



Belonging.

REJOICING

10:30 AM SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 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, APRIL 16, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY IN EASTER

*When you enter Plymouth Church UCC,
may you feel the peace, intimacy, belonging,
acceptance & 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 *Fanfare, op. 85* *C. S. Lang*
Rev. James Parrish Smith, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Kevin Bechtold

One: O God of all our days,
we come this morning with eager anticipation.

**Many: Open our hearts,
that we might experience you anew.**


One: Open our lives,
that we may be faithful witnesses
to your resurrection.

**Many: May we, with shouts of joy,
proclaim your steadfast, liberating love
all people, everywhere.**

HYMN *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty* NICEA



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Saints a - dore you tru - ly,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though we know but dim - ly,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing we praise your maj - es - ty.
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 Though the eyes of hum - an - kind your glo - ry may not see,
 All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim bow be - fore you on - ly,
 You a - lone are ho - ly, you a - lone are wor - thy,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 From the be - gin - ning, God e - ter - nal - ly.
 Per - fect in power, in love and pur - i - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

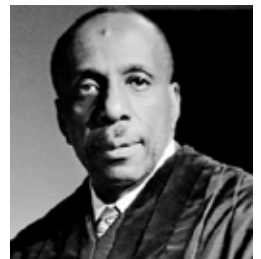
PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Bechtold

A Prayer by Howard Thurman

Our little lives, our big problems—these we place
upon Your altar!
The quietness in Your temple of silence again and again
rebuffs us:
For some there is no discipline to hold them steady
in the waiting,
And the minds reject the noiseless invasion of Your spirit.
For some there is no will to offer what is central
in the thoughts—
The confusion is so manifest, there is no starting place
to take hold.
For some the evils of the world tear down all concentrations
And scatter the focus of the high resolves.
We do not know how to do what we know to do.
We do not know how to be what we know to be.
Our little lives, our big problems—these we place
upon Your altar!

ASSURANCE OF GRACE Rev. Bechtold

Pour out upon us whatever our spirits need of shock,
of life, of release
That we may find strength for these days—
Courage and hope for tomorrow.
In confidence we rest in Your sustaining grace
Which makes possible triumph in defeat, gain in loss,
and love in hate.
We rejoice this day to say:
Our little lives, our big problems—these we place
upon Your altar!



Howard Thurman was an American author, philosopher, theologian, educator, and civil rights leader. As a prominent religious figure, he played a leading role in many social justice movements and organizations of the twentieth century.

WELCOME. Rev. Bechtold

Plymouth Church acknowledges the land that we occupy, which was stewarded by the Duwamish people, the first stewards of this land. We 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 others 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 and in the world, and recognize that such a statement is only the beginning of the work to which we are called.

SHARING OF PEACE. “Peace be with you”

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE. Rev. Donene Blair



Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Susan Carter (Mother of Heather Banks & Kathleen Bernard), Sue Ellen Daniel (Friend of Barb Laski), John Daniels, Eric Minea (Cousin of Kristine Danzinger), Susan Emerson, JoAnn English (Relative of Lucian Guthrie), Anna Florey, Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Diane Folkert & Family (Mother-in-law of Ara Lawrence), Michelle J. Bennett (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Irma Johnson (Friend of Toni Arthur), Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), Ruth Kiemle (Mother of Anne Kiemle), Concetta Lewis (Sister of Jo-Ann Guthrie), Mamadou Diakhate (Friend of Floyd Gossett), Montecino Family, Jim Oswald (Friend of Bing Tso), Anna Partch (Friend of Sari Breznau), Jose Robles and Family, Doug Ryan (Brother of Mary Ryan), 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 Margaret Thornton, mother of Jamie Shilling, on the one-year anniversary of her passing.

*Watered Gardens by Joyce Rupp
from her collection, May I Have This Dance?
An Invitation to Faithful Prayer Throughout the Year*

God of little buds just now wearing green sleeves,
God of lilac limbs all full with signs of flowering,
God of fields plowed and black with turned-over earth,
God of screeching baby bird mouths widely awaiting food,
God of openness, of life and of resurrection,
Come into this Easter season and bless me.
Look around the tight, dead spaces of my heart
That still refuse to give you an entrance.
Bring your gentle but firm love.

Begin to lift the layers of resistance
That hang on tightly deep inside of me.
Open, one by one, those places in my life
Where I refuse to be overcome by surprise.
Open, one by one, those parts of my heart
Where I fight the entrance of real growth.
Open, one by one, those aspects of my spirit
Where my security struggles with the truth.
Keep me open to the different and the strange;
Help me to accept the unusual and also the ordinary;
Never allow me to tread on others' dreams
By shutting them out, closing them up,
By turning them off or pushing them away.
God of the Resurrection, God of the living,
Entomb and uncover all that needs to live in me.
Take me to people, events and situations
And stretch me into much greater openness.
Open me. Open me. Open me.
For it is only then that I will grow and change.
For it is only then that I will be transformed.
For it is only then that I will know how it is
To be in the moment of rising from the dead.

 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 Rev. Blair

It is tempting to always look for the “return on investment” on your generosity. And that is worthwhile, because we must be excellent stewards of God’s money. But sometimes, generosity is more about what God is doing in us through giving than it is about knowing exactly how that gift will be used.

