

10:30 AM PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

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 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

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

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10:30 AM SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

*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 Mosaic Brass

Zachary Lyman, trumpet; Ed Castro, trumpet
Becky Miller, horn; Keith Winkle, trombone; Paul Evans, tuba

CALL TO WORSHIP June Hayakawa-Fung

One: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior
is coming,

**Many: riding on a donkey, daring to raise the
branches of liberation.**


One: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary

**Many: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come
to set us free!**


One: Palm branches and praise mark this day.

Many: Hosanna, come and save us!


HYMN *Hosanna, Loud, Hosanna.* ELLACOMBE
arr. Dan Boone; accompanied by Mosaic Brass, LaDonna Bowers, organ




1 "Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na," the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer-ing crowd,
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song is ours.



through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang;
the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.
We hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers:



To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
The one whom an - gels wor - ship rode on in low - ly state,
"Ho - san - na, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.



the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
and glad to see the chil - dren, slowed down the don-key's gait.
Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for - ev - er we'll re - joice!"

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MARKMark 14:32-52

(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation)

read by Rev. Kevin Bechtold

Jesus and his disciples went to a place called Gethsemane and he said to his disciples, “You all sit here while I pray.” He took with him Peter and James and John and began to be deeply moved and distressed. And said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; you all stay here, and stay awake.” And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you do.” Jesus came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not stay awake one hour? Stay awake and pray that you all may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” And again he went away and prayed, saying the same thing. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. Jesus came a third time and said to them, “Are you all sleeping, still, and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come. Look! The Son of Woman is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us go. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

And instantly, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs from the chief priests, the religious scholars, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I kiss is he; seize him and lead him away safely.” Then when Judas came, he went up to Jesus immediately and said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and took him. But one of the bystanders drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, “Is it as for a bandit you all have come out with swords and clubs to seize me? Daily I was with you all in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.” All of them deserted him and fled. A certain young man was following Jesus, with just a fine cloth on his naked flesh. They caught hold of him, but he forsook the fine cloth and ran off naked.

PRAYER OF CONFESSIONRev. Donene Blair

God of the Healing Wounds,

**The pain of our traumas shadow the light that beams
from our souls. From the shadows, we cast a shade
upon our neighbors. Such gloom is a sword in their
hearts. May we be aware of how our pain creates agony
in the life of our neighbors. May we reach out to our
companions on the journey when we have cause them
grief in their own lives. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE Rev. Blair

Even when we abide in Gesthemenes and Golgathas and can't see the presence of the Divine, God still abides with us. God's grace extends to us. May the soothing love and grace of God bring us peace even in valleys, gardens, and hills of shadows, and may we see hope for the future beyond the gloom.

WELCOME. Rev. Blair

Plymouth Church acknowledges that we occupy the unceded land of its first stewards, the Duwamish of the Coast Salish people. We vow our solidarity with the Duwamish in their honorable quest to become a federally recognized tribe.

Plymouth Church also offer a labor acknowledgement for the African American enslaved upon whose backs this country gained much of its wealth, as well as the work and lives of other minoritized peoples who emigrated to this country. In our journey to become more fully the church, we honor our social location of power and privilege, and our position to do justice within our church and in the world, and recognize that such a statement is only the beginning of the work to which we are called.

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!

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MARK Mark 14:53-72

(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

They took Jesus to the high priest; and they assembled all the chief priests, the elders, and the religious scholars. Now Peter followed him from afar into the courtyard of the high priest and was sitting with the attendants, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council sought testimony against Jesus to put him to death but found none. For many gave false testimony against him, yet their testimony did not agree. Some rose and gave false testimony against him, saying, "Well, we heard him say, 'I will destroy this hand-made temple, and in three days I will build another, that is not hand-made.'" But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and said to Jesus, "No response? What are they testifying against you?" But he was silent and answered nothing. Again, the high priest spoke to him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" Jesus said, "I am; and

‘you will see the Son of Woman
seated at the right hand of the Power,’
and ‘coming with the clouds of heaven.’”

