



Becoming!

10:30 AM SUNDAY, JULY 2, 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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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, JULY 2, 2023
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*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.*

This Sunday we share together Holy Communion in our worship. For those with us online, before the time of the service you will want to prepare some bread and juice of some sort. Remember this is a meal of grace, so whate from enfleshed.com ver “bread” or “juice” you choose will more than suffice. Set these elements in the sacred place where you experience worship. Thank you for your preparation.

PRELUDE

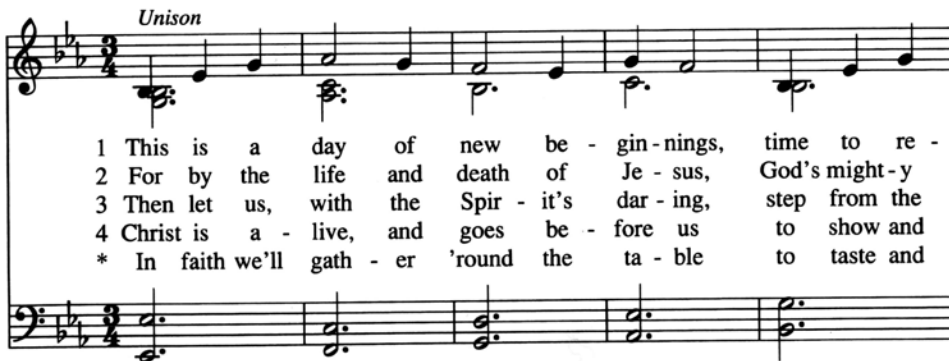
O Mighty God, When I Survey in Wonder Carl Boburg
Dr. Mikhail Johnson

PRAYER OF INVOCATION. June Hayakawa-Fung

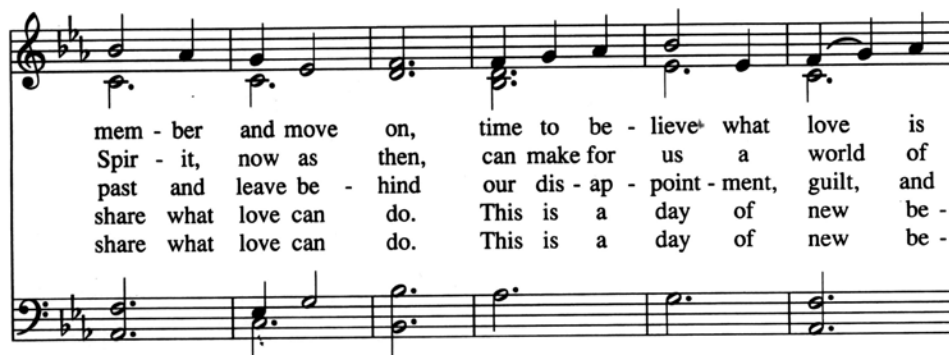
You patiently wait for us on the threshold of your Realm, ready to welcome us as we step across the doorway of your Kin-dom. As we see your inviting lights, we feel the warmth of your love. May we open doors to your Realm. May we be your encouraging embrace and your melodic voice of welcome in a world filled with harsh tones. Amen.

HYMN *This Is a Day of New Beginnings* BEGINNINGS

Unison



1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and
 * In faith we'll gath - er 'round the ta - ble to taste and



mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve* what love is
 Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
 past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -



bring-ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 griev-ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 gin-nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.
 gin-nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

WELCOME. Rev. Kevin Bechtold

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.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome at our table to share the bread and the cup, whether you are a believer, a seeker, a skeptic, doubter or somewhere in between.

INVITATION. Rev. Donene Blair

COMMUNION PRAYER. Rev. Blair

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, Diane Folkert & Family (Mother-in-law of Ara Lawrence), 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), Lindsey (Niece of Nan Macy), Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), 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, Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon), Pluma Wright (Friend of Glenda Carper)

Congratulations to Mikesha and Shaun Davis, daughter of Michael Gordan, on their marriage at Plymouth Church July 1, 2023

*A memorial service for Nancy Schoettler will be held 2 pm **today**, 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


**Holy One, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
Thy Kindom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kindom, the power, and the glory for ever.
Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION Rev. Bechtold


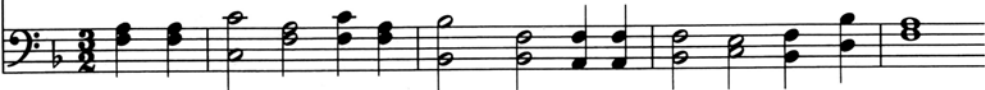
SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION HYMN

