

# Longing...

10:30 AM SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 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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**For administrative needs, or other non-pastoral care questions, please email:**

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

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10:30 AM SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023  
THIRD 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**

*Improvisation no. 4, op. 148* . . . . . Amy Beach  
Joe Williams, piano

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

One: Jesus said: “Come to me all you who are struggling hard  
and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.”  
(Matthew 11:28)

So come, in your need and your pain, in your anger and  
your powerlessness.

**Many: So come those of us subject to immigration  
controls, and those of us seeking to overthrow them.**

One: So come, those of us who live with the bittersweet  
experience of exile, and those of us who long for our true  
home in the Kingdom, which is to come.

**Many: So come, those of us who despair at the politics of  
our age, and those of us who seek to resist them.**

One: So come, and find not just rest for your souls, but a channel  
for your rage; not just healing for your pain, but love in  
your loneliness and alienation; not just God’s loving  
kindness, but energy to resist empires cruel curse.

**All: Come.**

HYMN . . . . . *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* . . . . . SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

*Slowly*

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I  
2 There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are  
know that Spir - it's full - ness and be - lieve; you're the

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I  
one to prof - it when you say, "I am

*to Refrain*

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.  
going to stay with Je - sus all the way."

*Refrain*

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav-en-ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill-ing us with your love; And for these bless-ings we

lift our hearts in praise. With-out a doubt we'll know that we have

been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** . . . *For the Women* . . . . . Amena Brown

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE** . . . . . Rev. Blair

“For me, forgiveness and compassion are always linked: how do we hold people accountable for wrongdoing and yet at the same time remain in touch with their humanity enough to believe in their capacity to be transformed?” —*bell hooks*

May the God of accountability always remind us that calling in is for the compassionate and the courageous. Be made whole.

**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**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE . . . . . Rev. Kevin Bechtold**

*Mardi (Waggoner) Abuza (Friend of Vicki Schoettle), 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, Doug Ryan (Brother of Mary Ryan), Susan Emerson, Diane Folkert & Family (Mother-in-law of Ara Lawrence), Marni Good (Friend of Ricky Powell), Jose Robles and Family, Michelle J. Bennett (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Irma Johnson (Friend of Toni Arthur), Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), Concetta Lewis (Sister of Jo-Ann Guthrie), Mamadou Diakhate (Friend of Floyd Gossett), Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Eric Minea (Cousin of Kristine Danzinger), Montecino Family, 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 Mari Mitchell on the one-year anniversary of the passing of her mother, Jo Mitchell.*

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 (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.**

**CALL TO OFFERING** . . . . . Rev. Bechtold

“A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great.” (Proverbs 18:16)

God knows the power of a gift. That’s why the Holy One didn’t institute a “church tax.” God wanted every gift to be given from one’s own will so that when the blessings come, we understand how God worked through our gift to prosper our wellbeing.

Use this moment of opportunity to be ushered into the presence of God by giving, remembering always how graciously God has given to us.

*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** . . . . . *Cerulean Blues* . . . Maria Thompson Corley  
Teddy Wiggins, violin; 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

**For the wondrous gift of life, we are thankful, O  
God. Your generous outpouring of grace reminds us of  
the fruitful life we are called to bear. May these gifts of  
time and labor, therefore, embody our desire to share  
and contribute to the world of healing and compassion to  
come. Amen.**

## CONTEMPORARY VOICE

*We Speak Your Names (excerpt)*, by Pearl Cleage

### *Voice 1:*

Because we are free women, born of free women,  
who are born of free women, back as far as time begins,  
we celebrate your freedom.

Because we are wise women, born of wise women,  
who are born of wise women, we celebrate your wisdom.

Because we are strong women, born of strong women,  
who are born of strong women, we celebrate your strength.

Because we are magical women, born of magical women,  
who are born of magical women, we celebrate your magic.

### *Voice 2:*

My sisters, we are gathered here to speak your names.  
We are here because we are your daughters  
as surely as if you had conceived us,  
nurtured us,  
carried us in your wombs,  
and then sent us out into the world to make our mark  
and see what we see,  
and be what we be,  
but better, truer, deeper,  
because of the shining example of your own incandescent lives.

### *Voice 3:*

We are here because you taught us that  
sisterspeak can continue to be our native tongue,  
no matter how many languages we learn  
as we move about as citizens of the world,  
and of the ever-evolving universe.  
We are here to speak your names  
because of the way you made for us.  
Because of the prayers you prayed for us.

### *Voice 4:*

We are the ones you conjured up,  
hoping we would have strength enough,  
and discipline enough,  
and talent enough,  
and nerve enough to step into the light  
when it turned in our direction, and just smile awhile.



