



Becoming!

10:30 AM SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 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.

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

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10:30 AM SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*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 *Amber Wave* William A. R. May
In recognition of African American Music Appreciation Month
Joe Williams, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

One: Come into the sanctuary and look around.
Behold the beauty and splendor of God's people.
All of us — rich and poor, employed and unemployed

Many: and desperately hanging on.

One: Behold the beauty and splendor of God's people.
We believe God's steadfast love is better than life,
so let our lips praise God as long as we live.

**Many: We also often doubt God's love.
We often doubt that God will really provide
when it matters.**

One: But this is what matters today:
God said, "Come all who are thirsty, come to the water,
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat."
All of us — rich and poor, employed and unemployed
and desperately hanging on.

**All: So with faith — both bold and timid — let us
worship God!**

HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth* **DIX**
 Led by Ibidunni Ojikutu



1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
 4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
 For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION. **Dr. Brown**

One: We fill our lives with the fear of scarcity,
 assuming there is not enough money,
 time, patience or love.
 We turn away when a stranger asks for nourishment,
 claiming there isn't enough even for ourselves.

Many: **Forgive us when we doubt your abundance
 and ignore the possibilities in what we have
 been given.**

One: We often sit with arms crossed and fists clenched,
crying out that you have turned away
and left us empty handed.

**Many: Forgive us when we reject your abundance
and neglect the possibilities in what we have
been given.**

One: We easily give thanks for the good things in life,
turning away from those
which lead us to deeper community
or second-guessing blessings as too good to be true.

**All: Open our eyes to the wonders that surround us.
Help us surrender to the loving embrace that
enfolds us.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACEDr. Brown

Take comfort:

we, and the whole world with us,
are always embraced in abundant love.

In Jesus Christ, there is always enough. Ashe, and amen.

WELCOME June Hayakawa-Fung

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.

(Service continues next page)

SOUND MEDICINE MEDITATION TODAY



Join Tory Trujillo for healing and meditation 12:30 pm in Hildebrand Hall today. Tory Trujillo offers a deeply healing Sound Medicine Meditation. A Sound Medicine Meditation is sometimes also referred to as a sound bath. Be ready for a profound experience.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLERev. Donene Blair

Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Mae Bell, Michelle J. Bennett (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Susan Carter (Mother of Heather Banks & Kathleen Bernard), Sue Ellen Daniel, John Daniels, Mark & JT Edwards, Skylyr Effler (Nephew of Bill & Marilyn Bumpas), Susan Emerson (Mother of Kate Forrester), JoAnn English (Relative of Lucian Guthrie), Anna Florey, Diane Folkert & Family (Mother-in-law of Ara Lawrence), Marni Good (Friend of Ricky Powell), , Lucian Guthrie, 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), Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Montecino Family, Paula Orrego, Jim Oswald (Friend of Bing Tso), Anna Partch (Friend of Sari Breznau), 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), Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon)

Our hearts are with Dennis Clauss on the recent passing of his twin brother, Dave Clauss.

A service celebrating the life of Ruth Kiemle will be held at Plymouth 3 pm Saturday June 24.

 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

Every minute of every day, God is at work, around us and
within us, creating.
For the homeless, a place to live
For the hungry, a feast
For the thirsty, a cup of cold clean water that runneth over
For the weary, rest
For the lonely, a friend
For the sick, healing and wholeness
Every minute of every day, God is making all things new,
giving and giving and giving again
And you are called, we are called to be a part of God's work
of generosity
You are called to give your time, talent, and treasure to this
God-work of making all things new
We are called to give.

*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 MUSICSerenity Prayer. Jerrell R. Gray
Ibidunnu Ojikutu, soprano; Joe Williams, piano

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 (unison) Rev. Blair

**We dedicate our time, our talent and our resources, Holy
One, for the work of the church,
And we ask you to use all that we have
And all that we are in your service. Amen.**

CONTEMPORARY VOICE

Reparation, by Joshua Bennett

40 acres & a jewel-encrusted orchid crown
for each & every living baby girl
growing up the way
we did. The way
we do. Unbridled. Unburied
though we stay pursued
by the U.S. school-to-prison
state's laser-like vision
Bi-weekly standing ovations.
Bras-Coupé resuscitated
with a sledgehammer slung over
his left shoulder, eyes ablaze
& dead set on the private
sector, the price
of four-year tuition, four-year
fascist presidents, any & all forms
of predatory opulence. Scholarships.
Scholars that love us
enough to break this language
lengthwise, filled as it is
with the bones of our fallen. Monuments
to the fallen. A grave site
for the illustrious Negro dead,
like Zora Neale Hurston said,
illustrious meaning you were black
& full of adoration, or vexed,
which is just another way
of saying you wanted to survive
the world said die
& you refused its refusal.
Another approach to the general
sentiment that Blackness
is beautiful, with no referent
to their everyday negation



Joshua Bennett is an American author, artist and Professor of English and Creative Writing at Dartmouth College.

of our essential, human splendor.
An apology on the Senate
floor. For the trade, the plunder
of our names, unremarked
graves, a hand in the hair,
a boot to the throat, guns
in the schools & the guns
are the books, the stares
of the second grade teacher
calling your son a distraction,
your daughter’s braids illegal,
your building a blight
on the neighborhood,
the good you do & dream
of never quite good
enough to merit
the bull’s eye’s removal.
A ship to wherever
we point on a map
of the measurable
universe, dare call
harbor, sanctum, ground
where the children can play
& come home whole.

READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE Ruth 3:1-18
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Deacon Indigo Brown

Naomi, Ruth’s mother-in-law, said to her, “My daughter, am I not seeking respite for you, that will be good for you? Now is not Boaz our kin, with whose girls you have been? Look! He is winnowing barley on the threshing floor tonight. Now bathe and anoint yourself and put on your [best] clothes and go down to the threshing floor; do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, note the place where he lies, and go and uncover his thighs and lie down, and he will tell you what you should do.” Ruth said to Naomi, “All that you tell me I will do.”

Then Ruth went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law commanded her. Now Boaz had eaten and drunk and his heart was content, and he went to lie down at the end of the heap [of grain]. Then Ruth came in secret and uncovered his thighs and lay down. At midnight the man trembled and turned and right there a woman was lying at his thighs! Then Boaz said, “Who are you?” And she said, “I am Ruth, your slave-woman; spread your cloak over your slave-woman, for you are a kin redeemer.” And he said, “May you be blessed by the MOST HIGH my daughter; your most recent act of fidelity is greater than the first; you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. And now, my daughter, fear not; all that you have spoken, I will do for you, for all the assembly of my people know you are a warrior-hearted woman. And now, it is true that I am a kin redeemer, there is a kin redeemer closer than I. Spend the night tonight and when morning comes, if he will redeem you as kin, good; let him redeem you. If he does not want to redeem you as kin, then, as the AGELESS GOD lives, I will redeem you as kin myself. Lie down until the morning.”

So Ruth lay at his thighs until morning, but got up before one person could recognize a neighbor for Boaz said [to himself], “Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.” Then he said, “Bring the cloak you are wearing and hold it out.” So she held it and Boaz measured out six helpings of barley, and put it on her back; then he went into the city. And Ruth came to her mother-in-law and Naomi asked, “Who are you, my daughter?” And she told her all that the man had done for her. Ruth explained, “He gave these six helpings of barley to me, for he said, ‘Do not go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’ ” She replied, “Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter will shake out, for the man will not rest, but will conclude the matter today.”

ANTHEM

Bridge Over Troubled Water Paul Simon, arr. by Kirby Shaw
Ibidunni Ojikutu, soprano; Plymouth Singers

MESSAGE*Reparations on the Threshing Floor*. Dr. Brown
(Service continues next page)

SPECIAL HOSTS AT COFFEE HOUR

Plymouth Healing Communities will host coffee hour today following the worship service to say “Thank You” to our Plymouth Church friends for your continued support and advocacy. Please plan to join the PHC Board of Directors and our new Executive Director, Padrica Hoffman, for a time of fellowship, laughter, and delicious refreshments.

HYMN *Beautiful Jesus, vss. 1, 3, 4* **SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU**
 Led by Ibidunni Ojikutu

1 Beau - ti - ful Je - sus, Head of all cre - a - tion,
 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,
 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 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. *How Glory Goes* by Adam Guettel
 Ibidunni Ojikutu, soprano; Joe Williams, piano

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sound Medicine Meditation Join Tory Trujillo for healing and meditation 12:30 pm in Hildebrand Hall today. Be ready for a profound experience. Upcoming dates this summer are July 16 and August 20. Read more in the *Herald* or news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Thank You, Plymouth Church! Plymouth Healing Communities will host coffee hour today. Stop by to hear about what's happening at PHC and say hello to our new Executive Director, Padrica Hoffman.

Celebrate Black Joy On June 18 at 12:30 pm, soprano and curator Stephanie Ann Ball will join Director of Music and Arts Joe Williams for a special Juneteenth recital highlighting Black joy. Read more in this week's *Herald* or in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Join Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown in Tukwila's Third Annual Juneteenth Commemoration 2–4 pm Saturday, June 17 at the Sullivan Center (14350 Tukwila International Blvd). Dr. Brown delivers the keynote address. Read more in this week's *Herald* or in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Please Note Worship service on June 25 will begin at 10 am to help accommodate logistics for joining the Pride Parade.

Pentecost Special Offering 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.

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.



PRIORITIZE
THE SAFETY OF
QUEER KIDS
OVER THE DISCOMFORT
OF ADULTS

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.