

Longing...

10:30 AM SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 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

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10:30 AM SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

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.

This Sunday we share together Holy Communion in our worship. For those with us online, before the time of the service you will want to prepare some bread and juice of some sort. Remember this is a meal of grace, so whatever “bread” or “juice” you choose will more than suffice. Set these elements in the sacred place where you experience worship. Thank you for your preparation.

PRELUDE

Ballade No. 2 in F major, Op.38 Frédéric Chopin

Joe Williams, piano

CALL TO WORSHIPRev. Donene Blair

from Enfleshed.com

One: Since the beginning, God has been relentlessly pursuing us in love.

**Many: Though our faithfulness ebbs and flows,
God’s love endures forever.**


One: Taking on flesh like ours, God became one with humanity in the person of Jesus Christ.

**Many: God lived and moved and ministered in the
margins of power.**


One: God incarnate was not what we expected. We did not recognize God in Jesus. Still, we struggle to recognize God with us.

**Many: And yet, God continues to dwell in our
midst. Thanks be to God.**


HYMN Hosanna, Loud, Hosanna, vs. 1, 2 ELLACOMBE




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,



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.



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,



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.

WELCOME. Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Dr. Brown, Rev. Kevin Bechtold
Emily Susan Bechtold,
Daughter of Alicia and Kevin Bechtold, Sister of Luke Bechtold,
Granddaughter of Sue and Jim Bechtold

HYMN *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry.* BORNING CRY

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
I'll be there in case you wander off
and find where demons dwell.

When you found the wonder of the Word,
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living God,
to whom you now belong.

Should you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome at our table to share the bread and the cup, whether you are a believer, a seeker, a skeptic, doubter or somewhere in between.

INVITATION. Rev. Bechtold



COMMUNION PRAYER. Rev. Blair

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, Jim Oswald (Friend of Bing Tso), 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), Anna Partch (Friend of Sari Breznau), Jose Robles and Family, 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)

Our hearts are with the family and friends of Mardi (Waggoner) Abuza, friend of Vicki Schoettle, on her recent passing.

We grieve with the family and friends of Jessie Attri who passed away 3/25/23.

We remember Kent Graham, friend of John Colwell's, on the one-year anniversary of his 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 (*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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION. Dr. Brown

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION HYMN

Eat This Bread Taize Chant, Music by Jacques Berthier

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING. June Hayakawa-Fung

Holy One, we give thanks for the sustenance of the bread and the cup. Simple elements to carry us on our journey. Simple elements to remind us that you are with us. Simple elements which let us know that we are agents of change bringing about your beloved community. In gratitude we pray, Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE. “Peace be with you”

Those online are invited to put greetings in the chat on the website or on YouTube.

CALL TO OFFERING Rev. Blair

Friends, God is good, and God’s steadfast love endures forever. Because of God’s enduring love, we cherish and give thanks for the gifts in our lives. Today on this spring morning, we come to share out of the abundance of God’s love and light among us so that the world may know God’s boundless love which knows no end.

*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

“Sarabande” from Cello Suite No. 4 J. S. Bach
Gretchen Yanover, cello

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

**O God of Welcome and Waving Palms, as the crowd
offered to you their praise and the palms on the road,
so we share these gifts out of the abundance you have
provided. May they be for the healing salvation and work
of justice you are bringing about in the world through
your unending love. Amen.**

CONTEMPORARY VOICE*The May Night*. Sara Teasdale



*Sara Teasdale was an
American lyric poet who
won a Pulitzer Prize in
1918.*

The spring is fresh and fearless
And every leaf is new,
The world is brimmed with moonlight,
The lilac brimmed with dew.
Here in the moving shadows
I catch my breath and sing,
My heart is fresh and fearless
And over-brimmed with spring.

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW Matthew 21:1-11

(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

Now they had come near Jerusalem and reached Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village before you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; release them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Son of Woman needs them.’ And they will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

“Tell the daughter of Zion,
‘Look, your sovereign is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’ ”

The disciples went and did just as Jesus had instructed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that were going before him and the one following were shouting, saying:

“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Holy One!
Hosanna in the highest! ”

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was shook, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

ANTHEM

He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word arr. by William Schoenfeld
Plymouth Singers with cellist Gretchen Yanover

MESSAGE Rev. Bechtold

HYMN *Hosanna, Loud, Hosanna, vs. 3* ELLACOMBE

“Hosanna in the highest!”

