

10:30 AM SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 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

10:30 AM SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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

PRAISE AND WORSHIP *This is the Day*

PRELUDE *PRELUDIO*

Prelude No.1 Harold Craxton
Peter Nelson-King, piano

WELCOME *BIENVENIDA* 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!

SHARING PEACE *COMPARTIENDO LA PAZ*

OPENING HYMN *HIMNO DE APERTURA*

Sweet, Sweet Spirit (NCH #293) SWEET SWEET SPIRIT
There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of our God;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of God's Love

Refrain (x2):

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived,
When we shall leave this place.

CALL TO WORSHIP June Hayakawa-Fung
LLAMADO A ADORAR

One: We gather in the presence of our God, whose
favor is on justice, who loves the liberation of all.

Many: **We gather to celebrate freedom from
oppression and the full humanity of every
human and creature on the earth, and the
earth itself.**

One: We gather to celebrate the resilience and
contributions of the people of the African
diaspora, and to pledge our continued work
to build a just society-- seeing Black and Brown
people as critical and central to who we are.

Many: **We gather to watch, strive and pray.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *ORACIÓN DE CONFESIÓN*

On December 7, 1941, the Empire of Japan launched an attack on the US Naval Base at Pearl Harbor. In the following months hundreds of thousands of Japanese-Americans were rounded up and sent to internment camps under suspicion of disloyalty to the United States. But the feelings that paved the road to internment began long before the attack. For more than 80 years Asian immigrants were viewed as economic threats, spurring various laws that effectively banned them from the country. For those who made it to America, the lingering resentment culminated after Pearl Harbor.

Motivated by vocal outcries from politicians and military officials, FDR signed Executive Order 9066, empowering the US Army to designate areas from which any or all persons may be excluded. He later formed the War Relocation Authority to establish ten permanent camps housing nearly 120,000 Japanese Americans, mostly from the western United States. Two-thirds of those interned were native-born American citizens. With only six days to dispose of their possessions, residents were forced to sell their belongings and even their homes for small sums of money

Internment camps were often situated in isolated deserts prone to harsh weather and surrounded by barbed wire and guard towers. Within the barracks internees lived in small one-room apartments with little privacy and constant surveillance. They were only given a standard army cot, blankets and a small heating stove. Despite these difficult living conditions, internees tried to establish a sense of community, creating newspapers, schools, churches and farms. Even in the face of persecution young men came forth to join the military. Nearly 33,000 Japanese-Americans served during World War Two, many of whom became highly decorated for their valor in battle.

Yet as the war continued public opinion worsened against Japanese-Americans. Only 35 percent of the country thought they should be allowed home once the war was over. This sentiment kept the camps open for over three years. On December 17, 1944, the government announced that Japanese-American evacuees could return to their homes. When they did return they found their homes looted and their possessions gone.

With work almost impossible to come by, many fell homeless and destitute. At the time the federal government offered no assistance for those attempting to rebuild their lives. It would take over 40 years before President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, paying reparations to each victim of internment. No payment can make up for those lost years, so what is most important in this bill has less to do with property than with honor, for here we admit a wrong, here we reaffirm our commitment as a nation to equal justice under the law.



ASSURANCE OF GRACE June Hayakawa-Fung
SEGURIDAD DE GRACIA

I have good news! The Holy One, Love Almighty, interrupts our missteps and misdeeds, our distractions and our detours. In Christ Jesus, God has shown us what forgiving love has already done and continues to do. It heals, it mends, and makes a new chapter possible. This is the forgiving power of God that embraces you and me, here and now. It 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), 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, Shaniece (Friend of Karen Clark), Richard Paul (Dad of Beth Paul-Russell), Raymond & Ann Stanhope (Parents of Elizabeth & Michael Gordon), Patricia Valentine, Gevan Woodke (Friend of Karen Clark)

Our hearts are with Pete Poletti and family on the one-year anniversary of the passing of Debbie Poletti.

