



10:30 AM EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 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:

DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

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10:30 AM SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024

EASTER 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

*Prelude and Fugue in D Major, “Halleluja” Franz Schmidt
Dr. Stephen Price, organ*

LIBATION *Come Down Angels*
African American Spiritual, arr by Undine Smith Moore
Stephanie Anne Johnson, soprano; Joe Williams, piano

WELCOME. Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP June Hayakawa-Fung

One: We gather in the presence of God's love to celebrate
the best love story ever told.

All: The Holy Story of the Risen Christ!

One: A story of the Risen Christ who came as a
sacrificial lamb to heal a hurting world.

All: The Divine sign of God's love and grace.

One: The story of three women who rose early to care
for Jesus' body in the tomb.

**All: An act to honor God's loving presence sent
to be among us.**

One: These women arrived and saw an empty tomb; they
were shocked and afraid.

**All: They remembered the symbol of human
shame of the old rugged cross.**

One: But the story did not end with the crucified Jesus.
An Angel of God appeared in the empty tomb, and
their terror transformed into amazement.

All: God's love had once again been revealed.

One: The journey of the three women continued; they
were asked to go out and spread the Good News of
God's love, peace, and justice found in the Risen Christ!

**All: Today, we receive this Good News; Christ is Risen.
He is Risen as He said!**

HYMN *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* EASTER HYMN

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Kevin Bechtold

Redeeming God, We recognize that your love for all creation is great and unmovable. All that we need on earth has been provided, and yet we struggle to share a portion of our blessings so that all might have enough. You have created an earth vast with land and sea. And yet, we embrace a narrative of scarcity. Believing that somehow there is not enough for everyone to be cared for. But the data proves otherwise. We know there is an overwhelming abundance of resources on the earth you created. Help us to choose a narrative of abundance over scarcity. Give us the strength to help make this world a better place by embracing your agape love of equality for all creation. Let your ancient story of love be our new, innovative, and transformative story of love. The kind of love that transforms hearts, O God, and leads us towards this new way of living. May this new life speak to the kind of prosperity that overflows with your love of peace and justice for all people, everywhere!

ASSURANCE OF GRACE Rev. Bechtold

God of Grace and Glory, We are humbled by your faithfulness and love. Even if our fears spark terror and doubt, you never leave us. There is no other love greater than yours. You call upon all of creation to spread the Good News of your love and glorious light. Reminding us that your love is sweeter than the honey in the honeycomb. Comforting us even in the bitterness of life as we embrace the loving assurance of forgiveness found in Jesus Christ, whose grace and mercy bless us still. **Amen.**

HYMN *Christ Rose Up from the Dead* ASCENSUS

Refrain



Christ rose, Christ rose, Christ rose up from the dead, Christ rose,
a - rose a - rose, a - rose,



Christ rose, Christ rose from the dead, Christ rose Christ rose,
a - rose a - rose, a - rose,



Christ rose up from the dead, and God's grace will bear my spir - it home.



- 1 They cru - ci - fied my Sav - ior up - on a com - mon cross, they
- 2 And Jo - seph begged his bod - y, and laid it in the tomb, and
- 3 An an - gel came from heav - en and rolled a - way the stone, an
- 4 Oh, Mar - y, she came run - ning and found an emp - ty tomb, oh,



cru - ci - fied my Sav - ior up - on a com - mon cross, They
Jo - seph begged his bod - y, and laid it in the tomb, And
an - gel came from heav - en and rolled a - way the stone, An
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cru - ci - fied my Sav - ior up - on a com - mon cross,
Jo - seph begged his bod - y, and laid it in the tomb,
an - gel came from heav - en and rolled a - way the stone,
Mar - y, she came run - ning and found an emp - ty tomb,



(1-4) and God's grace will bear my spir - it home.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Min. Ara Lawrence

Because He Lives

Dr. Stephen Price, organ; Joe Williams, piano

Honoring Trans Visibility Sunday

Celebrating Gender Diversity – Coming Home with Generous Hospitality

resources written or compiled by the Rev. Dr Josephine Inkpin (TransSpirit.org)

God of kaleidoscopic love,
we give thanks this day for the wonder and diversity of your Creation,
and especially for the glorious gender diversity of humanity,
created in your image.

God of generous hospitality, in your mercy
hear our prayer

We pray for those in need, for a deeper understanding of your joy and
purpose for us all,
and for the fulfillment of your vision of dynamic unity.

As we celebrate the work of your grace in making us new creations, help
us come home to your peace and
enable others to be at home with you, with themselves, and with all that
you have created.

God of generous hospitality, in your mercy
hear our prayer

We pray for welcoming hearts and arms to embrace.

Like the parent in Jesus story, who rushed out to meet his offspring with
your profound mothering love,
enable us to let go of our inherited prejudices and inhibitions, that we
may joyfully receive one another's
diverse gifts and thus be fully reconciled and renewed together in
your love.

God of generous hospitality, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Kaleidoscopic God,

beyond gender and embodied in all,
thank you for your love and your assurance that
we have been fearfully and wonderfully made.
Grant us strength and joy in being the people
whom you have created and called us to be.
Give us patience and loving persistence in the
face of struggle and adversity, and help us
always to live fully as blessed images of you.

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), 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 the family and friends of:

Mardi (Waggoner) Abuza and Jessie Attri on the one-year anniversary of their passing.



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 PEACERev. Donene Blair

One: Loving God, the abundance of your generosity is
exemplified in the dawning of the sun.

**All: Thank you for the joy and hope of new mercies
found in the morning sun.**

One: Even in moments when we are showered by the rain,
remind us that your love never fails.