We are entering that moment right now in our service, when we are all challenged once again to believe the promise of Jesus; “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Will you join me in trusting this promise by giving to the church?

*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

Londonderry Airarr. by Don Muro/James Parrish Smith
Rev. James Parrish Smith, organ

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 June Hayakawa-Fung

Loving God, we have so many reasons to say “thank You.” You create abundance through us and we pray that the gifts we offer in worship and throughout the week might be used to benefit the world. Strengthen us to recognize our blessings, to be grateful, and to respond accordingly. Amen.

CONTEMPORARY VOICE Marianne Williamson



*Marianne Williamson
is an American writer,
activist and and
politician.*

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our [shadows] that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, ‘Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?’ Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won’t feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It’s not just in some of us; it’s in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN John 20:19–31

(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation)

read by Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

When it was evening on that day, the first of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples were closed for fear of the Judeans, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you all.” And having said this, Jesus showed them his hands and his side, and then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Messiah. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you all, just as the Living God has sent me, so I send you all.” When Jesus had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit; if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Messiah.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

And within eight days his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, though the doors were shut, and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you all.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands. Bring your hand and put it in my side and do not doubt, rather believe.” Thomas answered him, saying, “My Savior and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Was it because you have seen me that you believed? Blessed are

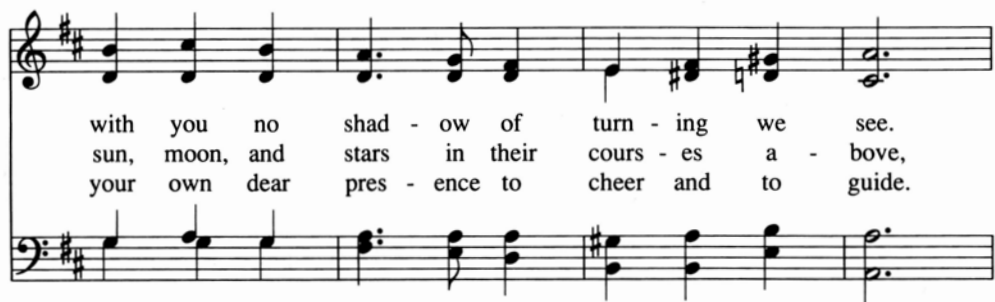
Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

MESSAGE *Seeing the Marks* Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

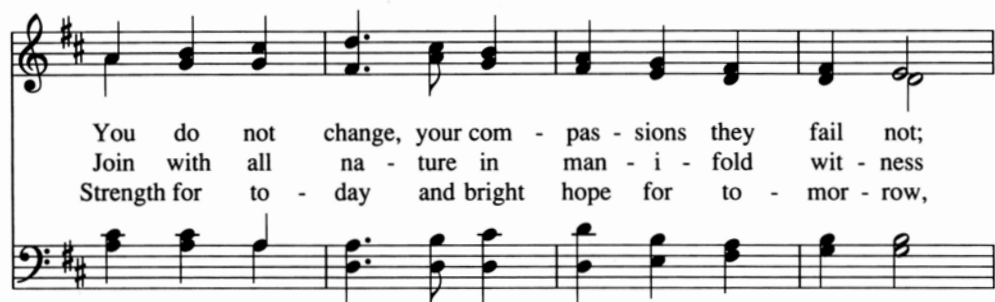
HYMN *Great is Thy Faithfulness* Faithfulness



1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,



with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
 your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.



You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.
 to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

Refrain

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by
morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed your
hand has pro-vid-ed, Great is your faith-ful-ness, God, un-to me!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Dr. Brown

POSTLUDE. *King of Kings* Ralph Simpson
Rev. James Parrish Smith, organ



ORGAN RECITAL AND HYMN SING TODAY

Gather in the Sanctuary at 2 pm **today** for an organ recital and hymn sing led by Rev. James Parrish Smith, Director of Music and Organist at the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, California. All welcome. Suggested donation: \$20.

Rev. Smith has served in musical leadership in prominent churches in Louisiana, Florida, and Alabama, most recently serving the historic Third Baptist Church of San Francisco where he was Director of Music and Organist and Founding Director of the Bridge to Arts and Music Program in association with the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He currently serves as Dean of the San Francisco Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Come Celebrate the installation of Rev. Jennifer Castle at the Congregational Church on Mercer Island, 2 pm Sunday, April 23. You can also join online by going to UCC-Ccmi.org and clicking the “worship with us” button. All are welcome!

Online Concert 7 pm Sunday, April 23, highlighting the work of contemporary composer Dr. Brian Raphael Nabors, featuring violinist Caitlin Edwards, cellist Sterling Elliot, and pianist Joseph Williams. Free, donations welcome. Links to view and donate in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Anti-racist Giving Workshop 6-8:30 pm Thursday, April 27, at Plymouth. This 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.

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 May 4-6. See full schedule and details PinwSeattle.org.

Celebrate Panamanian Black History Month with a special tea party at Plymouth 1 pm Saturday, May 13. Plan now for a day of surprises and fun. \$30 participation fee. Watch for more details.

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.

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.

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.