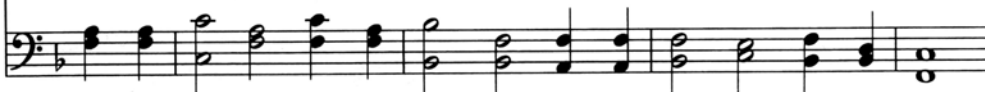
As We Gather at Your Table BEACH SPRING

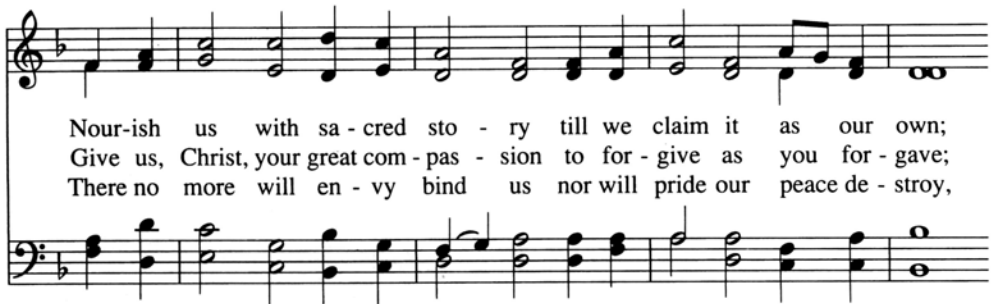


1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

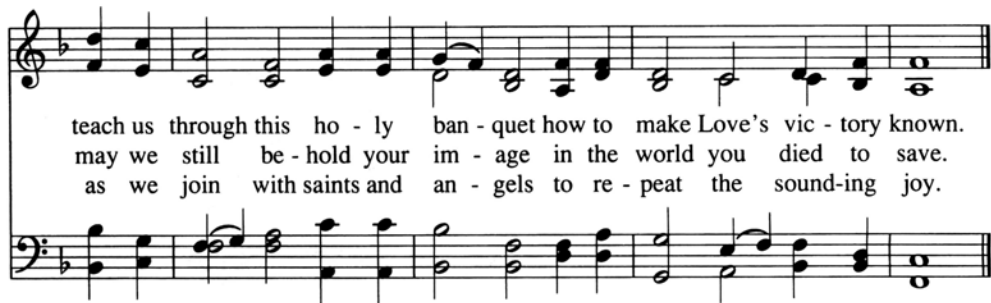


help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.





Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Rev. Bechtold

Beloved One, if we grow weary in love, may this meal live on as a reminder of what sustains us. In seeking the flourishing you intend for us, our neighbors, and this planet, keep our hearts tender, our spirits alive, and our senses attuned to the beauty that surrounds. With gratitude for your abiding presence, we pray. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING Rev. Blair

The Realm of God asks for us to care for our neighbors: from the children who are thirsty to the prophets and other caregivers who need a place to rest. This is our opportunity to use our treasures, talents, and time to ensure all have what they need. May we reflect on the ways we can share and give as we are able.

OFFERING MUSIC

Thank the Lord for All His Love WIR PFLÜGEN
 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 Rev. Blair

Spirit of God,

**When we share from our souls, we open our hearts to
your works in this world. When we tend to our neighbors
who struggle, we care for the Christ in our midst. When
we welcome the prophet who shares your love through
their advocacy, we care for the Spirit moving throughout
our world. When we share with a stranger, we experience
Divine joy as our reward for giving. Bless all gifts as they
build your Realm here on earth. Amen.**

CONTEMPORARY VOICE

From Blossoms, by Li-Young Lee

From blossoms comes
this brown paper bag of peaches
we bought from the boy
at the bend in the road where we turned toward
signs painted Peaches.

From laden boughs, from hands,
from sweet fellowship in the bins,
comes nectar at the roadside, succulent
peaches we devour, dusty skin and all,
comes the familiar dust of summer, dust we eat.

O, to take what we love inside,
to carry within us an orchard, to eat
not only the skin, but the shade,
not only the sugar, but the days, to hold
the fruit in our hands, adore it, then bite into
the round jubilation of peach.



*Li-Young Lee is an
American poet born in
Djakarta, Indonesia
in 1957 to Chinese
political exiles.*

There are days we live
as if death were nowhere
in the background; from joy
to joy to joy, from wing to wing,
from blossom to blossom to
impossible blossom, to sweet impossible blossom.

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW Matthew 15:29–39
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

After Jesus had left [Tyre and Sidon], he went by the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, sitting down there. Great crowds came to him, bringing with them disabled, blind, and mute people, and people missing body parts along with many others. Then they put them at his feet, and he healed them so that the crowd was amazed when they saw mute people speaking, people missing body parts made whole, disabled people walking, and blind people seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion for the crowd, because they have stayed with me for three days now and have nothing to eat, and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might collapse on the road.” The disciples said to him, “Where are we to get so much bread in the desert as to feed so great a crowd?” Jesus asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven, and a few small fish.” Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, he took the seven loaves and the fish, and giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples; the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all of them ate and were filled, and they took up the abundance of fragments, seven baskets full. Those who ate were women and children besides four thousand men. Then sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan.

ANTHEM. *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us*
Dr. Mikhail Johnson

MESSAGE Rev. Bechtold

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Rev. Bechtold

POSTLUDE

Glorious Things of You Are Spoken/I Sing the Mighty Power of God
Dr. Mikhail Johnson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown is attending the United Church of Christ General Synod in Indianapolis June 30–July 4.

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

Licks of Fire Join us as we end medical debt for the most impacted in the Pacific Northwest, the South, and in places where the crisis of medical debt looms. Read how you can get involved in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Sign Up Now for Camp at N-Sid-Sen in Idaho, July 16–20. Enjoy woodland and waterfront activities, faith-based immersion experiences, and meaningful connections. Details and link to register in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Scholarships are available.

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.

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.

Plymouth Housing Annual Report Thank you to our supporters for helping ensure everyone in our community has what they need to thrive. Learn about the ways Plymouth Housing is creating spaces of healing in our annual report, available at PlymouthHousing.org.

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.

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 this ministry of hospitality is greatly appreciated!

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.





This is what
God's kingdom
is like: a bunch
of outcasts and
oddballs gathered
at a table, not
because they
are rich or
worthy or good,
but because
they are hungry,
because they
said yes. And
there's always
room for more.
- Rachel Held
Evans

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.