



Belonging.

REJOICING

10:30 AM SUNDAY, MAY 21, 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

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

DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

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10:30 AM SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023
SEVENTH 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

*Karitas habundat (Antiphon for Divine Love). Hildegard von Bingen
Joe Williams, organ*

CALL TO WORSHIPRev. Donene Blair

One: What do you do, when God calls?

Many: Wake up. Listen. Act.

One: What do you do when God asks you
to do something difficult?

Many: Wake up. Listen. Act.

One: What do you do when God asks you
to do something impossible?

**Many: Wake up. Listen. Act.
Because, with God,
everything is possible.**

One: Even changing ourselves?

**Many: Even changing the world.
Wake up. Listen. Act.**

One: And, with all this living,

All: we worship God.

HYMN To You, O God, All Creatures Sing, (vss. 1,2,4). LAAST UNS ERFREUEN

Led by Tory Trujillo

Unison

1 To you, O God, all crea-tures sing, and all cre - a - tion, ev - ery-
2 Your wind that blows the tem-pest by, your clouds that sail a - cross the
4 To you, O God, day af - ter day, your plan - et earth in ev - ery
thing sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your burn-ing sun with gold-en
sky sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your morn-ing ris - es with a
way, sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia, As sa - vory fruit and fra-grant
beam, your sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam sing your prais-es,
song, and lights of eve - ning sing a - long, sing your prais-es, al-le -
flower show forth your glo - ry and your power, sing - ing prais-es,
lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

WELCOME. Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE. June Hayakawa-Fung
by Cole Arthur Riley, from her book *Black Liturgies*

God who chose sides, forgive us for idolizing the lukewarmth of the middle. We wear it as its own brand of superiority, believing it makes us virtuous and rational and above the fight. But [God], help us to remember there are those things worth fighting for — that you are a God who does not only hold peace but division. That you entered the world and showed us what just and loving choice and protest looks like. Grant us that wisdom which allows us to perceive when our desire to not choose sides is rooted more in fear than it is in justice or righteousness. Let those of us who have been trained to think the middle is holy ground, find you as we gain the courage to walk away. And as we do so, help us to not become enslaved to any new position or stance, that our lives, bodies, and choices would ever-align with what we believe to be true and good and beautiful. Move our souls in your whole in the holy integrity of you.

Mark & JT Edwards, Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Susan Carter (Mother of Heather Banks & Kathleen Bernard), Sue Ellen Daniel (Friend of Barb Laski), John Daniels, Susan Emerson (Mother of Kate Forrester), JoAnn English (Relative of Lucian Guthrie), Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), Anna Florey, Marni Good (Friend of Ricky Powell), Floyd Gossett, Michelle J. Bennett (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Irma Johnson (Friend of Toni Arthur), Concetta Lewis (Sister of Jo-Ann Guthrie), Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Montecino Family, Paula Orrego, Jim Oswald (Friend of Bing Tso), Anna Partch (Friend of Sari Breznau), Jerome Robinson, Joshua Robinson (Grandson of Patricia Valentine), Jose Robles and Family, Doug Ryan (Brother of Mary Ryan), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), (Sister of Michael Gordon)



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.**

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

There's a difference between planning and preparation. We can't plan the future that God holds, but we can prepare for each day by practices of generosity. Generosity helps us to forgive and to heal; it helps us to make peace in the world; it helps to bring justice and mercy to those in need. Our gifts this morning are one way we prepare for God's coming into the world in the most unexpected ways. 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 or
CashApp your donation to \$PlymouthUCCSeattle.
We give thanks for your generosity.*

OFFERING MUSIC

We Are Called To Welcome Strangers. . . . Sheena Evans and Simon Hancock
Plymouth Singers

We are called to welcome strangers,
offer shelter, food and rest;
heal the wounds of mind and body,
showing love with true respect.
Those who flee from war-torn homelands
or fear death for their beliefs,
those who run from flood or famine:
will we meet them in their grief?

Here we see our siblings, neighbors,
each the image of our God.
If we turn our faces from them,
we deny God's living word.
God would have us feed the hungry,
free the captive, tend the weak,
care for all who now are helpless,
offer respite to the meek.

If we fail to challenge falsehood,
if we bow to unjust laws,
then the stranger's eyes will show us
God's own eyes which weep for us.
Let us pray as Jesus taught us,
"God, let your kingdom come,"
and with Christ-like loving kindness
we will welcome strangers home.

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

God, you have given each of us gifts to use as members of the body of Christ. Here are our gifts – the work of our hands, our hearts, and our lives. We pray that they may help to bring justice, hope and love to our world, today and always, here and everywhere. Amen.

HYMN *Spirit of the Living God.* IVERSON
Led by Tory Trujillo

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

The first system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

The second system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

The third system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

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CONTEMPORARY VOICE

“It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have.” —*James Baldwin*

“...they ask me to remember, but they want me to remember their memories and i keep on remembering mine.” —*Lucille Clifton*

Thirst, by Mary Oliver



James Baldwin was an American writer of essays, novels, plays, and poems.



