



**10:30 AM SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 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](http://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](mailto:KBrown@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

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

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

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

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

10:30 AM SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

*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.*

*Plymouth Church acknowledges the land that we occupy, which was  
stewarded by the Duwamish people, the first stewards of this land. We also offer  
a labor acknowledgement for the African American enslaved upon whose backs this country  
gained much of its wealth, as well as the work and lives of others who emigrated to this country.  
In our journey to become more fully the church, we honor our social location of power and privilege,  
and our position to do justice within and in the world, and recognize that such a statement  
is only the beginning of the work to which we are called.*

**PRELUDE**

*Herdboy's Song from Eight Memories in Watercolor . . . . . Tan Dun*  
Joe Williams, piano

**CALL TO WORSHIP** . . . . . Rev. Donene Blair

One: A love that never ceases,

**Many: A creativity that designed the universe,**

One; A hope that cannot be quenched,

**Many: A pursuit of reconciliation no matter the cost:**

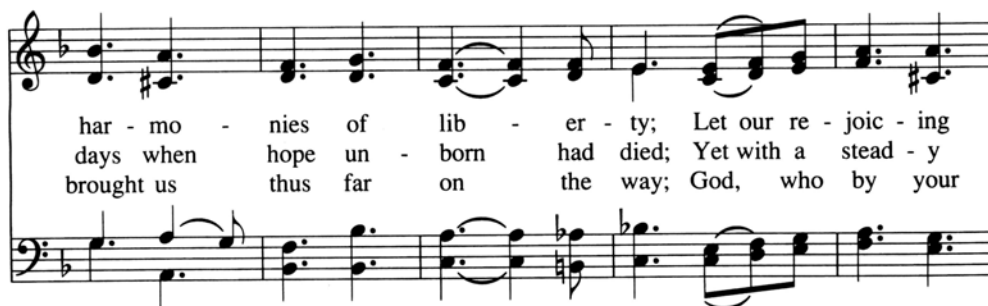
One: These are the things that are of God,

**All: Then, let us worship God.**

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



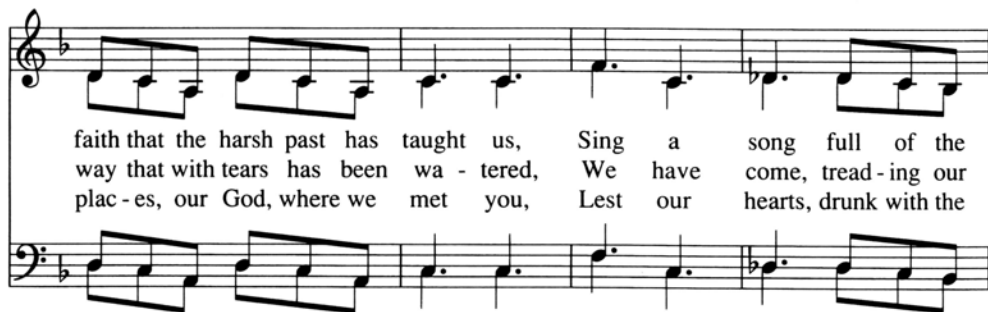
har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing  
 days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y  
 brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your



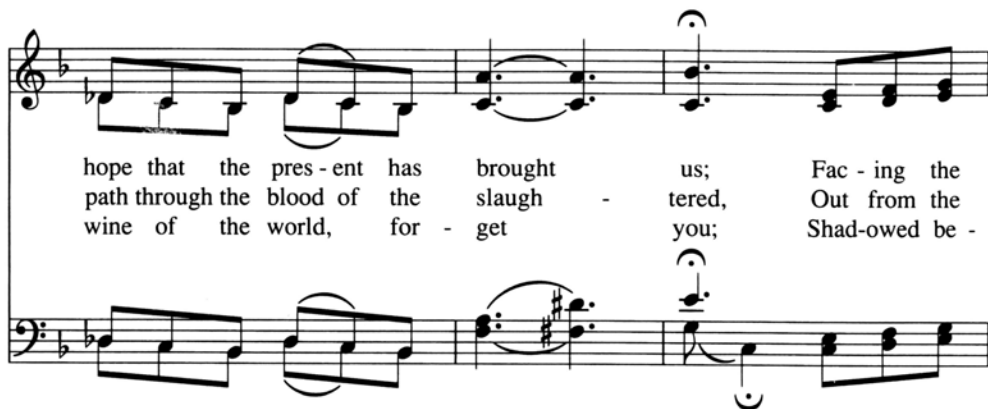
rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the  
 beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our  
 might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the



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.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION.** . . . . . Rev. Kevin Bechtold

**God of tender mercies, we admit that sometimes we don't know what to do with ourselves. We anger at the slightest insult and imagine great vengeance upon those who wronged us. We laze about in the good news of our faith and do not consider the deep commitment of faith. We care for ourselves, but too often, not for others. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive us, help us to repent, and make us whole.**

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE.** . . . . . Rev. Bechtold

Friends in love, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and be reminded of this surpassing grace, that your breath is sacred and all possibility to thrive is available to you. Alleluia!

