

10:30 AM SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 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](mailto: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](mailto:KBrown@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

[KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

[JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

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

[DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

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10:30 AM SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025  
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

*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***

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing . . . . .* arranged by Dr. Lee Peterson  
Dr. Lee Peterson, piano

**WELCOME *BIENVENIDA*** . . . . . June Hayakawa-Fung

**SHARING PEACE *COMPARTIENDO LA PAZ***

**CALL TO WORSHIP** . . . . . Ms. Hayakawa-Fung  
***LLAMADO A ADORAR***

One: There is a good word for you if you are weary.

**Many: It is the Word of Love, deeper than  
every despair.**

One: There is a good word if you have ever  
felt unworthy.

**Many: It is the Word of Hope, “Do not be afraid!”**

One: There is a good word that needs to be heard.

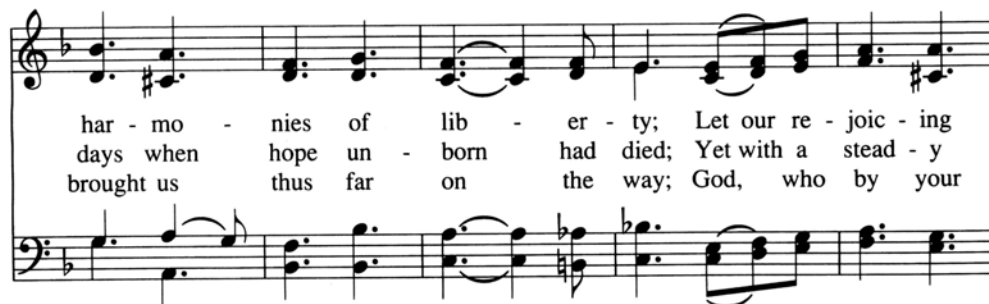
**All: It is the Word of Life, that raises up  
abundant blessings.**

## OPENING HYMN *HIMNO DE APERTURA*


*Lift Every Voice and Sing* (NCH #593) . . . . .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.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION.** . . . . . Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

**ORACIÓN DE CONFESIÓN**

One: Holy One, it is easy to succumb to weariness  
when our work has seemed to yield little goodness.

**Many: Hope-crushing night can seem so long.**

One: Yet You call us to keep putting out into the deep,  
facing the reality of our emptiness.

**Many: Sometimes it is of our own making.  
At other times, pressures beyond have  
submerged us to the point of losing our  
breath.**

One: So we release everything to you. We pray that  
Your promised forgiveness will continue to be  
trustworthy and true.

**All: Let it raise us up for some work of  
abundance made possible by your grace.  
We pray this in the name of the one You  
raised to life, Jesus the Christ.**

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE.** . . . . . Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

**SEGURIDAD DE GRACIA**

Friends, hear the words of Jesus, “Do not be afraid!” There is  
nothing in our past that matters more than what God can do,  
beginning now. We are forgiven by the one who has endured  
the depths of death and has risen to ever-new life. Not only  
are we forgiven, but we are also sent to fish for others, whom  
God also yearns to gather with the net of holy love. This is  
the Good News! You can trust it with your life.

**Thanks be to God!**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE . . . . . Rev. Kevin Bechtold**  
**ORACIONES DEL PUEBLO**

*All who live in fear of expedited removal, detention, or deportation, 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, Shaniece (Friend of Karen Clark), Patricia Valentine, Gevan Woodke (Friend of Karen Clark)*

*Our hearts are with Tara Watts and family on the one-year anniversary of the passing of her mother, Christine Watts*



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



**MUSICAL INTERLUDE *INTERLUDIO* MUSICAL**

*Peace Like a River/God is so Good . . . . .* arranged by Dr. Lee Peterson  
Dr. Lee Peterson, piano

**CONTEMPORARY VOICE *VOZ CONTEMPORÁNEA***

*selected quotes of James Baldwin*

“You were born where you were born and faced the future that you faced because you were Black and for no other reason. The limits of your ambition were, thus, expected to be set forever. You were born into a society which spelled out with brutal clarity, and in as many ways as possible, that you were a worthless human being. You were not expected to aspire to excellence: you were expected to make peace with mediocrity.”

