

Longing...

10:30 AM SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 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 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

KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

DBlair@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 26, 2023

FIFTH 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 *Navajo Prelude No. 2.* Conner Chee
Benjamin Bentler, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Donene Blair

One: Come with what you have.
For you who grieve this day
know that you are invited to bring the broken pieces
of your heart.

**Many: Loved by one another,
we discover God's love for us.**

One: Come with what you have.
For you who come with gladness
know that your melody will find harmony.

**Many: Accepting God's love for us,
we are called to love one another.**

One: Come with what you have.
For you weighed down by too many 'shoulds' and 'what-ifs'
know that here you may lay down the burdens of
guilt and shame.

**Many: Loved by one another,
we discover God's love for us.**

One: Come with what you have.
For you who have the answers,
know that new questions await you.

**Many: Accepting God's love for us,
we are called to love one another.**

(Continued next page)

One: Come with what you have.
For you who come seeking,
know that your questions are safe in the presence of God.

Many: **Loved by one another,
we discover God's love for us.**

— written by Katherine Hawker, and posted on *Outside the Box* (LiturgyOutside.net)

HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth* . . Folliott Sandford Pierpoint

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. from KING 5 News

ASSURANCE OF GRACE Rev. Blair
Isaiah 40: 9-11 (Gafney translation)

Hear the good news:
Climb a high mountain, old woman of Zion who proclaims
good news! Raise your voice with power, old woman of
Jerusalem who proclaims good news! Raise it daughter! Fear
not daughter! Say to the cities of Judah's daughter, here is your
God! See the sovereign Redeemer comes with might, whose
arm rules for God; whose reward is with God, and God's
reparation comes before. She will feed her flock like a shepherd;
She will gather the lambs in her arms, and carry them in her
bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

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!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Dr. Joanne Braxton

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, Jose Robles and Family, Susan Emerson, Anna Florey, Diane Folkert & Family (Mother-in-law of Ara Lawrence), Montecino Family, Marni Good (Friend of Ricky Powell), Allie James (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), Doug Ryan (Brother of Mary Ryan), Abby Scott (Friend of Anne Mohundro), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon)

*We grieve with Diane Jacobsen and family on the passing of her father, Thomas Graham.
Friends of Sara McKenzie are invited to attend her memorial service via Zoom, 9 am (PT)
Saturday, April 1. Please email Jennifer Merrill, jen-zen@msn.com, to receive the Zoom link.*



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 June Hayakawa-Fung

Hospitality, a warm and authentic welcome, is an act of generosity. When we welcome each person into the life of this church, we extend God's own generous hospitality. Our gifts help this graceful ministry to flourish and to grow in trusting the Spirit. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

*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

When Jesus Wept William Billings

Performed by DuWayne Andrews, Jr., Tim Keller, and Sari Breznau

When Jesus wept, the falling tear
in mercy flowed beyond all bound.
When Jesus groaned, a trembling fear
seized all the guilty world around.

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 Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

**For the blessings of this and all our days, we thank you,
gracious God. Accept, we pray, not just this money but
also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all you have
done for us. Use them both, in this place and wherever
you might take us. Amen.**

CONTEMPORARY VOICE

Shrinking Women, by Lily Myers

Across from me at the kitchen table, my mother smiles over red wine that she drinks
out of a measuring glass.

She says she doesn't deprive herself,

but I've learned to find nuance in every movement of her fork.

In every crinkle in her brow as she offers me the uneaten pieces on her plate.

I've realized she only eats dinner when I suggest it.

I wonder what she does when I'm not there to do so.

Maybe this is why my house feels bigger each time I return; it's proportional.

As she shrinks the space around her seems increasingly vast.

She wanes while my father waxes. His stomach has grown round with wine, late
nights, oysters, poetry. A new girlfriend who was overweight as a teenager, but my
dad reports that now she's "crazy about fruit."

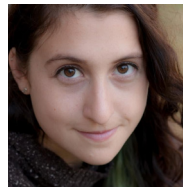
It was the same with his parents;

as my grandmother became frail and angular her husband swelled to
red round cheeks, round stomach,

and I wonder if my lineage is one of women shrinking,
making space for the entrance of men into their lives,
not knowing how to fill it back up once they leave.

I have been taught accommodation.

My brother never thinks before he speaks.



*Lily Myers is a
Seattle poet. Visit
lilymyerswrites.com*

I have been taught to filter.

“How can anyone have a relationship to food?” he asks, laughing, as I eat the black bean soup I chose for its lack of carbs.

I want to say: we come from difference, Jonas,
you have been taught to grow out,

I have been taught to grow in.

You learned from our father how to emit, how to produce, to roll each thought off your tongue with confidence, you used to lose your voice every other week from shouting so much.

I learned to absorb.

I took lessons from our mother in creating space around myself.

I learned to read the knots in her forehead while the guys went out for oysters,
and I never meant to replicate her, but

spend enough time sitting across from someone and you pick up their habits—
that’s why women in my family have been shrinking for decades.

We all learned it from each other, the way each generation taught the next
how to knit,

weaving silence in between the threads

which I can still feel as I walk through this ever-growing house,
skin itching,

picking up all the habits my mother has unwittingly dropped like bits of
crumpled paper from her pocket on her countless trips from bedroom to kitchen to
bedroom again.

Nights I hear her creep down to eat plain yogurt in the dark, a fugitive stealing
calories to which she does not feel entitled.

