



# Becoming!

10:30 AM SUNDAY, JULY 16, 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](http://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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10:30 AM SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023  
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*When you enter Plymouth Church UCC,  
may you feel the peace, intimacy, belonging,  
acceptance and 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** . . . . . *Lead Me Lord, Lead Me in Your Righteousness*  
Dr. Mikhail Johnson

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Children of God: welcome!

**Many: Welcome to this place of love and grace,**

One: Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

**Many: God invites all of us to be a part of the  
beloved community,**


One: God invites all of us to share in the good news:

**Many: We are welcome, just as we are. We are  
loved, just as we are.**

One: In gratitude for all of this,

**All: Let us worship God.**

HYMN . . . . . *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* . . . . . SOLID ROCK




1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' love and  
 2 When shad - ows veil my Sav-ior's face, I rest up - on un -  
 3 Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me in the  
 4 When Christ shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in




righ - teous-ness; I dare not trust this earth - ly frame, but  
 chang-ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my  
 ris - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, Christ  
 Love be found, Dressed in God's righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

*Refrain*



whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 an-chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand;  
 then is all my hope and stay.  
 less to stand be - fore the throne.



all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*(Based on Matthew 20:1-16)*

One: Come, let us give an account of our lives to God  
and to one another.

**All: The first shall be last, and the last shall be first.**

One: Let us give an account of our stewardship,  
everything we have done since we said yes to  
righteousness.

**All: The first shall be last, and the last shall be first.**

One: The harvest is great, but there are just a few of us.

**All: The first shall be last, and the last shall be first.**

One: We must work while it is day because when night  
comes, none of us will be able to work.

**All: The first shall be last, and the last shall be first.**

*Moments of silent reflection.*

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: Come, give an account of your stewardship,  
everything you have done since you said yes to  
righteousness.

**All: The last shall be first, and the first shall be  
last; for many are called, but few chosen.  
Amen.**

## 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.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*John Adams (Father of Katherine Guthrie), Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Ashley and the Zorich Family (Granddaughter of Betty Eberharter), Mae Bell, Michelle J. Bennett (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Susan Carter (Mother of Heather Banks & Kathleen Bernard), Mike Correy (Friend of Karen Clark), Sue Ellen Daniel (Friend of Barb Laski), Mark & JT Edwards, Skylyr Effler (Nephew of Bill & Marilyn Bumpas), 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), 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), Alvina Mae Bethel (Friend of Karen Clark), 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)*

*Our hearts are with the family and friends of AJ Newman, on the one-year anniversary of her passing.*



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**

Our ancestors in faith gathered together long ago to remember, to be restored, to be renewed. They shared their story, prayed together, and made an offering to God as they prepared to set out on the long journey to freedom in the Promised Land. Today we gather to remember and to pray together, to be restored and renewed, and we bring our own offerings so the ministry of this church will continue to participate in the creation of the beloved community. 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](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) or CashApp your donation to \$PlymouthUCCSeattle. We give thanks for your generosity.*

**OFFERING MUSIC**

*We Praise You, O God* . . . . . KREMSER  
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**

**You are the source of every good gifts, O God. Use these tithes and offerings to become a spring whose waters help and heal; and let your people be repairers of the breach and restorers of streets to live in. Amen.**



## CONTEMPORARY VOICE



*Toni Morrison was an American writer noted for her examination of Black experience (particularly Black female experience) within the Black community. She received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993.*

“But can’t you even imagine what it must feel like to have a true home? I don’t mean heaven. I mean a real earthly home. Not some fortress you bought and built up and have to keep everybody locked in or out. A real home. Not some place you went to and invaded and slaughtered people to get. Not some place you claimed, snatched because you got the guns. Not some place you stole from the people living there, but your own home, where if you go back past your great-great-grandparents, past theirs, and theirs, past the whole of Western history, past the beginning of organized knowledge, past pyramids and poison bows, on back to when rain was new, before plants forgot they could sing and birds thought they were fish, back when God said Good! Good!— there, right there where you know your own people were born and lived and died. Imagine that, Pat. That place. Who was God talking to if not to my people living in my home?”

“You preaching, Reverend.”

“No, I’m talking to you, Pat. I’m talking to you.”

— Toni Morrison, *Paradise (Beloved Trilogy, #3)*

## READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW . . . . . Matthew 19:16–30 (Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation)

Someone came to Jesus and said, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you ask me about “goodness”? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honor your mother and father; also, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” The young man said to him, “I have kept all these; what do I yet lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, then give to the poor, and you will have treasure in the heavens. Then come, follow me.” When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you all, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the realm of the heavens. Again I tell you all, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the realm of God.” When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, “Then who can be saved?” And Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.”



Then Peter said to him, “Look, we have abandoned everything and followed you. What then will we have?” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you all, when everything is made new, when the Son of Woman is seated on the throne of his glory, you all who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has abandoned houses or sisters or brothers [or siblings] or mother or father [or parents] or children or fields, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

**ANTHEM**

*What A Wonderful World* . . . . .Bob Thiele and George David Weiss  
Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

**MESSAGE** . . . . . *A Case for Heaven* . . . . .Dr. Brown

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** . . . . .Dr. Brown

**POSTLUDE**

*Guide My Feet* . . . . .African American Spiritual  
Dr. Mikhail Johnson

**SOUND MEDICINE MEDITATION TODAY**



Tory Trujillo

Plymouth Church invites you to join Tory Trujillo 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. Participants are encouraged to bring yoga mats, blankets, pillows and other items of comfort if they wish to participate while lying down. Some yoga mats and blankets will be available for participants to borrow. Be prepared to receive a profoundly transformational and healing experience. Event will last between 60 and 75 minutes.

**Please join us in Hildebrand Hall today at 12:30 pm. Suggested Donation \$20.**

**Next scheduled session this summer is Sunday, August 20.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Our Hearts are With*** friends away at Camp N-Sid-Sen in Idaho, July 16-20. We pray they have a relaxing and meaningful time together, and safe travels.

***Plymouth's Organist in Residence***, internationally renowned composer and keyboard virtuoso Dr. Mikhail Johnson, will continue to lead worship experiences for Plymouth until his residency culminates in a recital following worship on Sunday, August 6.

***Car Needed*** for the Afghan family Plymouth is supporting. If you would consider donating or selling your reliable car at a reduced price, or know someone who would, please contact Info@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org or Carol Mooney.

***Lend a Helping Hand*** Plymouth is now a proud sponsor of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound. You can help by dropping off gently used clothing and shoes of any size at the church in the grey bin by the elevator on the 1st floor. Contact Toni Arthur, TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org with questions.

***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.

***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.

***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.

***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.





Please don't settle for happiness. It's not good enough. Of course you deserve it, but if that's all you have in mind - happiness - I want to suggest to you that personal success devoid of meaningfulness, free of a steady commitment to social justice - that's more than a barren life. It's a trivial one.

— Toni Morrison —

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.