“America became white—the people who, as they claim, ‘settled’ the country became white—because of the necessity of denying the Black presence, and justifying the Black subjugation. No community can be based on such a principle—or, in other words, no community can be established on so genocidal a lie.”

“What is it you want me to reconcile myself to? I was born here almost 60 years ago. I’m not going to live another 60 years. You always told me it takes time. It’s taken my father’s time, my mother’s time, my uncle’s time, my brothers’ and my sisters’ time, my nieces’ and nephews’ time. How much time do you want for your progress?”



*James Baldwin was an American writer of essays, novels, plays and poems.*

“And how did they get that way? By deciding that they were white. By opting for safety instead of life. By persuading themselves that a Black child’s life meant nothing compared with a white child’s life. By abandoning their children to the things white men could buy. By informing their children that Black women, Black men and Black children had no human integrity that those who call themselves white were bound to respect. And in this debasement and definition of Black people, they debased and defamed themselves.

“And have brought humanity to the edge of oblivion: because they think they are white. Because they think they are white, they do not dare confront the ravage and the lie of their history. Because they think they are white, they cannot allow themselves to be tormented by the suspicion that all [people] are [siblings].”

**SCRIPTURE READING *LECTURA DE LAS ESCRITURAS* . . . . . Luke 7:20-35**

(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation)

read by Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

When the men had come to Jesus, they said, “John the Baptizer has sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the One Who is Coming, or are shall we wait for another?’” At that moment he, Jesus, healed many people of diseases, illnesses, and evil spirits and to many blind persons he gave sight. Then Jesus answered them, “Go and take this news to John, what you have seen and heard:

those who were blind receive sight,  
those who were lame walk,  
those who were diseased-in-skin are cleansed,  
those who were deaf hear,  
those who were dead are raised,  
those who are poor have good news proclaimed to them.

And blessed is the [person] who is not scandalized by me.”

When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you all go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A person dressed in luxurious robes? Look, those whose clothing is lavish and who live in self-indulgence are in royal palaces. What then did you all go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John; yet the least in the reign of God is greater than he.” Now all the people who heard this, including the tax collectors, professed the righteousness of God, being baptized with the baptism of John. But by refusing to be baptized by him, the Pharisees and the legal scholars rejected God’s counsel for themselves.



“To what then will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children in the marketplace sitting and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you all, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you all did not weep.’

For John the Baptizer has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you all say, ‘He has a demon.’ The Son of Woman has come eating and drinking, and you all say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet Wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”

**ANTHEM *EL HIMNO***

*With Prayer And Supplication . . . . .* Amy Beach  
Plymouth Choir; Eliza Woodyard, Director

**SERMON *SERMÓN* . . . . .***On Being the One . . . . .* Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

**HYMN OF COMMITMENT *HIMNO DE COMPROMISO***

*I Must Tell Jesus, vs 1-3 (NCH #486) . . . . .* ORWISBURG

1) I must tell Jesus all of my trials,  
I cannot bear these burdens alone;  
In my distress my Jesus will help me,  
who ever loves and cares for God’s own.

***Refrain:***

I must tell Jesus!  
I must tell Jesus!  
I cannot bear my burdens alone;  
I must tell Jesus!  
I must tell Jesus!  
Jesus can help me, Jesus alone.

2) I must tell Jesus all of my troubles,  
Jesus my kind, compassionate Friend;  
If I but ask, my Savior will answer,  
all of my troubles quickly will end. [*Refrain*]

3) Tempted and tried, I need a great Savior,  
One who can help my burdens to bear;  
I must tell Jesus, I must tell Jesus;  
who all my cares and sorrows will share. [*Refrain*]

**BENEDICTION *BENDICIÓN*** . . . . . Dr. Brown

**POSTLUDE *POSTLUDIO***

*Lift Every Voice and Sing/We Shall Overcome.* . . . . arr. Dr. Lee Peterson  
Dr. Lee Peterson, piano



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Sound Medicine Meditation*** Tory Trujillo offers a monthly deep healing session **TODAY**, after worship in Hildebrand Hall (start time is determined by the length of Sunday service). Session lasts between 60 and 75 minutes. Suggested Donation \$20.

***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.

***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.

***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](mailto:KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

***Study the Bible with Plymouth*** Wednesdays at 9 am or Thursdays at 7 pm. The Zoom link in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) will be the same every week for both Wednesday morning and Thursday evening studies.

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.