

Repent!

10:30 AM SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 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, MARCH 9, 2025

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

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

*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 *PRELUDIO*

Intermezzo Paula Szalit
Peter Nelson-King, piano

WELCOME *BIENVENIDA*

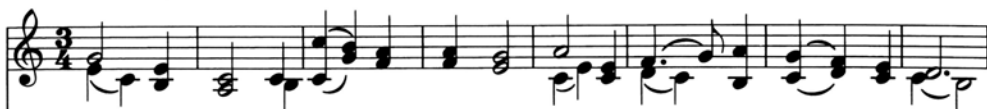
SHARING PEACE *COMPARTIENDO LA PAZ*

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown is traveling with a group from Plymouth and Congregational Church on Mercer Island on a tour of Civil Rights sites in Alabama and Georgia through March 14. The Selma Jubilee commemorates the anniversary of Bloody Sunday, which took place on March 7, 1965. On that day, 525 African-American demonstrators marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, to demand their right to vote. They were met with brutal violence by over 50 state troopers, horses, and posse-men when they refused to turn back.

The shocking events were broadcast nationwide, exposing the harsh reality of racism in the South. Two weeks later, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led 3,200 civil rights activists on a historic 49-mile march from Selma to Montgomery, a pivotal moment that contributed to the passage of the Voting Rights Act.


OPENING HYMN *HIMNO DE APERTURA*

God Is Here! As We Your People Meet (NCH #70), vss 1,2,4 . . . ABBOT'S LEIGH




1 God is here! As we your peo-ple meet to of - fer praise and prayer,
2 Here are sym-bols to re - mind us of our life - long need of grace;

4 Sov - ereign God, of earth and heav-en, in an age of change and doubt




May we find in full - er mea-sure what it is in Christ we share.
Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit, here the cross has cen - tral place.

Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel, help us work your pur - pose out.



Here, as in the world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
Here in hon - es - ty of preach-ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,

Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com-ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new-ness and re - new-al, God the Spir - it comes to each.

we, who can - not live with-out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

CALL TO WORSHIP *LLAMADO A ADORAR*

One: Are you restless and unsettled? This place is for you.

Many: Let us worship God!

One: Are you hungry for love and hope? This place is for you.

Many: Let us worship God!

One: Are you searching for direction? This place is for you.

Many: Let us worship God!

One: Do you have love to share? This place is for you.

Many: Let us worship God together!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *ORACIÓN DE CONFESIÓN*

One: Gracious God, you hold us, but in times of stress,
we fear that we are all alone.

**Many: We hunger for easy comfort, even knowing
that our appetite will return.**

One: We aim for power over uncertainty, forgetting
that control is an illusion. Forgive us for choosing
distraction to escape from chaos.

**Many: Bring our focus back to you, to your word,
your presence, and your child Jesus.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE *SEGURIDAD DE GRACIA*

God reaches out to us, eagerly drawing us close, forgiving our
sins through God's unending grace. In the name of Christ,
you are forgiven. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Julie (Friend of Karen Clark), William Chapman Nyaho, Dylan Schilt (Cousin of Colin Warme), Richard Paul (Dad of Beth Paul-Russell), Shaniece (Friend of Karen Clark), Raymond & Ann Stanhope (Parents of Elizabeth & Michael Gordon), Patricia Valentine, Gevan Woodke (Friend of Karen Clark)

Our hearts are with Kate Forrester and her husband Bob on the passing of his mother Kay Heekin.

We grieve with Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown on the passing of her great Aunt, Juanita Price.

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

Kyrie Eleison Landon Ronald
Peter Nelson-King, piano

CONTEMPORARY VOICE *VOZ CONTEMPORÁNEA*

Weep, by George Moses Horton



George Moses Horton was an African-American poet from North Carolina who was enslaved until Union troops, carrying the Emancipation Proclamation, reached North Carolina. Horton is the first African-American author to be published in the United States.

