

Longing...

10:30 AM SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 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

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

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10:30 AM SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

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

I. Angelico from Musica Callada Federico Mompou
Joe Williams, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP June Hayakawa-Fung
Written by Ann Siddall, Stillpoint Spirituality Centre
(Please stand as you are able)

One: Only the hungry search for bread.

Many: Only the thirsty look for water.

One: This is a place for those who are hungry and thirsty
in spirit.

Many: Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.

One: Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.

**Many: This is a place for those who ache and yearn for
something more.**

One: So let us come here today with our hunger and thirst,
our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,

All: and let the God of life satisfy our souls.
Satisfy our longing.

HYMN Every Time I Feel the Spirit. Spiritual

Refrain

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will
 pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing

Last time, end

in my heart I will pray. 1 Up - on the moun - tain my God
 2 Oh, Jor - dan riv - er, chil - ly and

spoke, out of God's mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a -
 cold, it chills the bod - y, not the soul. There's on - ly

to Refrain

round me; looked so fine; I asked my God if all were mine.
 one train on this track; it runs to heav - en, then right back.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION.Rev. Donene Blair

Written by Christine Sine, GodSpace Blog

Hear now our prayer of confession:

God, we come
with hesitant steps
and uncertain motives
to sweep out the corners
where sin has accumulated,
and uncover the ways
we have strayed from Your truth.
Expose the empty and barren places
where we don't allow you to enter.
Reveal our half-hearted struggles
where we have been indifferent
to the suffering of others.
Nurture the faint stirrings of new life,
where your spirit has begun to grow.
Let your healing light transform us
into the image of authentic love.
For you alone can bring new life
and make us whole.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE.Rev. Blair

One: Hear and believe these words about God's amazing
grace: You are never so far away that love will not
find you! Wherever you are, the spirit flies to greet you.

All: Thanks be to God!

SHARING OF PEACE. “Peace be with you”

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

I Woke Up This Morning Spiritual

Leader (Unison) *All (Harmony)*

1 I woke up this morn-ing with my mind stayed on
2 Sing-ing and pray-ing with my mind stayed on

Hal-le - lu - jah,

Je - sus, Woke up this morn-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,
Je - sus, Sing-ing and pray-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,

Woke up this morn-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,
Sing-ing and pray-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,

Hal-le-lu - jah,

Hal-le - lu, hal-le - lu, hal-le - lu - jah.

Hal-le, hal-le - lu - jah.

WELCOME. 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!

CALL TO OFFERING Rev. Kevin Bechtold

OFFERING MUSIC

Beautiful Things Michael and Lisa Gungor

All this pain
I wonder if I'll ever find my way
I wonder if my life could really change, at all
All this earth
Could all that is lost ever be found?
Could a garden come out from this ground, at all?
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us
All around,
Hope is springing up from this old ground
Out of chaos life is being found, in you
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us
Oh, you make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us
You make me new,
You are making me new
You make me new,
You are making me new

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 Rev. Bechtold

**Lord, we thank for Your faithfulness. Thank you that
we can always trust in You. You are an abundant
God and out of Your great mercy you have given us
so much. Bless our offerings so that they might bless
others. Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Bechtold

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), 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 the family and friends of Sara McKenzie who passed away February 21.

 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

Ego Tripping (there may be a reason why), by Nikki Giovanni



Nikki Giovanni is an American poet, writer, commentator, activist and educator.

I was born in the congo
I walked to the fertile crescent and built
the sphinx
I designed a pyramid so tough that a star
that only glows every one hundred years falls
into the center giving divine perfect light
I am bad
I sat on the throne
drinking nectar with allah
I got hot and sent an ice age to europe
to cool my thirst
My oldest daughter is nefertiti
the tears from my birth pains
created the Nile
I am a beautiful woman
I gazed on the forest and burned
out the sahara desert
with a packet of goat's meat
and a change of clothes
I crossed it in two hours
I am a gazelle so swift
so swift you can't catch me
For a birthday present when he was three
I gave my son hannibal an elephant
He gave me rome for mother's day
My strength flows ever on
My son noah built new/ark and
I stood proudly at the helm
as we sailed on a soft summer day
I turned myself into myself and was
jesus
men intone my loving name
All praises All praises
I am the one who would save

I sowed diamonds in my back yard
My bowels deliver uranium
the filings from my fingernails are
semi-precious jewels
On a trip north
I caught a cold and blew
My nose giving oil to the arab world
I am so hip even my errors are correct
I sailed west to reach east and had to round off
the earth as I went
The hair from my head thinned and gold was laid
across three continents
I am so perfect so divine so ethereal so surreal
I cannot be comprehended
except by my permission
I mean . . . I . . . can fly
like a bird in the sky . . .

READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE . . . Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17, 21-25; 3:1-7
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

The SOVEREIGN God crafted the human from the dust of the humus and breathed into its nostrils the breath of life, and the human became a living soul. And the SOVEREIGN God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there placed the human whom God had formed. Out of the ground the SOVEREIGN God made grow every tree pleasant to the sight and good for food, and the tree of life in the middle of the garden, along with the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The SOVEREIGN God took the human and settled it in the garden of Eden to till and tend it. Then the SOVEREIGN God commanded the human, “From every tree of the garden you may eat freely, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day you eat from it you shall surely die.”

The SOVEREIGN God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the human, and it slept; then took one of its sides and closed up its place with flesh in place of it. And the SOVEREIGN God built the side that had been taken from the human into a woman and brought her to the human. Then the human said,

“This time, this one is bone
of my bones and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called a woman,
for out of a man this one was taken.”

Therefore a man leaves his mother and his father and clings to his woman, and they become one flesh. And they were, the two of them, naked, the man and his woman [or the woman and her man] and were not ashamed.

Now the serpent had more naked intelligence than any other animal of the field that the SOVEREIGN God had made. And it said to the woman, “Indeed, did God say, ‘You two shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of any tree in the garden we may eat, though of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden God said, ‘You two shall not eat and shall not touch it lest you two die.’ ” Then the serpent said to the woman, “You two will certainly not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you two will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her man, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

ANTHEM

II. Lent from Musica Callada Federico Mompou
Joe Williams, piano

MESSAGE *Literally* Dr. Brown

RITUAL *Imposition of Ashes*. Dr. Brown

As we receive these ashes, make them a sign of repentance
and returning to your own soul.

Holy One, Breathe into us again the breath of life. Through
our longing, allow us to receive the sign of ashes, to die
to the things that do not cause thriving, and to rise like a
phoenix from the ashes into a new way of being.

(Service continues next page)

MOVIES THAT MOVE

Immediately following worship today, 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.

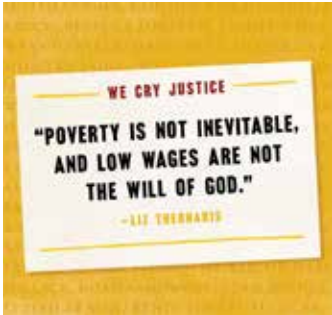
HYMN *What Wondrous Love Is This*

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this!
that Christ should come in bliss
to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the heavy cross for my soul!
2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme, I will sing.
3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on!
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Dr. Brown

POSTLUDE. *Improvisation* Joe Williams

WE CRY JUSTICE



Please join hosts Aaron Scott and Rev. Erica Williams 6-7:30 pm Thursday, March 23 at Plymouth, for “Cries From the Wilderness: A Teach-In Based on the Book We Cry Justice,” an event to raise awareness about the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice. Registration is required for this event. Find link to register in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

For the last two decades, the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice has helped to develop leaders from the ranks of the poor, connecting them in a wide network of grassroots and religious organizations and political efforts. We come together through organizing campaigns, mobilizations, convenings, educational programs, faith gatherings, arts and culture, research and scholarship, and more; we come together across historic lines of division like race, religion, age, and geography, in order to build up the unity and organization of the poor in this country.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Devotional Available Plymouth has purchased a limited number of print editions of the UCC Lenten Devotional, *Running from Empty*, along with the pdf edition to 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.

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 March 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.



**Keep fresh before me
the moments of my
high resolve.**

Howard Thurman