**All: Rain down your abundant love and redeeming
grace upon us.**

One: Let us give our offerings with generosity and joy to the
One who has faithfully and generously given to us love,
grace, and mercy.

*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.*

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 DEDICATIONRev. Blair

**Let us remember that weeping may endure for a night, but
joy comes early in the morning. May these gifts of blessing
be a sign of the love, light, and glory of our redeeming
God who has created a world of abundance with all that
we need. May we remain thankful for your generosity,
O God, as we dedicate these offerings to you and your
beloved creation.**

MEDITATION. *Roses* Jean-Michel Blais

Dancers: Adelaide Laramy, Melody Hatch, Maggie Hull

Emmy Bakari Fansler, choreographer

Joe Williams, piano

CONTEMPORARY VOICE by Jim Palmer

Ten things about Christianity that Jesus would not endorse if he had a say:

1. That his vision for a transformed society got twisted into an afterlife fantasy about heaven.
2. That a religion was formed to worship his name, instead of a movement to advance his message.
3. That the gospel says his death solved the problem of humankind's separation from God, instead of accepting his truth that there is no separation.
4. That the religion bearing his name was conceived by the theories and doctrines of Paul, instead of the ultimate reality that Jesus lived and demonstrated.
5. That he was said to exclusively be God in the flesh, putting his example out of reach, rather than teaching that we all share in the same spirit that empowered his character and life.
6. That the religion that claims his name, teaches that his wisdom and teachings are the only legitimate way to know truth and God.
7. The teaching that the crucifixion of Jesus was a blood sacrifice to appease an angry God, instead of his greatest act of human solidarity and love for all humankind.
8. That people are waiting on Jesus to return to save the world and end suffering, rather than taking responsibility for saving the world and solving suffering ourselves.
9. That people think there is magical potency in uttering the name of Jesus, rather than accessing our own natural powers and capabilities to effect change.
10. That people have come to associate Jesus with church, theology, politics and power, rather than courage, justice, humanity, beauty and love.



Jim Palmer is an ordained minister, author, activist, spiritual director, and leading figure in the non-religious spirituality movement. In 2000, Palmer left professional ministry and began chronicling his journey of “shedding religion to find God.”

CHORAL ANTHEM This Joyful Eastertide arr. by Charles Wood
Plymouth Choir; Eliza Woodyard, conductor

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW Matthew 28:1-10
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And look! There was a great earthquake, for a messenger of God, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. Its appearance was like lightning, and its clothing white as snow. For fear of the messenger, the guards shook and were as though dead. But the messenger responded to the women and said, “Fear not; I know that you all are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, just as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and see, he is on to Galilee ahead of you; there you all will see him.’ This is my message for you.” So the women left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples the news. Then, all of a sudden, Jesus met them and said, “Shalom!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and bowed down worshiping him. Then Jesus said to them, “Fear not; go and tell my siblings to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

PRAISE
Alleluia from Exsultate, jubilate by W. A. Mozart
Ellaina Lewis, soprano; Joe Williams, piano

MESSAGE *Come Alive* Dr. Brown

PRAISE *Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit*
African American Spiritual arr. by H.T. Burleigh
Stephanie Anne Johnson, soprano; Joe Williams, piano

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Dr. Brown

POSTLUDE. *Toccata* Marcel Lanquetuit
Dr. Stephen Price, organ

CELEBRATE WITH US

After the service, join in a community festival with food and fun in the Lounge and on the patio. Enjoy a spread of fruit and vegetables, featuring heavy appetizers and desserts from Project Feast (ProjectFeast.org). We’ll have fun activities for all ages, including photo booth and bouncy house! Come join friends in celebration of new life and liberation.

SPREAD EASTER JOY

All are encouraged to continue the Plymouth tradition of visiting and delivering a cheerful flower to those members who are isolated or who have suffered a loss. Look for the cards and deliver on Easter or sometime in the next week to share the love and joy of the season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Love Wins! March 31 is Transgender Day of Visibility. To our transgender/ninbinary siblings: We see you and we love you. Learn more and find links to resources in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Mozart and Friends 7 pm Sunday, April 14 at Benaroya Hall. Enjoy beloved classics by Mozart and two friends who inspired his work. Featuring violinist Eduardo Rios, cellist Nathan Chan, and pianists Joseph Williams and Byron Schenkman. More information and tickets at SoundSalonMusic.org/Mozart-and-Friends.

Sound Medicine Meditation Tory Trujillo offers a deeply healing monthly sessions. Join her at 12:30 pm in Hildebrand Hall Sunday, April 7. Suggested Donation \$20. Read more in news article 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 choral anthems. All are welcome. Contact Joe Williams for more information.

Help Lead Worship Help Lead Worship The Plymouth Worship Team welcomes lay leaders to help with worship, both in person and online. Roles include leading litanies, reading Scripture and contemporary voices, and assisting as needed on Sundays. If you feel called to serve Plymouth and deepen your spiritual life by assisting in worship leadership, 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.

The Plymouth Church Library is open before and after worship every Sunday morning.



A background image of pink lilies with green leaves, slightly faded to allow text to be read.

EASTER FLOWERS

Given in memory, or in honor of...

To the Glory of Easter,
from Kerry and Darlene Krenzke

Our Parents John and Jean Haigh; Al and Dorothy Hagen,
from Ken and Jeanette Hagen

Dear Friends Dorothy Tuttle and Jill Reder and
Dear Cousin Kathy Lanowy
from Lauren Davis

Additional Contributions from

Kathy Rood
Mark and Connie Sandstrom

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.