money, but also with our talents and time. Strengthen us to recognize Your blessings, to be grateful, and to respond accordingly. Amen.

CONTEMPORARY VOICE

darling one—
you precious mess—
you exhausted, grieving, hollowed, hallowed, hallelujah of a
human—
today, if even for a moment, may you feel:
your own beating heart
your own courageous coeur
your chest rising and falling with breath
which is spirit
which is lifeforce
keeping pulse
marking time
finding space—
regardless of how you are feeling
no matter what you are capable of
or not—
and, just for a moment
may you find rest
a bit of ease, held
in that sacred rhythm
that cannot be
without you
because you, you precious mess,
have breath and heart and lifeforce
pulsing through you, yet.



Rev. Anna Blaedel is co-founder and co-director at enfleshed. Anna also serves as Director of Spiritual Formation and Campus Minister for the University of Iowa Wesley Foundation.

— Rev. Anna Blaedel, *Enfleshed*

READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE Tobit 13:11–17

(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation)

read by Rev. Blair

A bright light will shine forth to all the ends of the earth;
many peoples from far away will come to you,
inhabitants of the furthest edges of the earth to your holy name,
bearing their gifts in their hands for the Ruler of heaven.

Generation after generation will give joyful praise in you;
the name of the elect city will endure forever.

Cursed are all who speak a harsh word against you;
cursed are all who overthrow you
and pull down your walls,
all who topple your towers
and set your homes on fire.

But blessed forever will be all who revere you.

Go, then, and rejoice over the daughters and sons of the righteous,
for they will be gathered together
and will praise the Founder of eternity.

Blessed are those who love you,
and blessed are those who rejoice in your well-being.
Blessed also are all people who grieve with you
because of all your afflictions;
for in you they will rejoice
and witness all your glory forever.

My soul blesses the Sovereign God, the great Ruler!

For Jerusalem will be built as God's home for all eternity.

How blessed I will be if a remnant of my descendants should survive
to see your glory and acknowledge the Ruler of heaven.

The gates of Jerusalem will be built with sapphire and emerald,
and all your walls with precious stones.

The towers of Jerusalem will be built with gold,
and their ramparts with pure gold.

The streets of Jerusalem will be paved
with ruby and with stones of Ophir.

The gates of Jerusalem will sing hymns of joy,
and all her houses will cry, 'Hallelujah!

Blessed be the God of Israel!
and the blessed will bless the holy Name forever and ever."

ANTHEM. *Sonatine part 2* Pierre Sancan
 Reanna Lee, flute; Joe Williams, piano

MESSAGE *The Other Side of Through* Dr. Brown

HYMN *Lean on Me* Bill Withers

Sometimes in our lives
 We all have pain
 We all have sorrow
 But if we are wise
 We know that there's always tomorrow

Lean on me
 When you're not strong
 And I'll be your friend
 I'll help you carry on...
 For it won't be long
 Till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on

Please swallow your pride
 If I have things you need to borrow
 For no one can fill
 Those of your needs that you won't let show
 You just call on me, sibling, when you need a hand
 We all need somebody to lean on
 I just might have a problem that you'll understand
 We all need somebody to lean on

Lean on me
 When you're not strong
 And I'll be your friend
 I'll help you carry on...
 For it won't be long
 Till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on

You just call on me, sibling
 When you need a hand
 We all need somebody to lean on
 I just might have a problem that you'll understand
 We all need somebody to lean on

If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'm right up the road
I'll share your load
If you just call me
Call me!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTIONDr. Brown

POSTLUDE

Preludes to Black History Monthby Joe Williams



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Finding Meaning and Hope & Dying Well Workshop for those contemplating mortality and what a good death means. Led by palliative care chaplain Lorraine Leist. At Plymouth and online 9 am-2:30 pm, Saturday, February 4. Link to register in news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Contact JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org with questions or to volunteer.

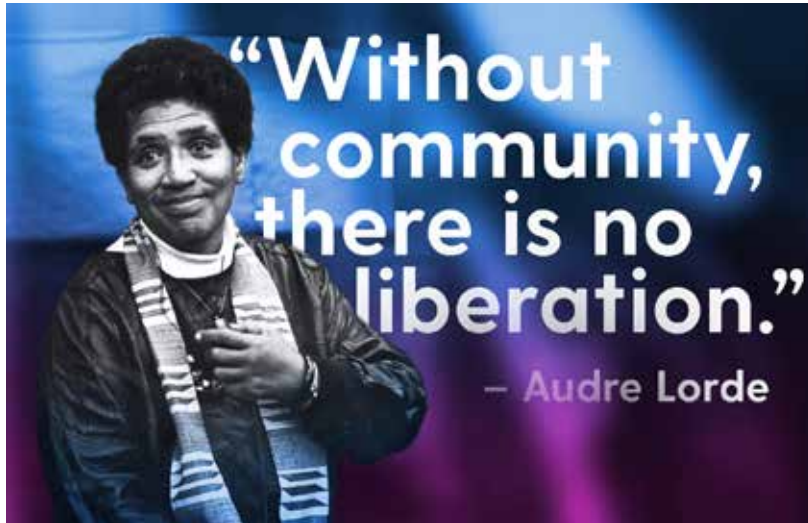
Immigrant Rights 101 Free virtual training by Northwest Immigrant Rights Project to help volunteers and social workers learn to better serve and support immigrants. Online via Zoom, 10 am-1 pm PT February 1. Visit Nwirp.org to learn more and register.

Put Faith in Action at Interfaith Advocacy Day in Olympia, 9 am-3 pm Thursday, February 9. Meet with legislators to bring our message of compassion and justice to elected leaders. Read more and find link to register in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Undoing Institutional Racism Workshops are designed to educate, challenge and empower people to "undo" the racist structures that hinder effective social change. Next workshop is February 16-18. See full schedule and details PinwSeattle.org.

Be The Church You are invited to volunteer at Plymouth Church! Remember that covenant giving also includes your time and using your gifts. There are many tasks that you can do. Training provided if needed. See this week's *Herald* or PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for some opportunities.

Did You Know...You can view past services on our website, PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Under the "Worship" tab, click "Recent Services." You can also view past services, musical performances and special events on our YouTube channel, Plymouth Church UCC.



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.