



Becoming!

10:30 AM SUNDAY, JULY 23, 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, JULY 23, 2023
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*When you enter Plymouth Church UCC,
may you feel the peace, intimacy, belonging,
acceptance and refuge of Sanctuary.*

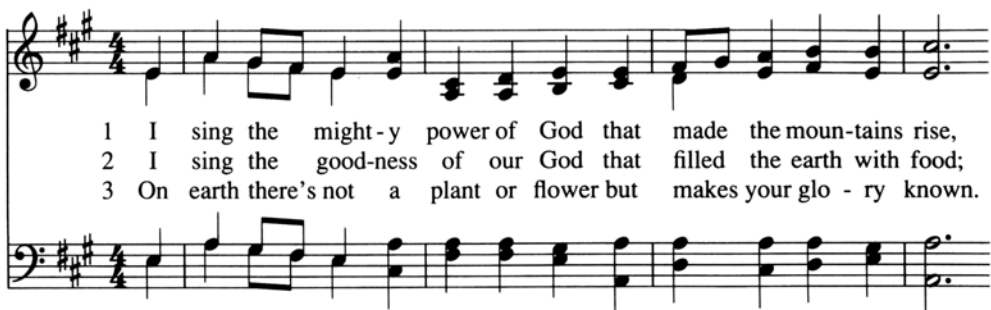
*Worship with Plymouth Church UCC begins with meditation.
The quiet of this place is meant to encourage and deepen your own inner work.
Thank you for entering this place, this hour, by honoring the spirit of worship.*

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, work schedules and contact information.

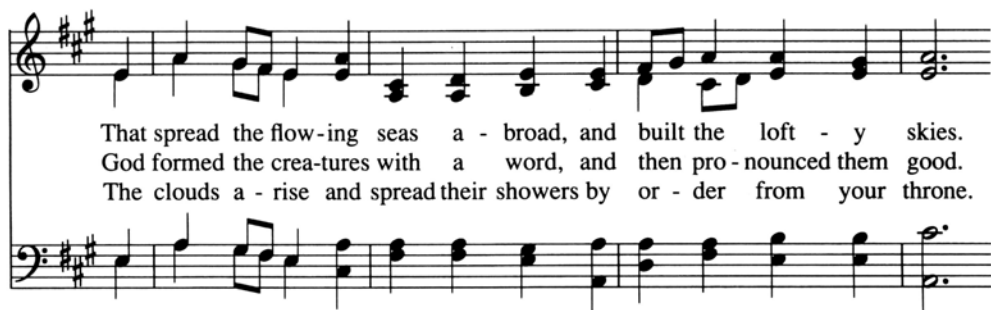
PRELUDE *Morning has Broken* BUNESSAN
Dr. Mikhail Johnson

PRAYER OF INVOCATION. June Hayakawa-Fung
God of many names, mother of all creation, father of all that
is, womb of life, and wellspring of all that we can ever know,
we invite your presence here as we seek to embody your
loving spirit and create your presence among us. We are in
need and we turn to you to be with us as we practice creating
the kin-dom of heaven here on earth. Amen.

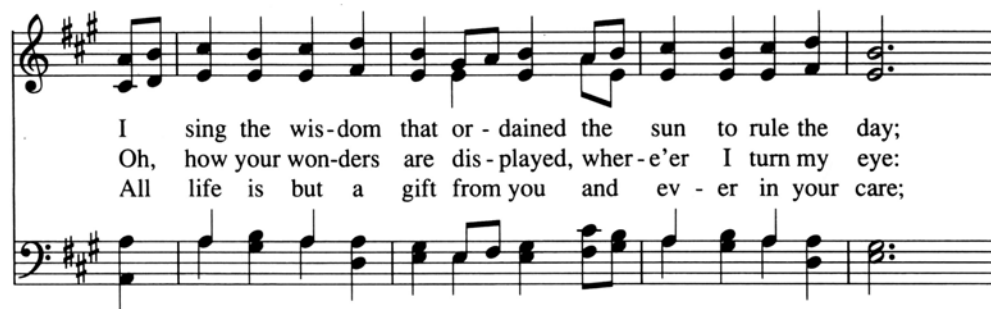
HYMN *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* ELLACOMBE



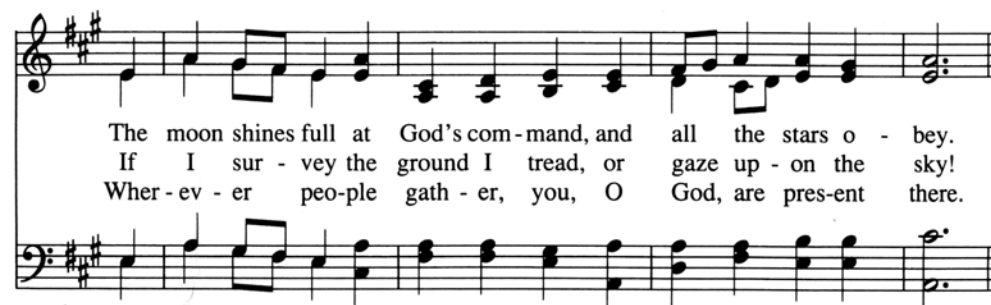
1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of our God that filled the earth with food;
 3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.



