

*Repent!*

10:30 AM SUNDAY, MARCH 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.



Thank you for worshipping online with us today. Please like and send us a greeting on  
Facebook and Instagram.

**The church office is open during limited hours.**

**Contact [Info@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto: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](mailto:KBrown@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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

10:30 AM SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

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

**PRELUDE *PRELUDIO***

*Met To Worship* . . . . . arranged by Dr. Lee Peterson  
Dr. Lee Peterson, piano

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

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***

**CALL TO WORSHIP *LLAMADO A ADORAR*** . . . . . June Hayakawa-Fung

One: You who are thirsty:  
**Many: Come to receive living water.**  
One: You who are hungry:  
**Many: Taste the bread that satisfies.**  
One: You who long for connection:  
**Many: Receive the fellowship of this community, and  
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.**  
One: You who search for love:  
**Many: Experience the love of Jesus expressed in music,  
prayer, community, word and action.**  
One: May this time of worship fill and refresh you  
**All: Let us worship God together!**

## OPENING HYMN *HIMNO DE APERTURA*

*For the Beauty of the Earth* (NCH #28) . . . . . DIX



1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,  
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,  
For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

*Refrain*

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION *ORACIÓN DE CONFESIÓN*. . . Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

One: Gracious God, sometimes we are disappointed by  
other people, too ready to dismiss or discard them.

**Many: Help us to see in others what you see in  
them: their growth, the fruits that they offer.**

One: Forgive us when we too quickly judge others.  
Forgive us also, when we doubt that we can be  
worthy followers of you

**All: May we be inspired to nurture your people  
and ourselves.**

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE** *SEGURIDAD DE GRACIA* . . . Ms. Hayakawa-Fung  
God's ways are not our ways. Where we would condemn  
ourselves or others, God forgives. In the name of Jesus Christ  
you are forgiven. **Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** . . . . . Rev. 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), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Julie (Friend of Karen Clark), William Chapman Nyaho, Richard Paul (Dad of Beth Paul-Russell), Blair Parker (Daughter of Nancy Parker), Kathy Rood, Dylan Schilt (Cousin of Colin Warme), Dale and Jinny Sewell, Shaniece (Friend of Karen Clark), Raymond & Ann Stanhope (Parents of Elizabeth & Michael Gordon), Patricia Valentine, Gevan Woodke (Friend of Karen Clark)*

*We grieve with the family and friends of Judy Raymer who passed away last week. A memorial at Plymouth is planned for Saturday, May 3 at 2 pm.*

*Welcome to the world Baby Boy Parker, son and grandson of Blair and Nancy Parker.*



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***

*Jesus Loves Me*. . . . . Dr. Lee Peterson  
Dr. Lee Peterson, piano

**CONTEMPORARY VOICE *VOZ CONTEMPORÁNEA***

*A Litany for Survival*, by Audre Lorde

For those of us who live at the shoreline  
standing upon the constant edges of decision  
crucial and alone  
for those of us who cannot indulge  
the passing dreams of choice  
who love in doorways coming and going  
in the hours between dawns  
looking inward and outward  
at once before and after  
seeking a now that can breed  
futures  
like bread in our children's mouths  
so their dreams will not reflect  
the death of ours;  
For those of us  
who were imprinted with fear  
like a faint line in the center of our foreheads  
learning to be afraid with our mother's milk  
for by this weapon  
this illusion of some safety to be found  
the heavy-footed hoped to silence us  
For all of us  
this instant and this triumph  
We were never meant to survive.  
And when the sun rises we are afraid  
it might not remain  
when the sun sets we are afraid  
it might not rise in the morning  
when our stomachs are full we are afraid  
of indigestion



*Audre Lorde was an American writer, feminist, womanist, librarian and civil rights activist who dedicated both her life and her creative talent to confronting and addressing injustices of racism, sexism, classism, capitalism, heterosexism, and homophobia.*

when our stomachs are empty we are afraid  
we may never eat again  
when we are loved we are afraid  
love will vanish  
when we are alone we are afraid  
love will never return  
and when we speak we are afraid  
our words will not be heard  
nor welcomed  
but when we are silent  
we are still afraid  
So it is better to speak  
remembering  
we were never meant to survive!

