

10:30 AM SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 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

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SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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

MUSIC OF PREPARATION *MÚSICA DE PREPARACIÓN*

Brown Baby. music and words by Oscar Brown, Jr.

arr. Jeremy Siskind

Julia Bullock, Soprano, Christian Reif, Pianist

PRELUDE *PRELUDIO*

Variations on We Are One In The Spirit, Part One. arr. Dr. Lee Peterson

Dr. Lee Peterson, piano

WELCOME *BIENVENIDA*. Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

SHARING PEACE *COMPARTIENDO LA PAZ*

CALL TO WORSHIP June Hayakawa-Fung

LLAMADO A ADORAR

One: Let us rejoice a love that never ceases!

Many: Rejoice, and, as we are able, clap our hands!
(clap)

One: Let us celebrate the creativity that designed the universe.

Many: Celebrate, and, as we are able, stomp our feet!
(stomp)

One: Let us recognize the hope that cannot be
quenched, the pursuit of repair and reconciliation
we claim, no matter the cost:

Many: Recognize, and as we are able, shout for joy!
(shout)

One: These are the things that are of God,

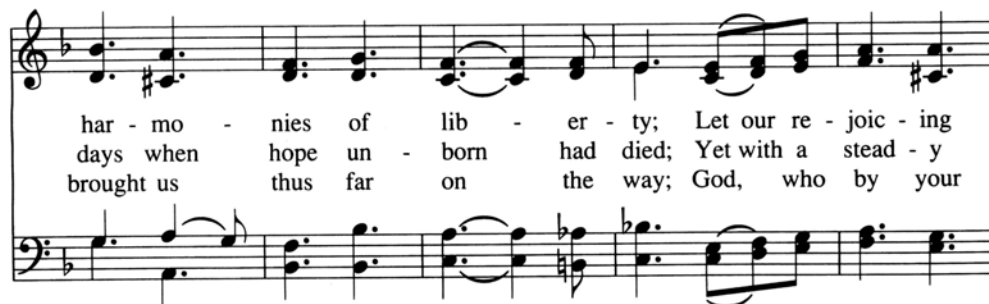
All: Let us follow the ways of God.

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

by Langston Hughes

One: I dream a world where one
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,
**Many: Attends the needs of all humankind-
Of such I dream, my world!**



Langston Hughes was an American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright and columnist.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE. Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

SEGURIDAD DE GRACIA

by Sojourner Truth

As we accept God's assurance think of one of the things for which you long the most. Hear the words of Sojourner Truth first, and the second time, say out loud your word of concern when prompted.

One: O, God, you know I have no money, but you can make the people do for me, and you must make the people do for me. I will never give you peace till you do, God.
**Many: O, God, you know I have no —, but
you can make the people do for me, and
you must make the people do for me. I will
never give you peace till you do, God
Amen**



Sojourner Truth was an American abolitionist and women's rights activist.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLEDr. Brown
ORACIONES DEL PUEBLO

One: Let us not rush to the language of healing, before understanding the fullness of the injury and the depth of the wound.

Many: Let us not rush to offer a band-aid, when the gaping wound requires surgery and complete reconstruction.

One: Let us not offer false equivalencies, thereby diminishing the particular pain being felt in a particular circumstance in a particular historical moment.

Many: Let us not speak of reconciliation without speaking of reparations and restoration, or how we can repair the breach and how we can restore the loss.

One: Let us not rush past the loss of this mother's child, this father's child ... someone's beloved other.\

Many: 1Let us not value property over people; let us not protect material objects while human lives hang in the balance

One: Let us not value a false peace over a righteous justice.

Many: Let us not be afraid to sit with the ugliness, the messiness, and the pain that is life in community together.

One: Let us not offer clichés to the grieving, those whose hearts are being torn asunder.

Instead ...

Many: Let us mourn Black and Brown men and women, those killed extrajudicially much too often.

One: Let us lament the loss of a person dead at the hands of a police officer and lament that we didn't protest when they described them as a demon

- Many:** **Let us weep at a criminal justice system, which is neither blind nor just.**
- One: Let us call for the mourning and the wailing people, those willing to rend their garments of privilege and ease, and sit in the ashes of this nation's original sin.
- Many:** **Let us be silent when we don't know what to say, still willing to move when the spirit says move.**
- One: Let us be humble and listen to the pain, rage and grief pouring from the lips of our neighbors and friends.
- Many:** **Let us with inherent power decrease, so that our siblings who live on the underside of history may increase.**
- One: Let us pray with our eyes open and our feet firmly planted on the ground.
- Many:** **Let us listen to the shattering glass and let us smell the purifying fires, that some call a riot, for it is the language of the unheard.**
- One: God, in your mercy ... Show us our own complicity in injustice. Convict us for our indifference. Forgive when we have remained silent, or worse when we asked for patience of those who have suffered too long.
- All:** **Never let us grow accustomed or acclimated to evil and unrighteousness.**

Source: excerpted and inspired by Dr. Yolanda Pierce 2014

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), Eleanor Fordyce, 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, Patricia Valentine, Shaniece (Friend of Karen Clark), Gevan Woodke (Friend of Karen Clark)

