

Illumine

10:30 AM SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 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, FEBRUARY 5, 2023

FOURTH 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.

This Sunday we share together Holy Communion in our worship. For those with us online, before the time of the service you will want to prepare some bread and juice of some sort. Remember this is a meal of grace, so whatever “bread” or “juice” you choose will more than suffice. Set these elements in the sacred place where you experience worship. Thank you for your preparation.

PRELUDE

Allegro Molto from Sonata in C major, Hob.XVI:35 Joseph Haydn

Joe Williams, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP June Hayakawa-Fung

by Langston Hughes

One: I dream a world where [a person]
No other one will scorn,

**Many: Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn**

One: I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom’s way,

**Many: Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.**

One: A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,

**Many: Will share the bounties of the earth
And every[one] is free,**

One: Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,

**All: Attends the needs of all [hu]mankind-
Of such I dream, my world!**

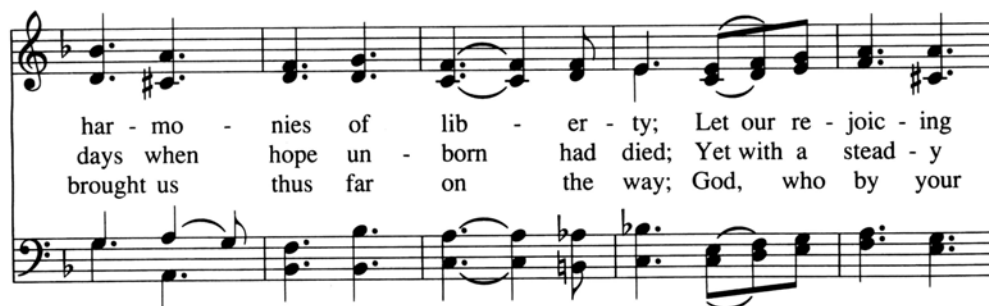


Langston Hughes was an American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright and columnist. One of the earliest innovators of the literary art form called jazz poetry, Hughes is best known as a leader of the Harlem Renaissance.

HYMN *Lift Every Voice and Sing* LIFT EVERY VOICE



1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the
 2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has



har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing
 days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y
 brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your



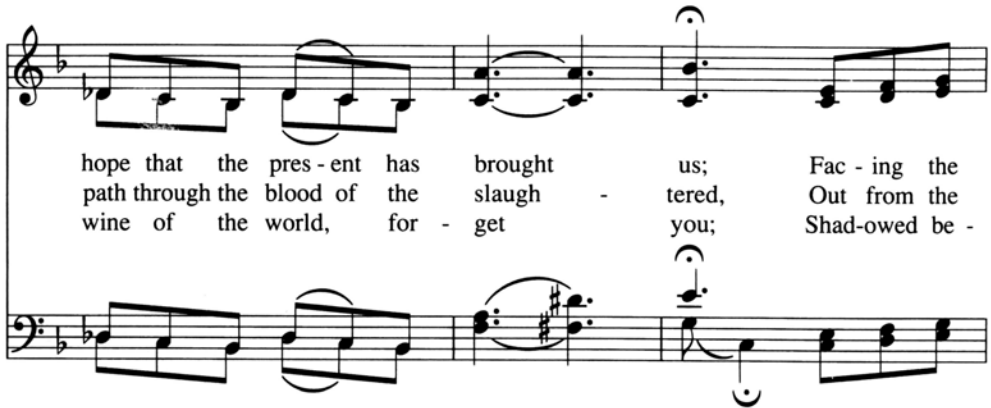
rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the
 beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our
 might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the



roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the
 peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a
 path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the



faith that the harsh past has taught us, Sing a song full of the
 way that with tears has been wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our
 plac - es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the



hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the
 path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, Out from the
 wine of the world, for - get you; Shad - owed be -



ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, let us march
 gloom - y past, till now we stand at last where the white
 neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our



on till vic - to - ry is won.
 gleam of our bright star is cast.
 God, true to our na - tive land.

WELCOME. Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome at our table to share the bread and the cup, whether you are a believer, a seeker, a skeptic, doubter or somewhere in between.

INVITATION



COMMUNION 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)

Prayer by Maya Angelou

Father, Mother, God
Thank you for your presence
during the hard and mean days.
For then we have you to lean upon.
Thank you for your presence
during the bright and sunny days,
for then we can share that which we have
with those who have less.
And thank you for your presence
during the Holy Days, for then we are able
to celebrate you and our families
and our friends.
For those who have no voice,
we ask you to speak.
For those who feel unworthy,
we ask you to pour your love out
in waterfalls of tenderness.

For those who live in pain,
we ask you to bathe them
in the river of your healing.
For those who are lonely, we ask
you to keep them company.
For those who are depressed,
we ask you to shower upon them
the light of hope.
Dear Creator, You, the borderless
sea of substance, we ask you to give to all the
world that which we need most — Peace.