**SHARING OF PEACE.** . . . . . **“Peace be with you”**

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

**WELCOME.** . . . . . Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

**CALL TO OFFERING** . . . . . June Hayakawa-Fung

The first law of thermodynamics states that matter cannot be created or destroyed. There is a similar moral principle in the Bible about good and evil. What you put out into God's creation will bring a return for good or evil. What you add to the wellbeing of life on earth, you receive back in fulfillment. What you take and scratch and steal will be taken, scratched, and stolen back.

God desires to multiply that good through us now while we're on earth. Let us now give with open hearts, freely and joyfully, as we do our part to transform the world.

*To set up a one time or recurring donation to Plymouth Church click on the “Give” link on [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) or CashApp your donation to \$PlymouthUCCSeattle. We give thanks for your generosity.*

## OFFERING MUSIC

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* . . . . . arr. by Maria Thompson Corley  
Featuring Amy Van Mechelen, soprano

## DOXOLOGY

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

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

**Loving God, with hearts filled with gratitude, we  
share our gifts. Your generosity, grace, and mercy are  
astounding and we give as an act of worship. Help us  
to be generous with our resources, with our talents  
and time. Strengthen us to recognize Your blessings,  
to be grateful, and to respond accordingly. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** . . . . . Rev. Blair

*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, Marni Good (Friend of Ricky Powell), Michelle J. Bennett, Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), Concetta Lewis (Sister of Jo-Ann Guthrie), 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 Richard and Catie Wilson on the passing of their son, Charlie.*

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

**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.**

## CONTEMPORARY VOICE . . . . *Be Melting Snow*. . . . . Rumi

Be Melting Snow  
Totally conscious, and apropos of nothing, you come to see me.  
Is someone here? I ask.  
The moon.  
The full moon is inside your house.  
My friends and I go running out into the street.  
I'm in here, comes a voice from the house, but we aren't listening.  
We're looking up at the sky.  
My pet nightingale sobs like a drunk in the garden.  
Ringdoves scatter with small cries, Where, Where.  
It's midnight.  
The whole neighborhood is up and out in the street thinking,  
The cat burglar has come back.  
The actual thief is there too, saying out loud,  
Yes, the cat burglar is somewhere in this crowd.  
No one pays attention.  
Lo, I am with you always means when you look for God,  
God is in the look of your eyes,  
in the thought of looking, nearer to you than your self,  
or things that have happened to you  
There's no need to go outside.  
Be melting snow.  
Wash yourself of yourself.  
A white flower grows in quietness.  
Let your tongue become that flower.



*Rumi was a 13th-century Persian poet, Islamic scholar and Sufi mystic.*



**READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW . . . . . Matthew 17:1-9**  
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Rev. Bechtold

Six days [after Jesus told his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and biblical scholars, and be killed], Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother and brought them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured in front of them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. Then, look! Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with him. Peter responded saying to Jesus, “Teacher, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will pitch three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He was still speaking when look! A cloud full of light overshadowed them! And then . . . ! A voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell upon the ground and were very much afraid. Then Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” They looked up and they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them saying, “Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Woman from the dead has been raised.”

**ANTHEM**

*A Change Is Gonna Come* . . . . . Sam Cooke  
Dr. Brown, accompanied by Joe Williams,  
Keon Price, dancer

**MESSAGE** . . . . . *Transfigured.* . . . . . Dr. Brown

**RITUAL**

*(Service continues next page)*

**MOVIES THAT MOVE**

Immediately following worship next Sunday, February 26, we will view “I Am Not Your Negro” in Hildebrand Hall. This event will be in-person only, with online discussion to follow Wednesday, March 1 via Zoom.

HYMN . . . . . *This Is a Day of New Beginnings, vss. 1,3,4. . . . .* BEGINNINGS

*Unison*

1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -

3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the

4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is

past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and

share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.

griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.

gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** . . . . .Dr. Brown

**POSTLUDE**

*To Spring, from Lyric Pieces, Op.43* . . . . .Edvard Grieg  
Joe Williams, piano



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***Seattle University Performing Arts and Arts Leadership*** presents Voices of Diversity: A Celebration of Classical Music's Underrepresented Composers, featuring Christian Howes, violin, and Joseph Williams, piano, in a free concert, Friday, February 24 at 7:30 pm, in the Chapel of St. Ignatius on the SU campus. No advance reservations needed.

***Teach-in for Lent*** The Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice, a sponsor of the Poor People's Campaign, will host a teach-in for Lent around their devotional "We Cry Justice," 6-7:30 pm Thursday, March 23 at Plymouth. Mark your calendars now and stay tuned for more details.

***Lent Begins Ash Wednesday, February 22*** Plymouth has purchased a limited number of print editions of the UCC Lenten Devotional, *Running from Empty*, along with the pdf edition available for download. To get a link to the pdf or a print copy, please contact Diane Jacobsen: DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

***Call to Conscience*** This February, the Columbia City Theater (4916 Rainier Ave S, Seattle) is transformed into the Call to Conscience Black History Month Museum to celebrate the achievements and the achievers of the Pacific Northwest. Read more at CallToConscience.world.

***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**. Email Diane Jacobsen by 5 pm the day of the meeting for the Zoom link.

***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.



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.