**SCRIPTURE READING *LECTURA DE LAS ESCRITURAS* . . . . . Luke 9:12-17**  
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation)                      Read by Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

Now the day was beginning to fade and the twelve came to Jesus and said, “Send the crowd away so they can go into the surrounding villages and countryside to lodge and get provisions; for we are here in a desolate wilderness place.” Yet Jesus said to the twelve, “You all give them something to eat.” But the twelve said, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish lest we go buying food for all these people.” For there were about five thousand men. Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit them down in groups of about fifty each.” The disciples did so and made them all—women, children, and men—sit down. And taking the five loaves and the two fish, Jesus looked up to heaven and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all—including women and children—ate and were filled. And the remainder was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

**ANTHEM *EL HIMNO***

*Down To The River To Pray*  
arranged by Roger Emerson  
Plymouth Choir; Eliza Woodyard, Director

**SERMON *SERMÓN* . . . . . *Excuses or Execution?* . . . . . Rev. Erica Williams**

## HYMN OF COMMITMENT *HIMNO DE COMPROMISO*

*Glory, Glory Hallelujah, vss 1-3 (NCH #2) . . . . . GLORY GLORY*

1 Glo - ry, glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah, since I  
2 I feel bet - ter, so much bet - ter, since I  
3 Feel like shout - ing "Hal - le - lu - jah!" since I

laid my bur - dens down. Glo - ry, glo - ry hal - le -  
laid my bur - dens down. I feel bet - ter, so much  
laid my bur - dens down. Feel like shout - ing "Hal - le -

lu - jah, since I laid my bur - dens down.  
bet - ter, since I laid my bur - dens down.  
lu - jah!" since I laid my bur - dens down.

**BENEDICTION *BENDICIÓN* . . . . . Rev. Williams**

## POSTLUDE *POSTLUDIO*

*Quiet Place.* . . . . . arranged by Dr. Lee Peterson

Dr. Lee Peterson, piano



## CHARTING PLYMOUTH'S FUTURE



You are invited to join a transformative journey of faith and community at our strategic planning retreat, led by Rev. Dr. Mark Smutny, 9 am-1 pm Saturday, April 12 at Plymouth. Lunch will be provided.

This retreat promises to be a collaborative, imaginative, and spiritually enriching experience. Don't miss this opportunity to shape the future of Plymouth Church and strengthen our commitment to building a more inclusive and just community. Whether you're a long-time member or new to Plymouth, your voice is vital. Let's come together as fellow travelers on the journey of faith to envision what's next for our congregation.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Sound Medicine Meditation*** Tory Trujillo offers a deeply healing Sound Medicine Meditation today after worship in Hildebrand Hall. Suggested donation \$20. Read more in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

***Help 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.

***Easter Flowers*** will be delivered to Plymouth folks who are isolated or have suffered a loss. Deliver flowers, or contribute financially and honor loved ones. Names will be listed in the *Herald*. Donate online using the form in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) or on our “Giving” page (select “Flower Fund” from the drop-down menu).

***Lenten Special Offering*** Gifts to 2025 Lenten Special Offering will be divided evenly between One Great Hour of Sharing and funds to support Plymouth Immigration Ministry.

***Free Medical Clinic*** Dental, vision, medical, and social services available at Settle Center April 24–27. Patients do not need proof of income, insurance, or immigration status to receive free care. Interpreters are available. Read more in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

***Trans Lifeline*** is a trans-led organization that connects trans people to community support, and resources needed to survive and thrive. Learn more and get involved at [TransLifeline.org](http://TransLifeline.org).

***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](mailto:KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

***Study the Bible with Plymouth*** Wednesdays at 9 am. The Zoom link in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://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](mailto:TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

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

**Jesus prepared a  
meal for the  
multitudes to  
remind us that we  
feed people not  
because we believe  
they deserve it, but  
because they're  
hungry.**

[johnpavlovitz.com](http://johnpavlovitz.com)

**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.**