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? You all have heard his blasphemy! How does it appear to you?” All of them condemned him, “Guilty! This is death!” Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophecy!” Then the attendants took him and beat him.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the high priest’s enslaved girls came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, “You were also with the Nazarene, Jesus.” But Peter denied it, saying, “I do not know or even understand what you are saying.” Then he went out into the front courtyard. Then the cock crowed. And the enslaved girl, on seeing him, began to say to the bystanders again that this man is one of them. But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders said to Peter again, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” But he began to curse and swore, “I do not know this person you are talking about.” And suddenly the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered the thing Jesus had said to him, “Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he threw himself down and sobbed.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Dr. Brown

Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Michelle J. Bennett (Sister of Dawn Bennett), Walter Bethel (Friend of Karen Clark), Wendy Carpenter (Friend of Jocelyn Coit-Durland), Susan Carter (Mother of Heather Banks & Kathleen Bernard), Bruce Chittick & family (Friend of Karen Clark), Mike Correy (Friend of Karen Clark), Sue Ellen Daniel (Friend of Barb Laski), Mark & JT Edwards, Diane Folkert (Mother-in-law of Ara Lawrence), Sally Galliher (Cousin of Doug Stultz), Marni Good (Friend of Ricky Powell), Elvis Gordon (Brother of Michael and Elizabeth Gordon), Floyd Gossett, Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Jo-Ann Guthrie, Katherine Guthrie, Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Vance McDill, James McDowell (Cousin of Jerry Rice), Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Dr. Maxine Mimms, Ian Nelson (Son of Diane Nelson), Paula Orrego, Nancy Parker, Jean and Richard Paul (Parents of Beth Paul-Russell), Mary Margaret Pruitt, Jose Robles and Family, Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Elizabeth Thoreson (Sister of Anne Kiemle, sister-in-law of Kael Sherrard), Irene Wall (Friend of Ruth Williamson)

Our hearts are with Diane Jacobsen on the one-year anniversary of the passing of her father Thomas Graham.



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.**

CALL TO OFFERING & SHARING OF PEACEDr. Brown

The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

*To set up a one time or recurring donation to Plymouth Church
click on the "Give" link on PlymouthChurchSeattle.org or
CashApp your donation to \$PlymouthUCCSeattle.
We give thanks for your generosity.*

OFFERING MUSIC

Let the Bright Seraphim from *Samson*, by George Frideric Handel
Ellaina Lewis, soprano
Ed Castro, trumpet; 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, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen!

PRAYER OF DEDICATIONDr. Brown

**God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received
the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem,
receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and
gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them
to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.**

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MARKMark 15:1-24
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Rev. Blair

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests took a counsel with the elders and religious scholars and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Judeans?” He answered him, saying, “You say so.” Then the chief priests accused him of many things. But Pilate asked him again, “Have you no reply? See how many charges they bring against you.” But Jesus made no further reply, thus Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival Pilate used to release one prisoner to them, whoever they asked. Now there was a man called Barabbas in prison with the rebels who in the rebellion had committed murder. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he responded to them, saying, “Do you all want me to release the King of the Judeans to you?” For he recognized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. Then the chief priests stirred up the crowd that instead Barabbas might be released for them. Pilate again responded to them, “What then do you wish me to do with the one you call the King of the Judeans?” They shouted more [than before], “Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Why, for doing what evil?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!” So Pilate, wanting to satiate the crowd, released Barabbas to them; then he handed Jesus over for flogging and to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the property, which is the military headquarters, and they called together the entire cohort. And they clothed him in purple, and they put on him thorns woven into a crown. And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Judeans!” They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple and put his clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

They compelled a passerby, a certain Simon of Cyrene who was coming from the countryside, to carry his cross; he was the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the Golgotha place (which means Skull Place). And they offered him myrrh wine, but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes, casting lots among themselves for what each would take.