That spread the flow-ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.
 God formed the crea-tures with a word, and then pro - nounced them good.
 The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.



I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
 Oh, how your won-ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye:
 All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;



The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
 If I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
 Wher - ev - er peo-ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres-ent there.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION. Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

God of creation and plenty, it can be easy for us to forget the abundant nature of your love. We forget that there are ample riches from this earth if we manage your resources you and we share generously among all your beloved children. We forget that we are all created in your divine beauty, perfect specimens of your holy vision for a people who can love without bounds, share without tallying, and celebrate among the great diversity you created to thrive together. Guide us to give of that abundance, to receive with grace and gratitude, and to turn our hearts from the perception of scarcity. We confess that we fall short; and we ask that you show us the path again to your fruitful garden where all things grow and flourish.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE. Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

Let us know that God has always provided us with growth and abundance and will continue to guide us in the care of bounteous fields that spring forth with plant and animal, both weed and seed. We are all worthy of this enduring joy and sustenance as beloved children of God.

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 Rev. Bechtold
*by Rev. Lisa Rettew, minister at Central United Methodist Church
in Asheville, North Carolina*

Holy and loving God,

When we pause for a breath and really take stock, we remember that there is no time or place that we are not enveloped in your gracious presence. You are there in the quenching rain; you tuck us in with the soft swells of the mountains, you bring peace in birdsong and soft breezes blowing through the leaves. When other sights and sounds seem to drown you out, we still feel your life-giving Spirit in the warmth of the sun, in the touch of a loved one, and in the very beating of our own heart. In all of these ways and more, you remind us that you hold your children in your constant embrace.

As you continue to reveal your self and your purpose, the destination of your impending Kingdom of Heaven seems clear, it's just that often we have difficulty finding the path. And yet, you have breathed on us the gift of your Holy Spirit. You give us the guidance we need even as it may take patience and hard work to bring that path into focus. And we are never left to struggle alone. You send us into the world equipped by your strength and by the example of Christ Jesus, to live in your ways of love and offer your peace to a hurting world.

Holy One in Three, let your Spirit help us speak your hope when we encounter people facing hardships. Let us reach out to grieving spouses, parents, and friends, even when we feel nervous about saying or doing the wrong thing.

Let us greet with the same love you bestow on all your children those who look or act or speak differently from ourselves. Unite us in prayer for all who suffer in body and mind, and grant your peace and comfort to those who are victims of hatred and violence. We pray also for those who cause such pain and suffering. Show us how to care for the lost and excluded, and inspire us to raise our voices for justice for the ones whose voices have been silenced.

You created your Church to be the body of Christ. Unite us now together as we seek to hear what the Spirit is whispering today. Amen.

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 (Sister 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, 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 & Walter Bethel (Friends of Karen Clark), Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Paula Orrego, Jim Oswald (Friend of Bing Tso), Anna Partch (Friend of Sari Breznau), Joshua Robinson (Grandson of Patricia Valentine), Jose Robles and Family, Rachel Sebastian (Friend of Jeanette Hagen), 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 Newland, 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 Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

As recipients of the many ways in which God provides, let us share this generosity with others whose seeds have not yet taken root, whose plots need tending.

*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

How Firm a Foundation. FOUNDATION
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 Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

One: We dedicate these resources to doing God’s work
among God’s people.

Many: **May these gifts plant seeds of justice for
God’s children who seek it; may they
remind us to love more mercifully; may
all walk humbly as we learn to trod gently
upon this earth. Amen.**

CONTEMPORARY VOICE

Excerpt from *The Big Myth*:

How American Business Taught Us to Loathe Government and Love the Free Market

by Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway



Naomi Oreskes is a professor of history and science studies at U.C. San Diego. Erik M. Conway is a historian of science and technology affiliated with the California Institute of Technology.

This raises a profound question: Is capitalism itself to blame for climate change, as critics such as Naomi Klein and Andreas Malm argue? Or the opioid crisis? Or the lack of affordable housing? We argue no: the culprit is how we think about capitalism and how it operates. The culprit is market fundamentalist ideology, which denies capitalism's failures and refuses to endorse the best tool we have to address those failures, which is democratic government. It also fails to acknowledge the role of other tools available to us, like corporate governance. Market fundamentalism touts the benefits and virtues of deregulation and the value of economic freedom to the near eclipse of other concerns.