 A variety of faithful addresses for God (Creator, Mother, Holy One, Father)
are welcome at Plymouth UCC, including in the Lord's Prayer. 

PRAYER OF JESUS

**Holy One, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
Thy Kindom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kindom, the power, and the glory for ever.
Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION HYMN *Our God Is Blessing Me* Trad. Gospel

Our God is blessing me
Right now, oh right now
Our God is blessing me
Right now, oh right now
God woke me up this morning
And started me on my way
Our God is blessing me right now.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING. Rev. Kevin Bechtold

God, help us to value one another, value community over individual needs with a vision for a progressive future that acknowledges our strength together. May we experience the healthy power that comes when we are authentically welcome. Thank you for a table to where we can taste and see that God is good, where we can fed until we want no more. Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE Rev. Bechtold

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

CALL TO OFFERING Rev. Donene Blair

God tells us over and over in the Bible not to be afraid. Our gifts this morning are one way that we trust God even in a world that keeps telling us to be afraid. May we let go of thinking that we are on our own, and live each day in graceful connection to God and one another. 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

Improvisation Jimmy James

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. Blair

**O Lord, giver of life and source of freedom, I know
that all I have received is from your hand. You call us
to be stewards of our abundance, the caretakers of all
you have entrusted to us. Help us to always use our
gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously.
May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love
of Jesus Christ in our lives. Amen.**

CONTEMPORARY VOICEJames Baldwin



*James Baldwin was an
American writer. He garnered
acclaim for his work across several
mediums, including essays,
novels, plays, and poems.*

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEWMatthew 8:14–22
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation)

When Jesus entered Peter’s house, he saw his mother-in-law laid out and fevered, and Jesus touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him. That evening they brought Jesus many who were demon-possessed and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick in order to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, “He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.”

But when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he commanded that they go over to the other side. A religious scholar then approached and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have dens and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Woman has not where to lay his head.” Another of his disciples said to him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” But Jesus said to him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their dead.”

ANTHEM *What’s Going On*Marvin Gaye
performed by Jimmy James

MESSAGE *On Following*Dr. Brown

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

Ain't Gonna Let Nobody (Turn Me Around) . . . Traditional African American

Ain't gonna let nobody turn me round
turn me round, turn me round
Ain't gonna let nobody turn me round
I'm gonna keep on walking, keep on talking
Marching up to Freedom Land
Ain't gonna no hatred turn me round
turn me round, turn me round
Ain't gonna let no hatred turn me round
I'm gonna keep on walking, keep on talking
Marching up to Freedom Land
Ain't gonna let injustice turn me round
turn me round, turn me round
Ain't gonna let injustice turn me round
I'm gonna keep on walking, keep on talking
Marching up to Freedom Land
Ain't gonna let nobody turn me round
turn me round, turn me round
Ain't gonna let nobody turn me round
I'm gonna keep on walking, keep on talking
Marching up to Freedom Land

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Dr. Brown

POSTLUDE. *Improvisation* Joe Williams



JOIN DISCUSSION AFTER WORSHIP



Join Director of Music and Arts Joe Williams and members from the worship team immediately following the service in Hildebrand Hall. This will be an opportunity to express your artistic preferences for worship, sign up for vocal and instrumental ensembles and hear our plans for unifying choirs and presenting world class organ music. Light refreshments will be available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Connect with Congregational Council Members of the Plymouth community are invited to meet with Council members to ask questions, make suggestions, and express their hopes for Plymouth. Council members are available online via Zoom 7-8 pm the second Wednesday of each month. Next opportunity is 7 pm February 8. Email Diane Jacobsen by 5 pm the day of the meeting for the Zoom link.

Welcome Reverend Robert Wright Lee Next Sunday, February 12, we welcome The Reverend Robert Wright Lee, IV to preach at Plymouth. Rob is an author, activist, public theologian, and preacher. He has written extensively for both secular and religious news outlets. Rob believes preaching and writing are his native languages and expressions of the abundance of God. Please join us in person or online next Sunday, 10:30 am February 12, to welcome Rev. Wright Lee and hear his message.

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.

Help Wanted If you can provide purchased, pre-packaged food and arrange it on a platter in the kitchen before worship for coffee hour following worship, please contact Toni Arthur: TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Your help with this ministry of hospitality is greatly appreciated!

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.

Call to Conscience This February, Rainier Avenue Radio converts the Columbia City Theater into the Call to Conscience Black History Month Museum to celebrate the achievements and the achievers of the Pacific Northwest, recognizing the Black excellence that shines in the region today. Featuring installations by organizations like the Black Heritage Society of Washington, Tacoma's Buffalo Soldier Museum and BlackPast.org. Museum runs Tuesdays through Sundays from 11 am-7 pm. Advance registration is encouraged: visit CallToConscience.world.

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.

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.