

# Longing...

10:30 AM SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 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)

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

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10:30 AM SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023/SECOND 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

III. *Placide from Musica Callada* . . . . . Federico Mompou  
Joe Williams, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP . . . . . June Hayakawa-Fung

One: From the safety and comfort of home, God called Abram to go from all he knew to embrace a future yet to be revealed.

Many: **“Go from,” God says, and our hesitant hearts place one foot in front of the other to trust God with the unknown.**

One: By night, Nicodemus came seeking greater insight into the teachings of God for the journey set before him. Jesus called him out of the shadows and towards a life born anew.

Many: **“Go towards,” God says, and a new life awaits us. We reach towards a God who has not come to condemn the world but to offer a salve that can heal all wounds.**

One: We fear the unknown and that which we lack in understanding. “How can this be?” we proclaim with Nicodemus. And yet, God’s call is one that urges us to go with our whole self into that unknowing, trusting that God will provide a way.

Many: **Love calls us forth into lives of transformation, born anew into new paths of faith. Though we do not know where we are going, God has promised to never leave us alone. Let us worship the One who will show us the way.**

**HYMN . . . . .Break Now the Bread of Life . . . . .BREAD OF LIFE**

Break now the bread of life, Savior to me,  
as you once broke the loaves beside the sea;  
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;  
my spirit yearns for you, O living Word.  
  
Bless now the truth, dear Christ to me, to me,  
as you once blessed the bread by Galilee;  
Then shall all bondage cease, all shackles fall,  
and I shall find my peace, my all in all

**WELCOME. . . . .Rev. Kevin Bechtold**

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

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

**CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*Everyone is welcome at our table to share the bread and the cup, whether you are a believer, a seeker, a skeptic, doubter or somewhere in between.*

**INVITATION**

**COMMUNION PRAYER. . . . .Rev. Donene Blair**

*Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Susan Carter (Mother of Heather Banks & Kathleen Bernard), Sue Ellen Daniel (Friend of Barb Laski), John Daniels, Mark and JT Edwards, Susan Emerson (Mother of Kate Forrester), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Diane Folkert & Family, Marni Good (Friend of Ricky Powell), Michelle J. Bennett (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Abby Scott (Friend of Anne Mohundro), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Concetta Lewis (Sister of Jo-Ann Guthrie), Mamadou Diakhate (Friend of Floyd Gossett), Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Eric Minea (Cousin of Kristine Dazinger), Montecino Family, Jose Robles and Family, Doug Ryan (Brother of Mary Ryan), Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon)*

*Our hearts are with Roberta Devine and family on the one-year anniversary of the loss of her husband, John Devine.*



**PRAYER OF JESUS (sung)**

**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.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

**COMMUNION HYMN . . . . *Let Us Break Bread Together* . . . . . Spiritual**

Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
My God, have mercy on me.

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

**Thank you, O God, for this feast of life.**

**We are fed and strengthened by your love.**

**We are sent forth into this world to live into the  
visions and callings you have laid on our hearts.**

**May we now feed as we have been fed,  
forgive as we have been forgiven, and  
love as we have been loved.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Amen.**

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

The gracious and giving God calls us to give of our resources  
so that others might experience new life that God invites  
each of us into. The offering is a time to let our gifts birth  
new life in our local community, in the global community,  
and in our faith community.

*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**

*Fugue IV in five voices from The Well-Tempered Clavier (Book I)*

by Johann Sebastian Bach

Joe Williams, piano

**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. Blair**

*Adapted from Claudio Carvalhaes, Liturgies from Below*

**O God of Transformation,**

**Use us to embody your love in the world**

**May broken hearts be embraced by our love**

**May grieving mothers find us willing to share their tears**

**May lonely elders find our community attentive**

**May despairing teens feel encouraged by our support**

**May displaced migrants be welcomed into safety here**

**May unemployed workers find connections to stable work**

**O Spirit, empower us to uphold the vulnerable**

**Through our prayers, our actions, and these gifts**

**Enable us to live into your deepest longing for us and for  
your precious world.**

**CONTEMPORARY VOICE**

*A Black Man Talks of Reaping, by Arna Wendell Bontemps*



*Arna Wendell  
Bontemps was  
an American  
poet, novelist and  
librarian, and a  
noted member of the  
Harlem Renaissance.*

I have sown beside all waters in my day.  
I planted deep within my heart the fear  
That wind or fowl would take the grain away.  
I planted safe against this stark, lean year.  
I scattered seed enough to plant the land  
In rows from Canada to Mexico.  
But for my reaping only what the hand  
Can hold at once is all that I can show.  
Yet what I sowed and what the orchard yields  
My brother's sons are gathering stalk and root,  
Small wonder then my children glean in fields  
They have not sown, and feed on bitter fruit.

**READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW . . . . .Matthew 14:13–21**  
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Rev. Blair

Now when Jesus heard [about the death of John the Baptizer], he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. And when the crowds heard, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he arrived, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, and healed their sick. Now by evening, the disciples came to him and said, “The place is deserted, and the time has gone; send the crowds away so that they can go into the villages and buy themselves food.” Instead, Jesus said to them, “They do not need to leave; you all give them something to eat.” They replied to him, “We do not have anything here but five loaves and two fish.” Then Jesus said, “Bring them here to me.” And he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; he took the five loaves and the two fish, looked towards heaven, and blessed and broke them. He gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up the abundance of fragments, twelve baskets full. Now those who ate were women and children, besides about five thousand men.

**ANTHEM. . . . . Until All Are Fed. . . . .**Bryan McFarland  
Performed by Hayden McManus, Kristine Danzinger,  
and Sari Breznau

How long will we sing?  
How long will we pray?  
How long will we write and send? How long will we bring?  
How long will we stay?  
How long will we make amends?

**Refrain:** Until all are fed we cry out.  
Until all on earth have bread.  
Like the One who loves us each and every one.  
We serve until all are fed.

How can we stand by  
And fail to be aghast?  
How long 'til we do what's right? How could we stand by  
And choose a lesser fast?  
How long 'til we see the light?

**Refrain**

On the green, green grass they gathered long ago.  
To hear what Jesus said.  
What they had they shared — some fishes and some loaves.  
And they served until all were fed.

**Refrain**



**MESSAGE** . . . . . Dr. Bechtold

**HYMN** . . . . . *You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore* . . PESCADOR DE HOMRES

Tú has venido a la orilla,  
no has buscado ni a sabios, ni a ricos,  
tan sólo quieres que yo te siga.  
Jesús me has mirado a los ojos;  
sonriendo, has dicho mi nombre;  
en la arena he dejado mi barca;  
junto a ti buscaré otra mar.  
You know full well my possessions.  
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,  
Just these my fishnets and will for working.  
O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;  
kindly smiling, you've called out my name.  
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;  
now with you I will seek other seas.  
You need my hands, my exhaustion,  
working love for the rest of the weary –  
A love that's willing to go on loving.  
O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;  
kindly smiling, you've called out my name.  
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;  
now with you I will seek other seas.  
You who have fished other waters;  
you, the longing of souls that are yearning:  
As loving Friend, you have come to call me.  
O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;  
kindly smiling, you've called out my name.  
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;  
now with you I will seek other seas.

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** . . . . . Rev. Bechtold

**POSTLUDE.** . . . . . *V. from Musica Callada* . . . . . Federico Mompou  
Joe Williams, piano

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

***We Cry Justice*** The Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice will host a teach-in for Lent around their devotional “We Cry Justice,” 6–7:30 pm Thursday, March 23 at Plymouth. Read more in this week's Herald and in the news section at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

***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. Next opportunity is March 8.** Email Diane Jacobsen, [DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org), 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: [TAArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:TAArthur@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](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) for some opportunities.

***Spread Easter Joy*** Plymouth delivers Easter flowers to folks who are isolated or have suffered a loss. If you can help deliver, please email June Hayakawa-Fung: [JHayakawafung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:JHayakawafung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). You can support this ministry by donating in the name of loved ones. Names of donors and those honored will be listed in the *Herald*.

***Share with Seniors*** Pike Market Senior Center seeks folks to share their passions through leading workshops, lectures and skill sharing. We can tailor commitments that work for you. Please contact Zoe Freeman: [Zoe@pmsc-dtfb.org](mailto:Zoe@pmsc-dtfb.org) for more information.

***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](http://PinwSeattle.org).

***Did You Know...*** You can view past services on our website, [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://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.





This is what  
God's kingdom  
is like: a bunch  
of outcasts and  
oddballs gathered  
at a table, not  
because they  
are rich or  
worthy or good,  
but because  
they are hungry,  
because they  
said yes. And  
there's always  
room for more.  
- Rachel Held  
Evans

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.