Deciding how many bites is too many.

How much space she deserves to occupy.

Watching the struggle I either mimic or hate her,

And I don’t want to do either anymore,

but the burden of this house has followed me across the country.

I asked five questions in genetics class today and all of them started with
the word “sorry.”

I don’t know the requirements for the sociology major because I spent the entire
meeting deciding whether or not I could have another piece of pizza,

a circular obsession I never wanted, but

inheritance is accidental,

still staring at me with wine-soaked lips from across the kitchen table.

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW Matthew 26:6–13

(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation)

read by Rev. Kevin Bechtold

Now Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon with the skin disease, a woman came to him who had an alabaster vessel of extremely valuable balm, and she poured it on his head as he sat at table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, “What purpose does this waste serve? For this could have been sold for much, and the money given to the poor.” But Jesus understanding, said to them, “Why are you making this trouble for the woman? She has done something good for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. By pouring this balm on my body she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

ANTHEM. *Alabaster Box* Janice Lyn Sjostrand
Benjamin Bentler, piano

MESSAGE *A Full Measure* Dr. Brown

HYMN *I Need You To Survive* Hezekiah Walker
Sari Breznau, piano

I need you, you need me
We're all a part of God's body
Stand with me, agree with me
We're all a part of God's body
It is God's will that every need be supplied
You are important to me, I need you to survive
You are important to me, I need you to survive
I pray for you
You pray for me
I love you
I need you to survive
I won't harm you with words from my mouth
I love you
I need you to survive
It is God's will that every need be supplied
You are important to me, I need you to survive
You are important to me, I need you to survive

CHARGE AND BENEDICTIONDr. Brown

POSTLUDE

Allegro vivace, H. 459Fanny Mendelssohn

Benjamin Bentler, piano



WALK THE LABYRINTH



Come, take the journey, April 6 & 7.

All are welcome to walk the Plymouth labyrinth during Holy Week in Hildebrand Hall on Maundy Thursday, April 6, 12 noon–2 pm, and Good Friday, April 7, 10 am–noon and 2–3 pm. Harpist Mona Terry will play hymn improvisations and original compositions during April 6 walk. Volunteers needed: please contact Rev. Donene Blair: DBlair@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

As we walk the labyrinth, our physical and spiritual paths converge to become a pilgrimage. The labyrinth is a safe and intentional place for introspection, a place where we can dedicate focused time to our questions and prayers. Come, follow your path; take the journey.

FROM HIS HEART'S DEEP CORE

Seattle Opera presents *From his Heart's Deep Core: The Music of Richard Thompson and others, Inspired by the Life and Writing of Paul Laurence Dunbar*, 7:30 pm Tuesday, April 4, Tagney Jones Hall at the Opera Center. General Public: \$45, Subscribers: \$40.

Seattle Opera favorites Martin Bakari (*The Marriage of Figaro*) and Ellaina Lewis (*Blue*) team up with Tacoma pianist Joe Williams (last here with tenor Joshua Stewart in 2022) for a special night of opera, classical art song, and jazz. The program will feature music from Richard Thompson and other composers, including settings of Paul Laurence Dunbar's poetry, which has resonated with and inspired artists for generations across many musical genres. Tickets and more info at SeattleOpera.org.



Ellaina Lewis, Martin Bakari, Joe Williams

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Spread Easter Joy Each Easter, Plymouth encourages folks to visit and deliver a cheerful flower to members who are isolated and who have suffered a loss. Please be a part of this important tradition and look for the cards and take a plant on Easter Sunday. 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 April 13-15. See full schedule and details 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, by 5 pm the day of the meeting for the Zoom link.

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. Make your voice heard for the cause of justice!

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. 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 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 for more information.

Did You Know... You can view past services on our website, 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.

SEATTLE CONVERGENCE

NOURISHMENT FOR ANTI-RACISM AND
COLLECTIVE LIBERATION
APRIL 2023

This spring, you are invited to come, be nourished,
get connected, and skill up for the on-going work of liberation.



Chris Crass is a leading voice calling for and supporting white people to work for racial justice, and men to work for feminism.



Ayoka Turner is a trainer and organizer with over 25 years of experience working with communities to develop partnerships for social change.



Rev. Sekou is a noted theologian, musician, author, public intellectual, filmmaker, and community organizer.

**Sat, April 15th
1-5pm**
at University
Unitarian Church

PRAXIS: a workshop for religious/spiritual leaders to generate lessons, culture, and power for collective liberation with Ayoka Turner and Chris Crass

Join others with the commitment to ending structural inequality and supremacy systems, and strengthen our power for racial justice.

**Sun, April 16th
4:30-7pm**
at University
Unitarian Church

Anti-racist Parenting for Collective Liberation with Chris Crass
Learn about ways we can support our children in their social justice journey, as well as how our families can join with others as part of racial, gender, and economic justice movements for liberation.

**Sat, April 22nd
1-4pm**
at University
Congregational
UCC

CONVERGENCE: Heart and Soul Nourishment for Anti-racism and Collective Liberation with Chris Crass, Rev. Sekou, and Valley & Mountain Fellowship Ensemble

This gathering is open to all and is designed to encourage and uplift us. Expect music, sharing, learning, and connecting.



Register at
www.collective-liberation.org

Organized by University Congregational UCC and University Unitarian Church

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.