RESPONSE.Poema III. Marlos Nobre
Maria Scherer Wilson, cello; Joe Williams, piano

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MARK Mark 15:25-47

(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation)

read by Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

It was the third hour [past dawn] when they crucified him. The writing above of the accusation against him read, “The King of the Judeans.” And with him they crucified two revolutionaries, one on his right and one on his left.

The passersby reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, “Ha! You would destroy the temple and build it in three days—save yourself, and come down from the cross!” In the same way the chief priests, with the religious scholars, mocked him among themselves and said, “He saved others; himself he is unable to save. The Messiah, the King of Israel! Come down from the cross now that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also demeaned him.

Now when it was the sixth hour [of the day, or noon], darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour [of the day, about three in the afternoon]. At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “Listen, he is calling Elijah.” And someone ran and filled a sponge with vinegary wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” Then Jesus gave a great cry and breathed out a final time. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, stationed facing him, saw that in this way Jesus breathed out at the end, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

There were also women watching from a distance; among them were Mary the Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These women followed him and ministered to him when he was in Galilee, and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation—the day before the sabbath—Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who himself was also waiting for the reign of God, went boldly to Pilate and requested for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered that Jesus was now dead, and summoning the centurion asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned it from the centurion, he gave the corpse to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a fine cloth, and taking him down, wrapped him in the fine cloth, and put him in a tomb that had been hewn out of rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary the Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was put.

ANTHEM *He Never Said a Mumbalin’ Word*

African American Spiritual, arr. by William M Schoenfeld

Plymouth Choir, Eliza Woodyard, conductor

Maria Scherer Wilson, cello, Joe Williams, piano

MESSAGE Rev. Bechtold

HYMN *What Wondrous Love Is This* . . . WONDROUS LOVE
Plymouth Choir



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
God and to the Lamb, I will sing; To God and to the
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm



this! that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heav-y cross for my
Lamb who is the great I Am, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the heav-y cross for my soul!
sing, I will sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Rev. Bechtold

POSTLUDE *All Glory, Laud and Honor*
LaDonna Bowers, organ

JOIN THE DISCUSSION TODAY

All are invited to a Congregational Conversation following worship today, in person and online (link in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Light sandwiches available. The Developer Selection Committee will provide updates on the property development feasibility process, including an estimated timeline of future steps, as well as reflections on recent activities and discussions. We will share the direction we are headed, while honoring confidentiality and acknowledging uncertainties. Please join us as we continue to discern how Plymouth Church's physical presence can serve the community in the future.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bring Unused Gift Cards Plymouth's Immigration Ministry Team is collecting unused gift cards for families in the immigration process. Place cards in the special basket on the offering table on Sundays in Lent. Read more in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Worship with Plymouth on Good Friday, March 29, at 2 pm in the Sanctuary and online: "WomanSpeak: Feminist/Womanist Reflections at the Cross," with Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown and six guest preachers on the seven last statements of Jesus.

Walk the Labyrinth on Good Friday This year's Good Friday service on March 29 will be held at 2 pm in the Sanctuary and online. All are invited to walk the labyrinth, before and after the service, 1-2 pm and 3:30-4:30 pm, accompanied by the music of Mona Terry's harp.

Easter Flowers Help deliver flowers, or contribute financially. Names will be listed in the *Herald*. Email names to be honored to RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org by **Tuesday, March 26**. Donate online on our "Giving" page at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

They'll Know Us By Our Love The former reader signs outside our building are now pantries filled with food and items for those experiencing homelessness or are under-resourced. Please contribute food and comfort items, or even notes that remind the reader that they are beloved.

Invitation to Sing! Come to choir rehearsal at 9 am in Hildebrand Hall to prepare for Easter anthems! All are welcome. Contact Joe Williams for more information.

Help Lead Worship The Plymouth Worship Team welcomes lay leaders to help with worship, both in person and online. If you feel called to serve, please contact Rev. Kevin Bechtold: KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Plymouth Cooks Share your favorite recipes with us and be a part of the new Plymouth cookbook! Be sure to include the list of ingredients and instructions. Send to Robert Turner: RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

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.