*Pearl Cleage is an  
African-American  
playwright, essayist,  
novelist, poet and  
political activist.*



*Voice 5:*

We are the ones you hoped would make you proud  
because all of our hard work makes all of yours  
part of something better, truer, deeper.  
Something that lights the way ahead  
like a lamp unto our feet,  
as steady as the unforgettable beat of our collective heart.

*All:*

We speak your names.  
We speak your names.  
We speak your names.

*Excerpted from "We Speak Your Names," by Pearl Cleage. Copyright © 2006 by Pearl Cleage. Reprinted by arrangement with The Random House Publishing Group. Published 07/15/2006*

**READING FROM CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE . . . . . James 5:13–18**  
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Rev. Blair

Are any people among you suffering? Then pray. Are any cheerful? Then sing praise. Are any folk among you sick? Then call for the elders of the church and let them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Messiah. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Messiah will raise them up; and sins anyone has committed will be forgiven them. Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous ones is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed intensely that it not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the heavens gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

**ANTHEM. . . . . Hear My Prayer . . . . . Moses Hogan**  
Plymouth Singers

Oh God  
Please hear my prayer  
In the morning when I rise  
It's your servant  
Bound for glory  
Oh dear God  
Please hear my prayer

Oh God  
Please hear my prayer  
Keep me safe  
Within your arms  
It's your servant  
Bound for glory  
Oh dear God  
Please hear my prayer  
When my work  
On earth is done  
And you come  
To take me home  
Just to know  
That I am Bound  
For glory  
And to hear you say  
Well done.  
Done with sin  
And sorrow  
Have mercy  
Mercy  
Amen  
Amen  
Amen  
Amen  
Amen

**MESSAGE** . . . . . *Fleshing Prayers* . . . . . Dr. Brown

*(Service continues next page)*

## **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).

HYMN . . . . . *It is Well with My Soul, vss. 1, 4* . . . . . VILLE DU HAVRE

1 When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each day, when

4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, What - ev - er my lot, you have

clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trum - pet shall sound and the

*Refrain*

taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."

It is

Lord shall ap - pear, "e - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul.

**THE SENDING . . . . .Dr. Brown**

**One:** In the spirit of the women who survived the  
middle passage, withstood and overcame the  
oppression of enslavement,

**Many: We go forth, heading North.**

**One:** In the spirit of women who dared obstacles and  
challenged unjust barriers and forged new peoples  
in new lands,

**Many: We go forth, heading South.**

**One:** In the spirit of women who refused to be  
browbeaten and held back and opened new paths  
for others to follow,

**Many: We go forth, heading East.**

**One:** In the spirit of women who refused to be shut  
out and who demolished boundaries to open new  
spaces for sisters unborn,

**Many: We go forth, heading West.**

**One:** We go forth, moving in all directions, moving  
at the directive of the Holy One, moving boldly  
and courageously in the assurance of divine  
guidance, anointing presence, and enabling  
power; in the Spirit not only of our ancestors  
in the sisterhood, but at the direction of Sistah  
Wisdom, Sofia, who calls each and all to  
encourage her for the sake of God's glory.

**All: We go forth!**  
**We go forth!**  
**Thanks be to God!**

*By Dr. Gennifer B. Brooks Ernest and Bernice Styberg Professor of PreachingGarrett-Evangelical Theological SeminaryB.B.A.,  
M.B.A., Pace UniversityM.Div., D.Min., New Brunswick Theological Seminary Ph.D., Drew University*

**POSTLUDE . . . . .Adoration . . . . . Florence Price**  
Teddy Wiggins, violin; Joe Williams, piano

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Plymouth Immigration Ministry Team*** urges you to comment immediately to prevent a proposed rule set to take effect in May that will deny many fleeing oppression the right to seek asylum at our southern border. Learn how to help in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Make your voice heard for the cause of justice!

***Lenten Special Offering*** this year will be evenly divided between One Great Hour of Sharing and Plymouth UCC Scholarships. Your faithful giving is vital to maintaining the ministries of Plymouth. We give thanks for all you contribute to our community. Read more in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

***Celebrate the Reopening of our Library*** on Palm Sunday, April 2. During March, while we prepare to reopen, there will not be a library table after church on Sundays, and books will not be checked out this month. To return materials, continue to use the box outside the Sanctuary.

***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*.

***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).

***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, [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: [TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto: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](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) for some opportunities.

***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.

***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.

“WHEN MEN  
ARE OPPRESSED,  
IT'S A TRAGEDY.  
WHEN  
WOMEN ARE  
OPPRESSED,  
IT'S TRADITION.”

- LETTY COTTIN POGREBIN

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.