



10:30 AM SUNDAY, MAY 12, 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, MAY 12, 2024

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*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

*Sh'ma Yisrael from Four Jewish Songs arr. James Lee III
In celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month
Joe Williams, piano*

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Kevin Bechtold
Adapted from Baby Suggs sermon in Beloved by Toni Morrison

One: Let the children come! Run from the trees, and come.

**Many: Let your mothers hear you laugh! Let the
woods ring as they look on and smile.**

One: Let the grown ones come! Step out one by one
from among the ringing trees.

**Many: Let your people see you dance as the
groundlife shudders underneath your feet.**

One: Cry for the living and the dead. Just cry. Without
covering your eyes, let loose.

Many: For here in this here place, we are flesh;

One: Flesh that weeps, laughs; flesh that dances on bare
feet in the grass.

All: Love yourself. Love you well.

HYMN *They'll Know We Are Christians*

We are one in the Spirit,
we are one in our God;
We are one in the Spirit,
we are one in our God;
And we pray that all unity
will one day be restored...
And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians
by our love.

We will walk with each other,
we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other,
we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news
that God is in our land...

And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians
by our love.

We will work with each other,
we will work side by side;
We will work with each other,
we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each one's dignity
and save each one's pride...

And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians
by our love.

Unmasking a Myth by Angi Sullins

when they want to
control you
they do not come
with shackles
made of iron
they come instead
with cages made
of shame and story
like the one
about the woman
who earned crisis
for her curiosity
so tempted by a life
of wisdom and independence
she caused the downfall
of all civilization
women are dangerous,
says the shame story of Eve
they cannot
be trusted and
should not
trust themselves
give a woman
free choice and
she'll eat the fruit
tempt the man
enrage the god
she'll destroy us all
with her mad desire
to know
to discover
to understand
her self
her world

her maker
give a woman any freedom
and she'll follow
her curiosity
shape her
own story
seek truth beyond
the dictates
of order and obedience
she will wreck
your carefully controlled mandates
your reign of tightness
she will unmake
your holy wars
of right and wrong
and infuse the realm with
choice and instinct
empathy outranking rules
creativity eclipsing war
sovereignty subsuming
blind servitude
when you want to know
like Eve
when you have a taste
for truth
and a hunger for wisdom
you have to question
the stories
test the facts
rattle the cage
who profits from you
believing a lie?
who benefits because you
believe you are both

cause and curse?
they have tried
to burn you
with their shame
strip you
violate you
shrink you
silence you
but they could not break
your phoenix spirit
its fierce heat
will melt old regimes
and enflame a generation
who will not settle
for smallness
for submission
for shame
sink your self into
the feathered
red sleeve
of your ancestors
and rise, woman
rise again
for you are
Persephone's Daughter
Lilith's lover
Eve's heir
find the truth
eat the fruit
unmask the myth
let it burn

Poem continued by Angi Sullins

they have tried
to burn you
with their shame
strip you
violate you
shrink you
silence you
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Angi Sullins is an artist, writer, performer, traveler, wonder-hunter and muse.

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.

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 (Siblings of Plymouth), Michelle J. Bennett (Sister of Dawn Bennett), Walter Bethel (Friend of Karen Clark), Ahmed Black (Nephew of Michael and Elizabeth Gordon), 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), Kay Heekin (Mother-in-Law of Kate Forrester), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Tom Lemly (Father of Hayden McManus), Concetta Lewis (Sister of Jo-Ann Guthrie), Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), James McDowell (Cousin of Jerry Rice), Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Dr. Maxine Mimms, Paula Orrego, 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, 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 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 June Hayakawa-Fung

From the abundance of God’s generosity, all are invited to offer a portion of our gifts. We give these gifts to further spread the love of Christ in the world.

May these offerings help fulfill our hope to be Christ’s love and light 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 Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

Faithful God, we thank you for every gift. We delight in returning a portion of what we have been given back to Christ’s church. Your generous love and care for all creation knows no bounds. Like Christ who offered himself, let these offerings symbolize the fulfillment of your love by bringing a healing balm of hope, peace, and justice to everyone, everywhere. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

