



# Belonging.

REJOICING

10:30 AM SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 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](http://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](mailto:KBrown@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

[KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

[DBlair@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:DBlair@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

[JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

**For administrative needs, or other non-pastoral care questions, please email:**

[DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

[RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

[TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

10:30 AM SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY IN EASTER

EARTH SUNDAY

*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** . . . . . *Hypnosis* . . . . . Ian Clarke  
Reanna Lee, flute; Joe Williams, piano

**CALL TO WORSHIP** . . . . . June Hayakawa-Fung  
*"You are not Atlas carrying the world on your shoulder.  
It is good to remember that the planet is carrying you."*  
Vandana Shiva

One: God of the open road,  
God of the twisting path,

**Many: God of the narrow and upward way,  
your people are gathered for worship!**

One: In this hour, give us provision for the journey,  
courage and faith and compassion,  
and endurance to face any hardship.  
God of the open road and the twisting path,

**Many: Open our eyes to see you walking beside us,  
guiding us, encouraging us, loving us.**

HYMN . . . . . *Morning Has Broken.* . . . . . Eleanor Farjeon

*In unison*



1 Morn-ing has bro - ken Like the first morn - ing, Black-bird has  
2 Sweet the rain's new fall Sun - lit from heav - en, Like the first  
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing Born of the



spo - ken Like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing!  
dew - fall On the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness  
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion,



Praise for the morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing Fresh from the Word!  
Of the wet gar - den, Sprung in com-plete - ness Where his feet pass.  
Praise ev - ery morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion Of the new day!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION . . . . . Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

**God of tender mercies, we admit that sometimes  
we don't know what to do with ourselves. We anger  
at the slightest insult and imagine great vengeance  
upon those who wronged us. We laze about in the  
good news of our faith and do not consider the deep  
commitment of faith. We care for ourselves but not  
for others. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive us, help us to  
repent, and make us whole.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE . . . . . Rev. Donene Blair

When one whole human being meets  
another whole human being, there is no  
antagonism. Even if there is difference,  
there is respect, because the wholeness of one  
is not in conflict with the wholeness  
of the other.

*(Rumi)*

**Let us be whole together,  
with God as our helper.**

WELCOME. . . . . Rev. Blair

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!

SHARING OF PEACE . . . . . **“Peace be with you”**

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

*This is the Day.* . . . . . Plymouth Ukelele Club

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE . . . . . Matt Durland**

Caring God,  
we thank you for your gifts of Creation  
for our world  
the heavens tell of your glory.  
for our land, its beauty and its resources,  
for the rich gifts we enjoy.

We pray:  
for those who make decisions about the resources of the earth,  
that we may use your gifts responsibly;  
for those who work on the land and sea, in city and in industry,  
that all may enjoy the fruits of their labors  
and marvel at your creation.  
for artists, scientists, and visionaries,  
that through their work we may see creation afresh.

We thank you for giving us life;  
for all who enrich our experience.

We pray:  
For all creatures and plants that have been put in peril by our actions,  
for all who through their own or other's actions are deprived of  
fullness of life,  
for prisoners, refugees, the handicapped, and all who are sick;  
for those in politics, medical science, social and relief work, and for  
your Church,  
for all who seek to bring life to others.

We thank you that you have called us to celebrate your creation.  
Give us reverence for life in your world.

We thank you for your redeeming love;  
may your word and sacrament strengthen us to love as you love us.

God, Creator, bring us life.

Jesus, Redeemer, renew us.

Holy Spirit, strengthen and guide us.

Blessed are you, God of growth and discovery;  
yours is the inspiration that has altered and changed our lives;  
yours is the power that has brought us to new dangers  
and opportunities.  
Set us, your new creation, to walk through this new world,  
watching and learning, loving and trusting, until  
your kindom comes.