We need a more realistic vision of what markets are and are not good at, of where they succeed and where they fail. We also need a historically informed conception of the role of governance in creating and managing markets, protecting markets from predatory practices, providing public goods, and addressing social costs of business. To do that, we need to understand how and why we came to put so much faith in markets in the first place.

READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE 1 Samuel 8:1, 4–18 (Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Rev. Bechtold

Now it was that when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel.

Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, “Look here! You—you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now then, set up for us a ruler to judge us, like all the heathen nations.” But the thing was evil in Samuel’s sight when they said, “Give us a ruler to judge us.” Then Samuel prayed to the HOLY ONE OF OLD.

And the HOLY ONE said to Samuel, “Hearken to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for it is not you they have rejected, but it is me they have rejected from ruling over them. Like everything else they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this very day, forsaking me and serving other gods; they are doing the same to you. Now then, hearken to their voice; but—you shall testify against them, and show them the judgment of the ruler who shall rule over them.”

So Samuel relayed all the words of the HOLY ONE to the people who were asking him for a ruler. Samuel said, “This will be the judgment of the ruler who will rule over you all: your sons he will take and set them aside for himself in his chariots and in his cavalry, and to run before his chariots. And he will set aside for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his plowing and to reap his reaping, and to make his furnishings of war and the furnishings of his chariots. Your daughters he will take to be apothecaries and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards; he will take and give to those who serve him. One-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards he will take and give to his eunuchs and those he enslaves. Your male slaves and your female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, he will take and put them to his work. Your flocks he will tithe . . . and you all, you shall be his slaves. And you all will cry out on that day in the face of your sovereign, whom you have chosen for yourselves; and GOD WHOSE NAME IS HOLY will not answer you all on that day.”

ANTHEM.*Beautiful Jesus* . . . SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU
Dr. Mikhail Johnson

MESSAGE Rev. Bechtold

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Rev. Bechtold

POSTLUDE

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am)
Song by Anne Ward and The Arundel & Brighton Diocesan
Dr. Mikhail Johnson



Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown will return to Plymouth UCC Sunday, August 6.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

From Hiroshima to Hope Join Seattle's annual lantern-floating peace ceremony, 6-8 pm Sunday, August 6 at Green Lake. The event includes music, poetry, dance, speakers and candle-lit lanterns on the lake. Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown is the keynote speaker. Read more in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Take Action Now The Afghan Adjustment Act would provide stability for our Afghan neighbors and expand safe pathways for those left behind where they remain in harm's way. Read more and find link to contact your representatives in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

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.

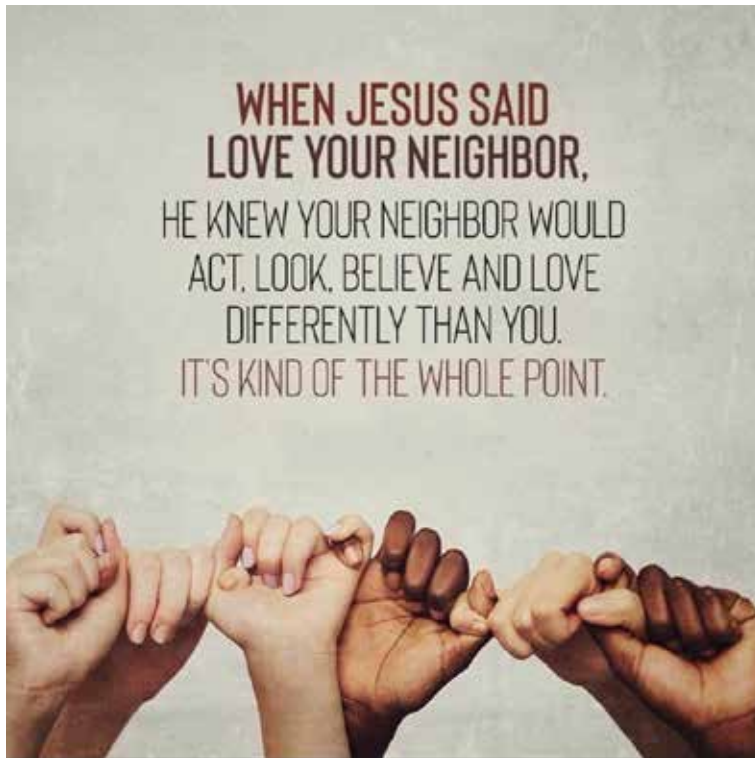
Lend a Helping Hand Plymouth is now a proud sponsor of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound. You can help by dropping off gently used clothing and shoes of any size at the church in the grey bin by the elevator on the 1st floor. Contact Toni Arthur, TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org with questions.

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.

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.