Lucille Clifton was an American poet, writer, and educator.

Another morning and I wake with thirst
for the goodness I do not have. I walk
out to the pond and all the way God has
given us such beautiful lessons. Oh Lord,
I was never a quick scholar but sulked
and hunched over my books past the hour
and the bell; grant me, in your mercy,
a little more time. Love for the earth
and love for you are having such a long
conversation in my heart. Who knows what
will finally happen or where I will be sent,
yet already I have given a great many things
away, expecting to be told to pack nothing,
except the prayers which, with this thirst,
I am slowly learning.



Mary Oliver was an American poet and essayist.

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE Luke 14:7-14 (Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Dr. Brown

Now Jesus told the guests a parable noticing how they chose the places of honor. He said to them: “When you are invited by someone to a wedding, do not sit down in the place of honor lest one more distinguished than you has been invited. Then the one who invited both of you would come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then with shame you would begin to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when the one who invited you comes, your host may say to you, ‘Friend, go up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Jesus also spoke to the one who had invited him: “When you prepare a dinner or a supper, do not invite your friends or your sisters and brothers or your kin or rich neighbors, so they might invite you in return, and you would be repaid. Rather, when you give a banquet, invite poor, disfigured, disabled, and blind people. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

ANTHEM.*Sound Medicine Meditation* Tory Trujillo

CONVERSATION WITH JANE ELLIOTT Dr. Brown



Jane Elliott, an internationally known teacher, lecturer, diversity trainer, and recipient of the National Mental Health Association Award for Excellence in Education, exposes racialized prejudice and bigotry for what it is—an irrational class system based upon purely arbitrary factors.

In response to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968, Jane Elliott devised the controversial and startling, “Blue Eyes/Brown Eyes Exercise.” This, now famous, exercise labels participants as inferior or superior based solely upon the color of their eyes and exposes them to the experience of being a minority. Everyone who is exposed to Jane Elliot’s work, be it through a lecture, workshop, or video, is dramatically affected by it.

In her frank and no nonsense manner, Jane Elliott, unapologetically and with great energy, goes to the heart of the matter for the dominant culture in our day and time. Mrs. Elliott will teach us how to move into the beloved community by way of sacred invitation.

RITUAL.*Sound Medicine Meditation* Tory Trujillo

CHARGE AND BENEDICTIONDr. Brown



SOUND MEDICINE MEDITATION

Join Tory Trujillo **today in Hildebrand Hall at 11:45 am**, for a deeply healing Sound Medicine Meditation. A Sound Medicine Meditation is sometimes also referred to as a sound bath. Participants are welcomed to sit or lie down comfortably. Tory will center the group with breath work and embodiment practices and will continue by playing Quartz Crystal Singing Bowls, A Mayan Ocean Drum, and improvising vocal toning for the purposes of relaxation, healing, and to help anchor and amplify each participant’s intentions. Some Yoga mats and blankets will be available for participants to borrow. Be prepared to receive a profoundly transformational and healing experience. Suggested donation \$20.



Upcoming dates this summer are June 11, July 16 and August 20.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dates to Note: Sunday, June 4: Big Hats & Bow Ties Brunch; **Sunday, June 18:** Juneteenth Celebration; **Sunday, June 25:** Plymouth's 30th Anniversary of being an Open & Affirming Church and Pride Parade; **Sunday, July 2:** Panel Discussion with Immigration Ministry during worship; **July 16-20:** All-Church Camp at N-Sid-Sen in Idaho.

Bible Study Sip & Chew Event Please join us for Bible study and fun at Station 18 Drinks & Eats in Ballard on Thursday, June 1 from 4-6 pm. Participants are responsible for their own food and drink. RSVP to Toni Arthur (TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) by May 29.

Big Hats & Bow Ties A radically inclusive celebration of parents of every identity! Wear your biggest hat and most stellar bow tie, and come for a Sunday music brunch in Hildebrand Hall as we honor parents of every sort, 12 noon Sunday, June 4. See news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for link to RSVP.

Pentecost Special Offering Sunday, May 28 and throughout the month of June, gifts earmarked Pentecost Special Offering will be divided evenly between UCC Strengthen the Church and Scholarships for Plymouth members to take the Undoing Institutional Racism training.

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 **June 14-16**. See full schedule and details PinwSeattle.org.

Connect with Congregational Council Members of the Plymouth community are invited to meet with Council members online via Zoom 7-8 pm the second Wednesday of each month. Next opportunity is June 14. Email Diane Jacobsen, (DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org), by 5 pm the day of the meeting for the Zoom link.

Pop Some Tops! Come enjoy Plymouth Housing's Annual fundraiser to help end homelessness. Join us on Friday, June 9 from 7 pm until midnight for a night of dancing, drinks, and fun. Get your tickets now at PlymouthHousing.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 hospitality is greatly appreciated!

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 Vimeo channel, Plymouth Church UCC.

**JESUS SAID TO
LOVE ONE ANOTHER.
THERE ARE
NO EXCEPTIONS.**

God is still speaking.
**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.