*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), 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 of Anne Kiemle and Kael Sherrard on the passing of Anne's mother Ruth Kiemle.*

*We grieve with Jane Ann Bradbury and family on the loss of her brother-in-law Jim.*



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 kindom  
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. Kevin Bechtold**

“Consider the lilies...look at the birds of the air:” Jesus pulls our attention away from our worries about scarcity, and turns our gaze toward the beautiful gifts of God’s creation, signs of abundance and grace surrounding us always. Trust may be difficult for us, as it was for those early disciples, yet we bring our gifts this morning with the assurance of God’s care for us every morning of our lives. 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](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) or  
CashApp your donation to \$PlymouthUCCSeattle.  
We give thanks for your generosity.*

**OFFERING MUSIC**

*On a Hill Far Away . . . . . Arranged by Hannah Kim*  
Plymouth Ukulele Club  
Sari Breznau, Music Ensemble Leader

**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. Bechtold**

**We give you this offering today. With it we worship You  
and give our whole selves to You. Receive it and use it  
for your kindom and for the uplift of the earth and the  
world. May it be a great blessing beyond this moment.  
Amen**



**CONTEMPORARY VOICE** . . . . . Vandana Shiva  
*Seed Resilience*

**READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE** . . . . . Sirach 4:11–16  
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Rev. Bechtold

Wisdom exalts her children  
and takes in those who seek her.  
The one who loves her loves life,  
and those who turn to her early in the morning are filled with joy.  
The one who takes her hand inherits glory,  
and the Holy One blesses the place she enters.  
Those who worship her worship the Holy One;  
the Holy One loves those who love her.  
and the one who attends to her will dwell securely.  
If they are faithful, they will inherit her;  
and she will be the heritage of their descendants.

**ANTHEM.** . . . . . *One Voice* . . . . . Ruth Moody  
Performed by Amy Van Mechelen, Nikki Anderson Joy,  
and Sari Breznau

This is the sound of one voice	This is the sound of all of us
One spirit, one voice	Singing with love and the will to trust
The sound of one who makes a choice	Leave the rest behind, it will turn to dust
This is the sound of one voice	This is the sound of all of us
This is the sound of one voice	This is the sound of all of us
This is the sound of voices two	Ooh-ooh-ooh
The sound of me singing with you	Ooh-ooh-ooh, ooh-ooh-ooh
Helping each other to make it through	This is the sound of one voice
This is the sound of voices two	One people, one voice
This is the sound of voices two	A song for every one of us
This is the sound of voices three	This is the sound of one voice
Singing together in harmony	This is the sound of one voice
Surrendering to the mystery	
This is the sound of voices three	
This is the sound of voices three	

MESSAGE . . . . . *Wisdom Speaking* . . . . . Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

HYMN . . . . . *Be Now My Vision, Vss 1 & 2* . . . . . SLANE

*Unison*



1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;  
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—  
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;

You my best thought, by day or by night,  
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.  
now and for - ev - er your child I will be.

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** . . . . .Dr. Brown

**POSTLUDE**

*Hear Ye, Israel* from *Elijah* . . . . .Felix Mendelssohn

Amy Van Mechelen, soprano

Joe Williams, piano



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***Come Celebrate*** the installation of Rev. Jennifer Castle at the Congregational Church on Mercer Island, 2 pm **today!** Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown will preach. You can also join online by going to [UCC-Ccmi.org](http://UCC-Ccmi.org) and clicking the “worship with us” button. All are welcome!

***Online Concert 7 pm today,*** 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](http://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](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) to register.

***Movies that Move*** Following 10:30 am worship next Sunday, April 30, we will view Disney’s *Encanto* in Hildebrand Hall. Viewing is in-person only. Online discussion 7 pm Wednesday, May 3. (Link for discussion in Sunday Announcements at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) requires usual Plymouth passcode. If you need the passcode, contact [DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

***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](http://PinwSeattle.org).

***Bible Study Sip & Chew Event*** Please join us for Bible study and fun at BluWater Bistro – Leschi 4-6 pm Saturday, May 6. Participants are responsible for their own food and drink. RSVP to Toni Arthur, [TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). by May 2.

***Celebrate Panamanian Black History*** with a special tea party at Plymouth UCC 1 pm Saturday, May 13. Enjoy music, performances, delicious food and gifts, all surrounded by the beauty of Afro-Panamanian culture. Admission \$30. Plan now for a day of surprises and fun.

***The Plymouth Herald*** will be on hiatus the next two weeks. Weekly publication resumes on May 10. Stay up to date by checking our website and look for email updates.



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.