That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer,
the Lord of heaven, our King.

O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence
eternally rejoice.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Rev. Bechtold

POSTLUDE

Were You There? African-American Spiritual, arr. by H. T. Burleigh
Amy Van Mechelen, soprano; Joe Williams, piano

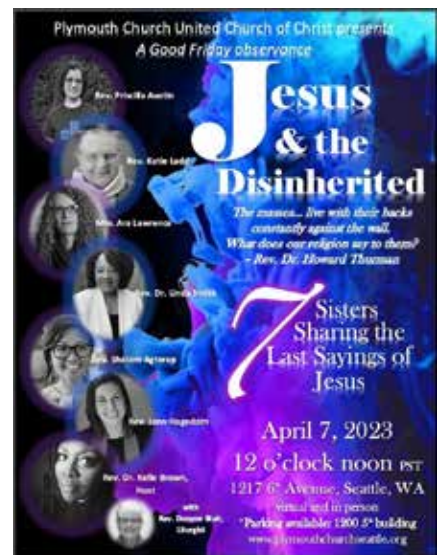
WORSHIP AT NOON ON GOOD FRIDAY

Join us for worship at noon Good Friday, April 7, in the Sanctuary or online. We gather to reflect and remember Jesus' last words on the cross. A time to engage with the mystery, sorrow, and expectation of Good Friday and Holy Week.

“Forgive them, for they know not what they do.” **Rev. Priscilla Austin**; *“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”* **Rev. Katie Ladd**; *“Woman, behold your son.”*

“Son, behold your mother.” **Min. Ara Lawrence**; *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”* **Rev. Dr. Linda Smith**; *“I thirst.”* **Rev. Shalom Agtarap**; *“It is finished.”* **Rev. Jenn Hagedorn**; *“Into your hands I commend my spirit.”* **Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown.**

Free parking in the 1200 5th Building garage (next door to Plymouth). Read more in the News article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrate Easter with Plymouth Next Sunday, April 9, you are invited to gather at 9:30 am in the Lounge for a breakfast snack and time for fellowship before the celebratory 10:30 am service. Bring friends and family with you!

Music Notes Joe Williams, Plymouth's Director of Music and Arts, invites you to enjoy *From his Heart's Deep Core: The Music of Richard Thompson and others Inspired by the Life and Writing of Paul Laurence Dunbar* Tuesday, April 4, 7:30 pm at Tagney Jones Hall, Seattle Opera Center. More information and tickets at SeattleOpera.org.

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 or who have suffered a loss. Please be a part of this important tradition. 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*.

Anti-racist Giving Workshop 6-8:30 pm Thursday, April 27, at Plymouth. This interactive, cross-class workshop is open to all, but has been designed specifically for folks who have benefited from the history of white wealth accumulation. See news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org to register.

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. **Next opportunity is April 12.** Email Diane Jacobsen, DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org, by 5 pm the day of the meeting for the Zoom link.

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.

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!

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.

WALK THE LABYRINTH IN HOLY WEEK



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.

Mona Terry began her musical journey on piano at age nine under the guidance of her mother. She carried on that tradition in college, teaching 700+ students during her career. In addition to piano, Mona plays acoustic bass, pipe organ, djembe drum and harp. She also performed, accompanied, and composed for two womyn's vocal ensembles.

Touring with an international folk dancing troupe led Mona to world music and carried her to Europe to record with sisters Zela Terry and Lesa Terry. Together they have performed, most notably, for Maya Angelou, Cicely Tyson, Clark Terry and India Arie.

With her harp, Mona trained as a therapeutic musician and spent several years with hospice patients. Mona is published in the *International Folk Harp Journal* and has produced two self-published CDs for mixed instrumentation and voice. In partnership with Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute, Mona served as Artist Director for “*Let the Strings Speak*,” a community outreach endeavor, and most recently performed for the Gala Premier Opening of the LA Pan African Film Festival.



Mona Terry accompanies the April 6 walk.

**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.**