



Becoming!

10 AM SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 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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10 AM SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
PRIDE SUNDAY

*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 *I love you, Lord* Laurie Adams-Klein
Dr. Mikhail Johnson

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Kevin Bechtold

One: Gathered together, we proclaim the Good News of
God publicly, intentionally, and explicitly:

**Many: This community joyfully affirms God's love
for LGBTQ2SIA people.**

One: The presence of God welcomes the fullness of who
we are.

**Many: We are people who desire. Who long. Who
practice love in many ways.**

One: We celebrate love that is platonic and love that is erotic.

Many: Love that is queer and love that is collective.


One: We are people who want to know and be known – for who
we've been, who we are, and who we are becoming.

**Many: We honor identities in transition. We delight
in authentic self-expression. Whether trans or
intersex or cis, God moves in our becoming.**


One: How wonderful are the many works of God's
creative hand!

**All: May all who long for Love's embrace feel
their Holy worth.**

HYMN *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.* BEECHER




1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
 3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;
 4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;



Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
 Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
 Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;



Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.
 Take a-way our love of sin-n-ing; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;
 You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,



Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be-gin-n-ing, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.

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. Donene Blair

One: To become is a life long process.
Nothing is constant,
not even the self.
We evolve in the midst of narratives meant only for some
and ways of being made narrow by fear and power.
We must, then, have the courage to listen to the truth of
our own lives,
to the wisdom that comes from within –
responding without resistance or need to control,
but with welcome and curiosity.
This is what ensures our becoming is an unfolding
of our truest self.
This lifelong labor cannot be carried out alone. It requires help
from friends, and lovers, family, and creaturely companions
who bear witness to what makes us come alive.
And say to us, “Listen. Look. Feel. Pay attention to that.”

Many: This is loving and being loved.

One: Telling the stories.
Sharing in the memories.
Giving thanks for the relationships, understandings, and
experiences past
that have shaped us to this day.

Many: This is loving and being loved.

One: Celebrating new beginnings that excite.
Holding risks together.
Leaning into unknowns with the promises of support and companionship.

Many: This is loving and being loved.

One: Listening to the future calling uniquely to each of us in the midst of all of life's noise.
Helping one another find our place in the shared labor of collective life.
Supporting each other in what it is the world's ache is asking from us.

Many: This is loving and being loved.

One: To say, for the first time,
"This is who I am.
This is the truth of my body.
This is what I know about myself.
This is my name and this is where my path is leading me."
And to have it heard. Have it received. Have it affirmed.
And then,
to say it again,
and again,
as we change
and as the world changes,
and to have each proclamation greeted with an open-armed embrace:

Many: This is loving and being loved.

One: There is no me without you.
We shape one another.
The Sacred that birthed us
weaves our lives together
so that we can only find ourselves through shared becoming.
For my journey and all its winding ways.
For yours.
For all the saints who labored for what is,
all the kin whose lives made ours possible.

For all those yet to come for whom
living our truths today will mean breaking possibilities open
for them tomorrow:
We pause. We give thanks. We acknowledge.

Many: This is loving and being loved.

John Adams (Father of Katherine Guthrie), 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 (Friend of Barb Laski), 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, Marni Good (Friend of Ricky Powell), Floyd Gossett, Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Lucian Guthrie, Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Irma Johnson (Friend of Toni Arthur), Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), The Keith Family (Friends of Mari Mitchell and Alex), 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, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), Pluma Wright (Friend of Glenda Carper), Lindsey (Niece of Nan Macy)

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. Blair

God has blessed us beyond measure and our own generosity is an opportunity to use a portion of our blessings to minister to others. The Holy is calling us to gather our gifts and offer them to God in worship. Let us gather our gifts and worship through our generosity.

*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 Thanks with a Grateful Heart Henry Smith
Dr. Mikhail Johnson

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) June Hayakawa-Fung

**We joyfully give our treasure to bring hope, justice, love
and healing to those who are hurting. May the generosity
represented here be magnified and amplified to stretch
beyond our human thought and imagination. Amen**

30 YEAR OPEN AND AFFIRMING RECOGNITION

CONTEMPORARY VOICE Honoring Marsha P. Johnson

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW Matthew 15:21–28
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Rev. Bechtold

Jesus left the place [where he had been teaching] and went back to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that area came out and shouted, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is badly demon-possessed.” But Jesus did not answer her a word. Then his disciples came and implored him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.”

Now Jesus answered, “I was not sent to any except the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before Jesus, saying, “Lord, help me.” Then Jesus said, “It is not good to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” But she said, “Yes, Lord, yet the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their lord’s table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed that moment.

ANTHEM. *Imagine* John Lennon
Dr. Mikhail Johnson

MESSAGE *Loving to Life* Min. Ara Lawrence

HYMN *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go* ST. MARGARET



1 O Love that will not let me go,
2 O Light that fol - lows all my way,
3 O Joy that seeks me through my pain,
4 O Cross that rais - es up my head,



I rest my wea - ry soul in you;
to you I yield my flick - ering flame;
to you I can - not close my heart;
from you I dare not seek to flee;



I give you back the life I owe, that
Re - new my spir - it's fee - ble ray, that
I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and
Life's glo - ries with - er and are dead, but



in your o - cean depths its flow may swell with ar - dor true.
from your bril - liant sun - lit day it may new bright - ness claim.
know the prom - ise is not vain that you will ne'er de - part.
from the ground there blos - soms red, life that shall end - less be.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Min. Lawrence

POSTLUDE. *One Love* Bob Marley
Dr. Mikhail Johnson



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Walk with Pride Join Plymouth and other PNW Conference churches in the Seattle Pride Parade **today after the service!** Bring signs and friends to celebrate and support our LGBTQIA+ siblings!

Who To Go To For What A link to a guide for who on staff to contact with your needs or questions is posted on our “Meet The Staff” page under the “About” tab at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. The guide includes areas of responsibility and contact information.

Come to Camp at N-Sid-Sen in Idaho, July 16–20. Registration is now open. Find link to register in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

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.

Sound Medicine Meditation Tory Trujillo offers a deeply healing Sound Medicine Meditation. A Sound Medicine Meditation is sometimes also referred to as a sound bath. Plan to join us in Hildebrand Hall at 12:30 pm **Sunday, July 16**. Suggested Donation \$20.

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.

WE STAND UP
FOR GAY RIGHTS.

WE STAND UP
FOR OUR COUNTRY'S IMMIGRANTS.

WE STAND UP
FOR THE DIGNITY OF
ALL PEOPLE, ALL RELIGIONS, EVERYWHERE.

WE BELIEVE IN
THE CHRIST WHO
SAID "LOVE ONE ANOTHER."

COME STAND WITH US.

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.