Weep for the country in its present state,
And of the gloom which still the future waits;
The proud confederate eagle heard the sound,
And with her flight fell prostrate to the ground!

Weep for the loss the country has sustained,
By which her now dependent is in jail;
The grief of him who now the war survived,
The conscript husbands and the weeping wives!

Weep for the seas of blood the battle cost,
And souls that ever hope forever lost!
The ravage of the field with no recruit,
Tries by the vengeance blasted to the root!

Weep for the downfall o'er your heads and chief,
Who sunk without a medium of relief;
Who fell beneath the hatchet of their pride,
Then like the serpent bit themselves and died!

Weep for the downfall of your president,
Who far too late his folly must repent;
Who like the dragon did all heaven assail,
And dragged his friends to limbo with his tail!

Weep o'er peculiar swelling coffers void,
Our treasures left, and all their banks destroyed;
Their foundless notes replete with shame to all,
Expecting every day their final fall,
In quest of profit never to be won,
Then sadly fallen and forever down!

SCRIPTURE READING *LECTURA DE LAS ESCRITURAS* Ezekiel 37:1-14

(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation)

The hand of GOD WHO DWELLS ABOVE THE CHERUBIM came upon me and God brought me out through the Spirit of GOD WHOSE NAME IS HOLY and rested me down in the middle of a particular valley—and it was full of bones. And God brought me over, above them, round and around and look! There were very many in the mouth of the valley and they were very dry. Then God said to me, “Child of earth, can these bones live?” I answered, “Sovereign ALL-KNOWING GOD, you are the one who knows.” Then God said to me, “Prophecy upon these bones and say to them: Dry bones, hear the word of the ANCIENT OF DAYS. Thus says the Sovereign HOLY GOD to these bones: Look! I will cause spirit-and-breath to enter you all and you all shall come to life. And I will place sinews upon you all and I will make flesh come upon you all, and I will cover you all over with skin and put spirit-and-breath in you all, and you all shall come to life. And you all shall know that I am the WOMB OF LIFE.”

So I prophesied just as I had been commanded and there was a sound as I prophesied and look here! Rattling! And the bones came together, each bone to its bone. Then I looked—and look at that!—there were upon them, sinews, and flesh came upon them, and skin covered them up; yet there was no breath—that-is-spirit in them. Then God said to me, “Prophecy to the breath—that-is-spirit, prophecy, earth child, and say to the spirit—that-is-breath: Thus says the Highest, the BREATH OF LIFE: From the four winds-of-breath-and-spirit, come spirit-breath and breathe-spirit upon these who have been slain, that they may come to life.” So I prophesied just as God commanded me and she, the breath—that-is-spirit, came into them and they came to life and stood upon their feet, a vast legion.

Then God said to me, “Child of earth and Eve, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They are saying, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is dead; we are utterly cut off.’ Therefore, prophecy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Highest, the WELLSPRING OF LIFE: I am going to open your graves and I will raise you all up from your graves, my people, and I will bring you all back to the land of Israel.’ So you all shall know that I am the AUTHOR OF LIFE when I open your graves and raise you all up from your graves my people. And I shall put my breath—that-is-spirit within you all and you shall come to life, and I shall cause you all to rest on your own earth; then you shall know that I, the AUTHOR OF LIFE, have spoken and will act,” says the SOURCE OF LIFE.

ANTHEM *EL HIMNO*

No One Is Alone, from *Into The Woods* Stephen Sondheim
Shelly Traverse, soprano; Peter Nelson-King, piano

SERMON *SERMÓN* Rev. Kevin Bechtold

HYMN OF COMMITMENT *HIMNO DE COMPROMISO*

O God, How We Have Wandered (NCH #202)PASSION CHORALE



1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



In fool - ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.
Com - pas - sion-ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.



But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic-ing bring,
Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith-less-ness may cease.



