



10:30 AM SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 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

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 21, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
EARTH SUNDAY

*When you enter Plymouth Church UCC,
may you feel the peace, intimacy, belonging,
acceptance and refuge of Sanctuary.*

MELODIOUS SOUNDS FOR THE TIMES

After worship today, Josephine Howell Productions presents a musical extravaganza that will leave you better than when you came. Special Guest Artist Atlanta-based musical genius, Colette “CC Sunchild” Coward, will gift us with her incredible style and brilliant delivery. Musical talent includes Josephine Howell, vocals; Jake Sele keys; Medearis Dixson sax; Rufus Yarbrough, bass guitar and Christopher Patin, drums. Don’t miss this experience! Freewill offering, no charge to attend.

PRELUDE *The Good Shepherd* Dom Paul Benoit
LaDonna Bowers, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP June Hayakawa-Fung

One: When we are scattered, Jesus our Good Shepherd gathers us in.

Many: **When we are lost and lonely, we can depend on Christ’s love.**

One: When we are oppressed, Jesus our Good Shepherd cares for us.

Many: **When we are threatened because of who we are, we can depend on Christ’s protection.**

One: We know Christ, because Christ’s tenderness has guided us for generations.

Many: **Christ knows us by name. Christ will lay down his very life for our sake.**

One: Let us worship our Good Shepherd, who cares for all of us with fierce love.

Many: **Let us give thanks for Christ’s presence with us.**

HYMN Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You. HYMN TO JOY

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
2 All your works with joy sur - round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
3 You are giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blessed,
4 Mor - tals, join the might - y cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Bound - less love is reign - ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flower - y mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Lov - ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, teach us what our praise should be.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

Shepherding Christ, even as you lay down your life for us, we confess our unwillingness to support the those in need. Too often, we may be more like the one who runs away in times of trouble. We aren't always bold enough to protect the powerless; following your example is rarely easy or comfortable. Forgive us. Help us lay down our apathy and follow your example. Remind us that we belong to one another, and to you.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

Leader: Beloved of God, receive this comfort. It is impossible to respond to every need in this complicated world. A full life of faith gives us the grace to lay down our work, take the rest we need, then refocus our energy toward the cause of the oppressed. Rest in the shelter of your Good Shepherd, knowing you can take up the cause again with restored souls.

Many: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God!



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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLERev. Donene Blair

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), 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, Kay Heekin (Mother-in-Law of Kate Forrester), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Tom Lemly (Father of Hayden McManus), Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), 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, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Elizabeth Thoreson (Sister of Anne Kiemle, sister-in-law of Kael Sherrard), Irene Wall (Friend of Ruth Williamson)

 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. Blair

Jesus offers us fullness of life, protecting us and advocating for our needs. What will you give to join him in the work of building beloved community in the world?

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 DEDICATION Rev. Blair

**Gracious God, thank you for your gift of Jesus Christ, who
cares for us and protects us. With these gifts we return
to you, help us care for others in our communities and
around the world. Amen.**

SONG OF RESPONSE *the earth is a living thing*

In recognition of Earth Day

Deborah J. Anderson; Poetry by Lucille Clifton (1936 –2010)

Ibidunni Ojikutu, soprano; Joe Williams, piano

is a black shambling bear
ruffling its wild back and tossing
mountains into the sea
is a black hawk circling
the burying ground circling the bones
picked clean and discarded
is a fish black blind in the belly of water
is a diamond blind in the black belly of coal
is a black and living thing
is a favorite child
of the universe
feel her rolling her hand
in its kinky hair
feel her brushing it clean

CONTEMPORARY VOICE by Nikita Gill
Video and Narration by Deacon Indigo Brown



Nikita Gill is an Irish-Indian poet, playwright, writer and illustrator

Every time you think you are broken,
know this: you are never really breaking.
No one can break an ocean,
darling, all you are doing,
is breaking the glass that is holding you back,
diving deeper into your own depths,
discovering yourself in pockets of the most somber waves,
rebuilding your heart with coral,
with seaweed, with moon colored sand dust.
So stop trying to hold yourself back inside that glass,
it was never meant to hold you.
Instead, break it, shatter it into a thousand pieces...
and become who you were always meant to be,
an ocean, proud and whole.

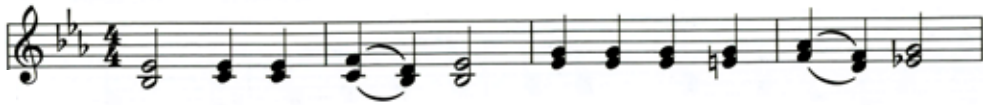
READING FROM CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Acts 6:1-7
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

Now during those days the disciples, women and men, were multiplying and the Greek [followers] grumbled against the Hebrew [followers] because their widows were being neglected in the daily ministry [to the poor]. And the twelve called together the whole multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to do table work. Select therefore [sisters and] brothers from among yourselves seven men of whom there is good testimony, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we can put in charge of this duty. Now we, in prayer and the ministry of the word, will continue.” And their statement pleased the whole multitude and they selected Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a convert to Judaism from Antioch. These stood before the apostles and they prayed and laid their hands on them. And the word of God spread and the number of the disciples, women and men, multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great crowd of the priests became obedient to the faith.

ANTHEM. *For The Beauty of the Earth* arr. John Rutter
 Ibidunni Ojikutu, soprano; Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, alto
 Joe Williams, piano

MESSAGE *Chosen to Serve* Dr. Brown

HYMN *Beautiful Jesus* SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU



1 Beau - ti - ful Je - sus, Head of all cre - a - tion,
 2 Beau - ti - ful spring - time, love - ly, green, and hope - ful,
 3 Beau - ti - ful sun - shine, clear, so love - ly, moon - light,
 4 All earth - ly beau - ty, all ce - les - tial ra - diance



God and the bless - ed Mar - y's child: I want to love you,
 all earth ex - hales its sweet per - fume: Je - sus is sweet - er,
 stars shine like an - gels, ranked through space: Je - sus shines bright - er,
 fade when com - pared to Je - sus' face. Let me not cher - ish



praise and a - dore you, joy of my soul, so long de - sired.
 Je - sus is pur - er, sad hearts at this, re - jice and bloom.
 Je - sus shines clear - er, in per - fect beau - ty, love, and grace.
 beau - ties that per - ish; let me this love - ly good em - brace.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Dr. Brown

POSTLUDE

Even Me (Acappella Praise) as sung by Daryl Coley
 Marlon Brown, voice



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members and Visitors can access Plymouth Guest wi-fi network using password: peaceonearth.

Please Note that Plymouth Church UCC now has a PO Box. Effective immediately, please send all postal correspondence to our new mailing address: Plymouth Church UCC / PO Box 21368 / Seattle WA 98111.

Conference Annual Meeting Plymouth is hosting this year's Pacific Northwest Conference UCC Annual Meeting. April 26-28. Please join us in welcoming Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson as our keynote speaker. Volunteer help needed. Please visit Pncucc.org to learn more.

Faith Action Network Spring Summits Two Sundays this spring: 3-4:30 pm May 5 and June 9. Your voices matter to us! Read more and register at FanWa.org.

Prayers for Peace Learn about and participate in the People's Prayers for Peace initiative, an open invitation to read — and write — prayers, which will be posted daily on the UCC website. Read more and share your prayers at UCC.org/Peoples-Prayers-For-Peace.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.