CONTEMPORARY VOICE *The Temple of Belonging*, by Angi Sullins

The Church of Fitting In
is a tattered doctrine
pedaling the snake oil
of self improvement
it sustains its dying creed
from your contortions
of worthiness
bending for approval
twisting for appreciation
bowing and scraping
in hopes of sanction
through the blood-art
of performance
prettiness and productivity
its prophets of profit
believe you are less than
and grow rich from
the spoils of your
complicit agreement
when you believe
their creed
you'll purchase the diet
conceal the flaws
tweeze the unwanted
shave the unsatisfying
girdle your nature
deny your deep joy
sacrifice your pleasure
on the altar of pleasing
others
and suffer the guilt
of every stolen freedom
in the unholy name of
fitting in
you'll reject all that
doesn't grant you

access to their
idea of perfection
and purchase
all that does
what they don't profit from?
your belonging
there are no riches
in belonging, except
for the woman who is
willing to embody it
The Temple of Belonging
is golden
its hallowed ground
welcomes you as
both priestess
and acolyte
and adorns your shoulders
with the robes
of benefactress
and beneficiary
enter the covenant
of your sovereignty
become your own
sanctuary
drink from the chalice
of self worth
take communion with the
internal divine
swallow it down like
the seasons and seeds
of Persephone's fruit
give voice to
the old songs
the ones that wolf
and moon and forest
still sing

dance out of Eden
feet drumming the
wayback wonder
chant the holy stories
the truth older than
myth
that women
are the holy grail
conceiving, conjuring,
and delivering
every
single
human
being
on
the
planet
worship at the
altar of your
soul's deep content
like the moon-drunk
curve of lily
the garnet skin
of pomegranate
the ink spill arc
of raven's wing
glorious in its
unfolding
precisely as it is
wild, whole, free
perfect in relation
only to itself
kiss your curves
like a prayer
anoint your fingers
with honey

from your own jar
spread wings and legs
and heart in
flowered benediction
Become a disciple
of inner devotion
resurrect the silver
salvation
of self respect
Believe in your self
and your wild holy
heart
like its a sovereign
religion
It is.
And the world
needs more
missionaries.

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MARKMark 12:18-27
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Rev. Blair

Now Sadducees came to him, the ones who say there is no resurrection, and they asked him a question, saying, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the brother should take the woman [as a wife] and raise up children for his brother. There were seven brothers and the first took a woman [as a wife] and he died, leaving no children. And the second took her [as a wife] and died, leaving no children and the third, likewise. And of the seven, none left children. Last of all, the woman died. In the resurrection whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as a wife.”

Jesus said to them, “Is not this the reason you go astray, that you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, women and men neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. Now about the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the story about the bush, how God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?’ God is God not of the dead, but of the living; you have wandered quite far astray.”

ANTHEM *Bridge Over Troubled Water* Paul Simon
Ibidunni Ojikutu, soprano
Joe Williams, piano

MESSAGE *Jesus, the Feminist* Dr. Brown

HYMN *Lean on Me* Bill Withers
Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain
We all have sorrow
But if we are wise
We know that there's always tomorrow
Lean on me
When you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on...
For it won't be long
Till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on
Please swallow your pride
If I have things you need to borrow

For no one can fill
Those of your needs that you won't let show
You just call on me sibling when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on
Lean on me
When you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on...
For it won't be long
Till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on
You just call on me sibling
When you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on
If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'm right up the road
I'll share your load
If you just call me
Call me
If you need a friend

CHARGE AND BENEDICTIONDr. Brown

POSTLUDE

You'll Never Walk Alone Rodgers and Hammerstein

Ibidunni Ojikutu, soprano

Joe Williams, piano



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. Please send all postal correspondence to our new mailing address: Plymouth Church UCC / PO Box 21368 / Seattle WA 98111.

Pentecost Special Offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, and throughout the month of June, gifts earmarked Pentecost Special Offering will be divided evenly between UCC Strengthen the Church and Plymouth UCC Scholarship Fund.

MUTHA: A Tribute to Who Mothered You Let's celebrate the maternal figures in our lives, 2-5:30 pm Saturday, May 18 at Plymouth. Details and link to tickets in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Splendor and Solace The Esoterics will present a concert of works that explore the intersection of the communal and the divine 8 pm Saturday, May 18 and Sunday, May 19 at Plymouth. Details and tickets at TheEsoterics.org.

Faith Action Network Spring Summit 3 pm Sunday, 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.

Plymouth Cooks Share your favorite recipes with us and be a part of the new Plymouth cookbook! Be sure to include list of ingredients and instructions. Please let us know something about the dish — what makes it special to you. Send to Robert Turner: RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Sound Medicine Meditation A monthly offering for transformative healing and meditation with Tory Trujillo. Next session 11:45 am Sunday, May 26 in Hildebrand Hall. \$20 suggested donation.

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

LGBTQ

A rainbow
can only
exist where there
is light.

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

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.