 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

Melodie Louise Farrenc
Peter Nelson-King, piano

CONTEMPORARY VOICE *VOZ CONTEMPORÁNEA*

Selected quotes of el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz, also known as Malcolm X

“When a person places the proper value on freedom, there is nothing under the sun that one will not do to acquire that freedom. Whenever you hear a person saying they want freedom, but in the next breath...tell you what they won’t do to get it, or what they don’t believe in doing in order to get it, they don’t believe in freedom. A person who believes in freedom will do anything under the sun to acquire . . . or preserve their freedom.”



“I am not a racist. I am against every form of racism and segregation, every form of discrimination. I believe in human beings, and that all human beings should be respected as such, regardless of their color.”

“I believe that there will ultimately be a clash between the oppressed and those that do the oppressing. I believe that there will be a clash between those who want freedom, justice and equality for everyone and those who want to continue the systems of exploitation.”

“It is a time for martyrs now, and if I am to be one, it will be for the cause of brotherhood. That’s the only thing that can save this country.”

—February 19, 1965 (2 days before he was murdered by Nation of Islam followers)

SCRIPTURE READING *LECTURA DE LAS ESCRITURAS* Genesis 2:4b–8

(NRSVTranslation)

read by Rev. Bechtold

In the day that God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the Holy God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground — then God formed a human from the dust of the ground and breathed into their nostrils the breath of life, and the human became a living being. And the Holy One planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there God put the human whom the Creating God had formed.

ANTHEM *EL HIMNO*

SERMON *SERMÓN* *Such a Dirty God* Rev. Jermell Witherspoon

(Service continues next page)

Come to Hildebrand Hall at 1 pm today for a Community Roundtable/Resource Fair!
An engaging space to discuss critical topics that impact our community, including:
mental, physical, and spiritual health. Enjoy lunch and meaningful conversation.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT *HIMNO DE COMPROMISO*

We Shall Overcome(NCH #570) **WE SHALL OVERCOME**

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
we shall overcome some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we shall overcome some day.

We'll go hand in hand,
we'll go hand in hand,
we'll go hand in hand some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we'll go hand in hand some day.

We are not afraid,
we are not afraid,
we are not afraid today;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we are not afraid today.

Our God will see us through,
our God will see us through,
our God will see us through some day,
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
our God will see us through some day.

BENEDICTION *BENDICIÓN* **Rev. Witherspoon**

POSTLUDE *POSTLUDIO*

Allegresse **Gabriel Fauré**

Peter Nelson-King, piano



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Songs of Black Folk Symphony and Choir invite you to a Black History Month celebration and benefit recital 7 pm Tuesday, February 25, at Plymouth. With “*The Negro Speaks of Rivers: African American Spirituals & Art Songs*,” we bring you the dynamic vocal styles of Edwin Davis (Bass-Baritone), Brandie Sutton (Soprano) with Ramon Bryant Braxton (Piano). Free and open to the public of all ages. Donations welcome and appreciated.

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.

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.

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.

Waging Nonviolence is a nonprofit media organization dedicated to providing original reporting and expert analysis of social movements around the world, shining a light on those who are organizing for just and peaceful solutions. Read more at WagingNonviolence.org.

Members and Visitors can access Plymouth Guest wi-fi network using password: [peaceonearth](http://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.

LGBTQ+ MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES



Trans Lifeline - **877-565-8860**, translifeline.org

The Trevor Project - **call 1-866-488-7386** or text **"START"** to **678-678**, thetrevorproject.org

LGBT National Help Center - **888-843-4564**,
lgbthotline.com

The 988 Lifeline - **Call 988** and **press 3** for an **LGBTQI-trained crisis counselor**, text **PRIDE** to **988**, or chat online at 988lifeline.org

Crisis Text Line - text **"HOME"** to **741-741**,
crisistextline.org

Call BlackLine - **1-800-604-5841**,
callblackline.com

DeQH Helpline - **908-367-3374**, deqh.org

LGBTQ+ Center Directory -
lgbtqcenters.org/LGBTCenters