Our hearts are with Bob & Kate Forrester on the one year anniversary of the passing of their father and father-in-law, Bob Forrester, Sr.s



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 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.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE INTERLUDIO MUSICAL

Variations on We Are One In The Spirit, Part Two. . . . arr. Dr. Lee Peterson

Dr. Lee Peterson, piano

(Service continues next page)

ANNUAL MEETING TODAY

Plan to attend Plymouth's 155th Annual Meeting after worship today in Hildebrand Hall and live online (contact Rev. Kevin Bechtold for the Zoom link & passcode, KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Light lunch provided. The Annual Report will be reviewed, and your vote is needed to install new lay leadership and approve the 2025 budget for our church family. Celebrate 2024 and look ahead to 2025. Please join us for this important time to gather with our beloved community.

CONTEMPORARY VOICE *VOZ CONTEMPORÁNEA*

by *Becky Hemsley*

She sat at the back and they said she was
shy
She led from the front and they hated her
pride
They asked her advice and then questioned her
guidance
They branded her loud then were shocked by her
silence
When she shared no ambition, they said it was
sad
So she told them her dreams and they said she was
mad
They told her they'd listen then covered their
ears
And gave her a hug whilst they laughed at her
fears
And she listened to all of it, thinking she
should
Be the girl they told her to be, best as she
could
But one day she asked what was best for
herself
Instead of trying to please everyone
else
So she walked to the forest and stood with the
trees
She heard the wind whisper and dance with the
leaves
And she spoke to the willow, the elm and the
pine
And she told them what she'd been told, time after
time



*Becky Hemsley
is a British poet
and author.*

She told them she felt she was never enough
She was either too little or far, far too much
Too loud or too quiet, too fierce or too weak
Too wise or too foolish, too bold or too meek
Then she found a small clearing, surrounded by
firs
And she stopped and she heard what the trees said to
her
And she sat there for hours not wanting to
leave
For the forest said nothing, it just let her
breathe

SCRIPTURE READING *LECTURA DE LAS ESCRITURAS* Luke 7:36-50

(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation)

read by Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

Now one of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him and he went into the Pharisee's house and was seated. And suddenly, a woman who was in the city [known as] a sinner, having learned Jesus was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of perfumed ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began with her tears to bathe his feet and with the hairs of her head dried them. And she kissed his feet and anointed [them] with ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw it, he said to himself, "If this man was ever a prophet, he would know who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner." Then Jesus replied [to his thoughts] and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "Speak." "Two debtors had a certain moneylender had: one owed five hundred denarii [more than a year's earning], and the other fifty [almost two month's earning]. When they could not pay the moneylender canceled both debts. Now which of them will love their creditor more?" Simon replied and said, "I suppose the one for whom the moneylender forgave the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman Jesus said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; water for my feet you gave not, but she with her tears has bathed my feet and with her hair, dried them. No kiss [of peace] did you give me, but from when I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. Oil for my head you did not prepare, but with perfumed ointment she has anointed my feet. That is why I say to you, forgiven are her sins, which were many, thus she loves deeply. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." 48 And Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Then those who were reclining at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" And Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

ANTHEM *EL HIMNO*

Yesu Ni Wangu trad. *Swahili* song arr. Ruth Morris Gray
Plymouth Choir; Eliza Woodyard, Director

SERMON *SERMON* *Breaking Alabaster* Dr. Brown

RITUAL OF REPAIR AND RECONCILIATION

HYMN OF COMMITMENT *HIMNO DE COMPROMISO*

I Want Jesus to Go with Me (NCH #490) African American Spiritual

Unison



1 I want Je - sus to go with me;
2 In my tri - als, O com - fort me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, O stay with me;

I want Je - sus to go with me;
In my tri - als, O com - fort me;
When I'm in trou - ble, O stay with me;

All a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
When my heart is al - most break - ing,
When my head is bowed in sor - row,

O I want Je - sus to go with me.
O I want Je - sus to com - fort me.
O I want Je - sus to stay with me.

BENEDICTION *BENDICIÓN* Dr. Brown

And now, even as you step out in the Empire, Be not of this structure, but be: The light that liberates The salt that savors The hands that heal The water that washes, Until all have access to God's great and beautiful creation. Amen.

Source: Claudio Carvalhaes 2020 *Liturgies from Below, 462 Acts of Worship*:

Praying with People at the Ends of the World

POSTLUDE *POSTLUDIO*

Variations on We Are One In The Spirit, Part Three arr. Dr. Lee Peterson
Dr. Lee Peterson, piano



ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Welcome Liberation UCC, worshipping at Plymouth for the first time this Sunday.

Resist! Get prepared for nonviolent action in response to the Trump administration's actions. This training will be held 10 am-12 pm Monday, February 17, in the U-District. Free; advance registration required. See the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org to learn more and to register.

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.

Study the Bible with Plymouth Wednesdays at 9 am. The Zoom link in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org will be the same every week. We look forward to hearing from you.

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. Contact Toni Arthur: TAArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Members and Visitors can access Plymouth Guest wi-fi network using password: peaceonearth.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.