



Becoming!

10:30 AM SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 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

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, JUNE 18, 2023
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST/JUNETEENTH SUNDAY

PRELUDE *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*
Joe Williams, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP June Hayakawa-Fung
Come Sunday Lyrics by Duke Ellington

One: Lord, Dear Lord of love
God almighty, God up above

Many: Please look down and see my people through

One: God Dear God of love
God almighty, God above

Many: Please look down and see my people through

One: I believe the sun and moon
Will shine up in the sky

**Many: When the day is grey
I know it's just clouds passing by**

One: God'll give peace and comfort
To every troubled mind

**Many: Come Sunday, oh come Sunday
That's the day**

One: Often we'll feel weary
But God knows our every care

**Many: Go to God in secret
God will hear your every prayer**

One: Lilies of the valley
They neither toil nor spin

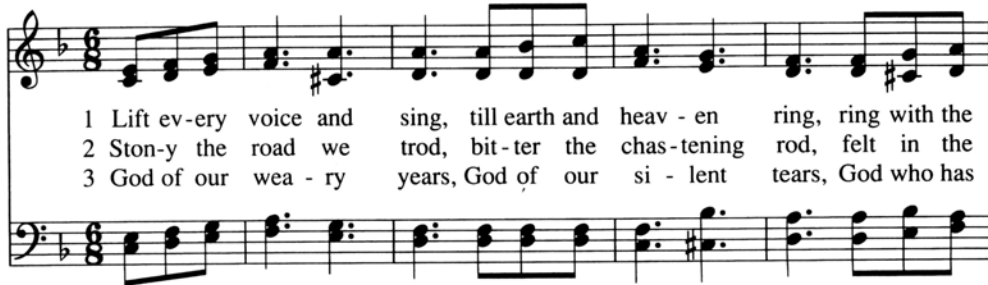
**Many: And flowers bloom in Spring
And birds sing**

One: Up from dawn till sunset
Folk work hard all the day

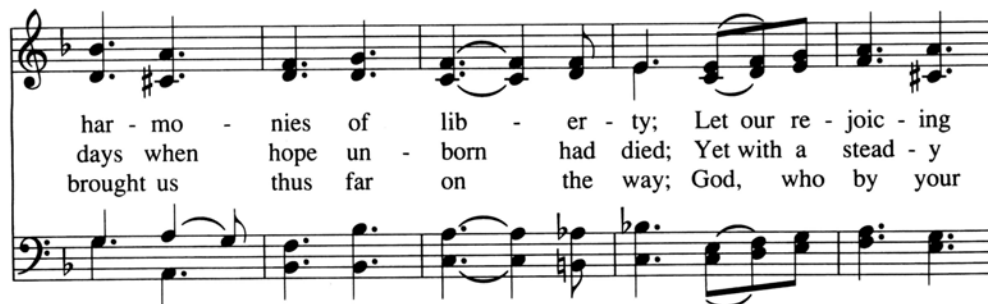
**Many: Come Sunday, O come Sunday
That's the day**

HYMN *Lift Every Voice and Sing* LIFT EVERY VOICE

Led by Stephanie Ann Ball



1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the
 2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has



har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing
 days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y
 brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your



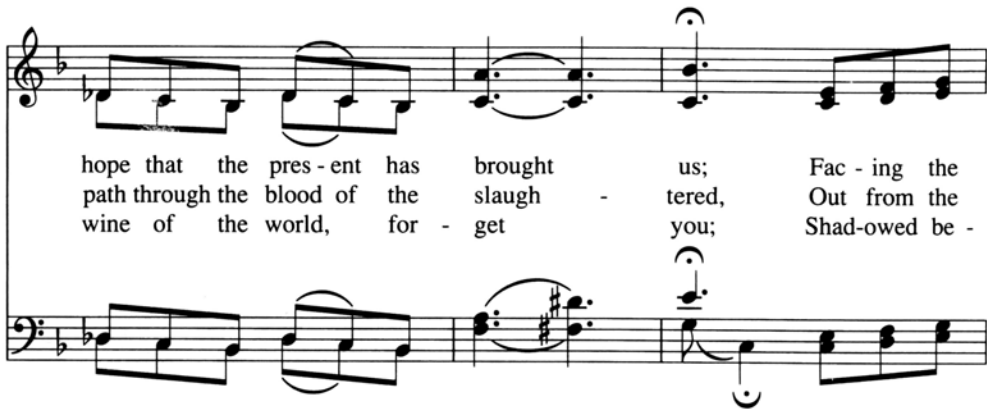
rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the
 beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our
 might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the



roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the
 peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a
 path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the



faith that the harsh past has taught us, Sing a song full of the
 way that with tears has been wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our
 plac - es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the



hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the
 path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, Out from the
 wine of the world, for - get you; Shad - owed be -



ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, let us march
 gloom - y past, till now we stand at last where the white
 neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our



on till vic - to - ry is won.
 gleam of our bright star is
 God, true to our na - tive land.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION. Ms. Hayakawa-Fung
excerpt from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech

One: When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.

Many: This note was a promise that all [people]... would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

One: It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked insufficient funds.

Many: But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt.

One: We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation.

Many: And so we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.

One: We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now.

Many: This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE. Ms. Hayakawa-Fung
continued from "I Have A Dream" excerpt

Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quick sands of racial injustice to the solid rock of [sibling]hood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children.

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.

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. Kevin Bechtold

Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), 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), Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Lucian Guthrie, Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Irma Johnson (Friend of Toni Arthur), Lindsey (Niece of Nan Macy), Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), Concetta Lewis (Sister of JoAnn 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, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon), Pluma Wright (Friend of Glenda Carper)

Our hearts are with Mary Ryan and family on the passing of her brother, Doug Ryan.

We grieve with the Keith Family, dear friends of Mari Mitchell & Alex, on their recent loss.

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

The service will also be streamed live online.

A memorial service for Nancy Schoettler will be held 2 pm Sunday, July 2, at Horizon House Sky Lounge.



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. Bechtold

Jesus draws us from the margins into a great feast; he draws us out of a crowd, to healing; he draws us from death to new life. Each day, God finds the way that we need to be loved and challenged, and then calls us to minister to others in warm hospitality, healing mercies, and the promise of resurrection and new life. We respond to this marvelous call through our giving this day. 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

Give Me Jesus arr. by Moses Hogan
Davione Gordon, dancer; Stephanie Ann Ball, 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. Donene Blair

**Almighty and merciful God,
from whom comes all that is good,
we praise you for your mercies,
for your goodness that has created us,
your grace that has sustained us.
Help us to love you,
and to be thankful for all your gifts
by serving you and delighting to do your will.
Amen.**

CONTEMPORARY VOICE

*Comments from Brandon B'Mike Odums
Artist Extraordinaire, Founder, Project Be, New Orleans*

Today marks 10 years since the first mural I painted illegally on the walls of the damaged Florida Housing Project in the 9th ward of New Orleans. It would be cliché to say I was lost then, before those walls called to me.

I remember late one night standing at the lake, the closest place I could find at the edge of nowhere. Face full of tears, feeling rudderless and impatient with my purpose. Praying an answer would appear in the darkness ahead of me. The process of painting those walls began to look like a compass. And I made an agreement with myself that I would follow wherever it took me.

There's something to be said about being in the right place at the right time when an idea's time has come. And I remember that time and place very well. The trespassing through fences and climbing over missing stairs, the experimenting with spray paint, the amazing people who found their way there, the conversations that lead to the name #ProjectBe, but most of all I remember the silence. The needed escape from the noisy self expectations that started to chip away my curiosity and wonder.