As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.
In glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

BENEDICTION *BENDICIÓN* Rev. Bechtold

POSTLUDE *POSTLUDIO*

Gavot William Felton

Peter Nelson-King, piano



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Provide Comfort Help assemble comfort bags during worship each Sunday in March. Items for bags are still needed. Bring gloves, socks, tissues, hand sanitizer and shelf-stable snacks and leave in the bin by the Welcome Table in the Lounge.

Movement Wisdom for Wild Days, a 40-day Lenten journey of grounding, guidance, and discernment is now available from Join The Movement. This downloadable document is available free at JoinTheMovementUCC.org.

Into the Deep, the 2025 UCC Lenten Devotional, guides us through the season. Plymouth has purchased a number of pdf editions available for download. Contact Toni Arthur (TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) to obtain your link to the pdf edition or to request a print version.

Please Remember Plymouth now receives mail at a PO Box instead of our street address. Please send all postal correspondence to: Plymouth Church UCC/PO Box 21368/Seattle WA 98111.

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.

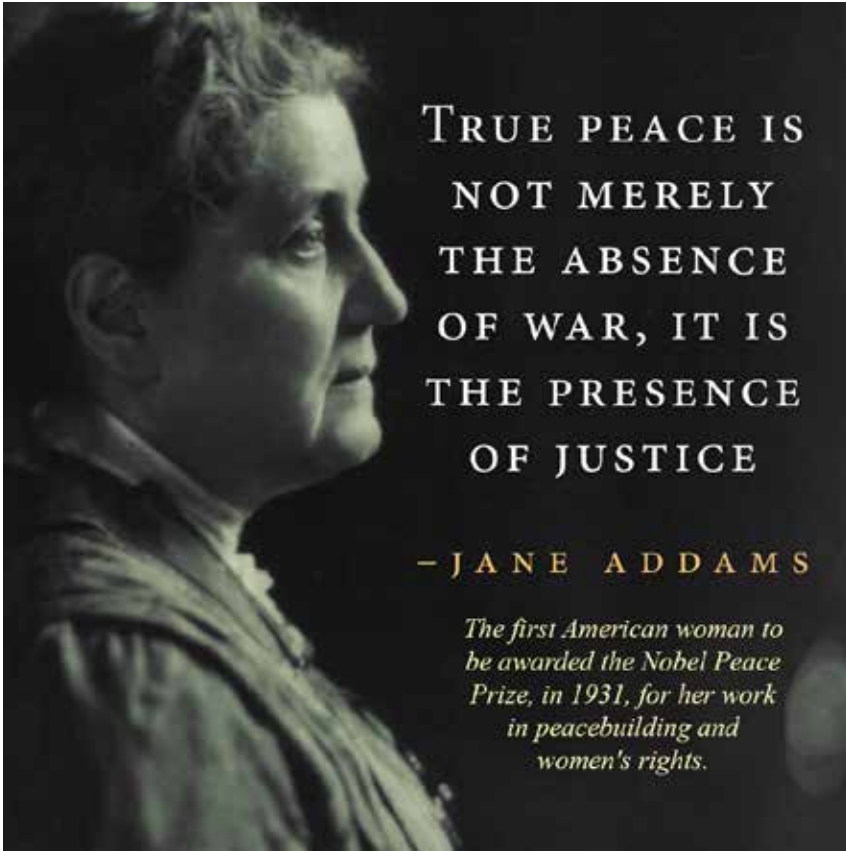
Study the Bible with Plymouth Wednesdays at 9 am. The Zoom link in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org will be the same every week for the Wednesday morning study.

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: TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

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

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.



TRUE PEACE IS
NOT MERELY
THE ABSENCE
OF WAR, IT IS
THE PRESENCE
OF JUSTICE

— JANE ADDAMS

*The first American woman to
be awarded the Nobel Peace
Prize, in 1931, for her work
in peacebuilding and
women's rights.*