Self preservation sometimes tempts us to relocate others to the periphery of one's own narrative. But my forever note is that I am who I am because of who loved me. I'm thankful for all who loved me or found me useful enough for themselves to be a part of this journey, even if it was for only a season, or a conversation, or a hug, or a laugh, or a lesson. Thank you. Also to not reduce the version of me 10 years ago, I want to thank myself for falling in love with the rattle of a spray can and the possibilities of the worlds it could produce. For not giving up on myself. For being committed to wonder.

READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE Ruth 4:9-17
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Rev. Blair

Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “Today you are witnesses that I am acquiring all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon from the hand of Naomi. Also, Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon am I acquiring for myself as a wife to maintain the dead man’s name on his inheritance, to reestablish the name of the deceased on his heritable property, that it may not be cut off from his kin and from the gate of his native place; today you are witnesses.”

All the women and men who were at the gate, along with the elders, said, “We are witnesses. May the FAITHFUL GOD grant that the woman who is coming into your house be like Rachel and Leah; the two of them built up the house of Israel. May you prosper in Ephrathah and establish a lineage in Bethlehem; and, may your house, through the children that the FOUNT OF LIFE will give you by this young woman, be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar gave birth to for Judah.” So Boaz took Ruth as his own for a wife. He came to her and the SOURCE OF LIFE granted her a pregnancy, and she gave birth to a son. Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the FAITHFUL GOD, who has not deprived you this day of next-of-kin; and may the child’s name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a provider in your latter years; for your daughter-in-law has given birth to him, she who loves you, she who is more to you than seven sons.” Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and she fostered him. The neighbor-women gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.”

READING FROM CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Rev. Blair

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

ANTHEM. Come Sunday Duke Ellington
Stephanie Ann Ball, soprano; Joe Williams, piano

MESSAGE

Because Somebody Loved Me. Rev. Dr. Joanne Braxton

HYMN OF COMMITMENT.*Because You Loved Me*

by Diane Warren, as sung by Céline Dion

Led by Deacon Indigo Brown

For all those times you stood by me
For all the truth that you made me see
For all the joy you brought to my life
For all the wrong that you made right
For every dream you made come true
For all the love I found in you
I'll be forever thankful, baby
You're the one who held me up
Never let me fall
You're the one who saw me through, through it all
You were my strength when I was weak
You were my voice when I couldn't speak
You were my eyes when I couldn't see
You saw the best there was in me
Lifted me up when I couldn't reach
You gave me faith 'cause you believed
I'm everything I am
Because you loved me
You gave me wings and made me fly
You touched my hand, I could touch the sky
I lost my faith, you gave it back to me
You said no star was out of reach
You stood by me and I stood tall
I had your love, I had it all
I'm grateful for each day you gave me
Maybe I don't know that much
But I know this much is true
I was blessed because I was loved by you
You were my strength when I was weak (you were my strength)
You were my voice when I couldn't speak
You were my eyes when I couldn't see
You saw the best there was in me
Lifted me up when I couldn't reach
You gave me faith 'cause you believed
I'm everything I am
Because you loved me

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Dr. Braxton

POSTLUDE

Deep River from 24 Negro Melodies, Op. 59 Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
Joe Williams, piano



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrate Black Joy Come to Plymouth’s Juneteenth concert today at 12:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Soprano Stephanie Ann Ball joins Joe Williams for a special recital highlighting Black joy. Suggested donation \$20. The concert will also be livestreamed on our Worship page at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

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

Walk with Pride Join Plymouth and other PNW Conference churches in the Seattle Pride Parade Sunday June 25, starting around 11 am. Bring signs and friends to celebrate and support our LGBTQIA+ siblings! (*Service on June 25 starts at 10 am*)

A Service Celebrating the Life of Ruth Kiemle will be held at Plymouth 3 pm Saturday June 24. Service will also be streamed live.

A Memorial Service for Nancy Schoettler will be held 2 pm Sunday, July 2, at Horizon House Sky Lounge.

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.

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.



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.