



Becoming!

10:30 AM SUNDAY, JULY 30, 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

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For administrative needs, or other non-pastoral care questions, please email:

DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

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10:30 AM SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023
NINTH 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 *Lift Up Your Hearts!* **WOODLANDS**
Dr. Mikhail Johnson

CALL TO WORSHIP June Hayakawa-Fung

One: A love that never ceases,

Many: A creativity that designed the universe,

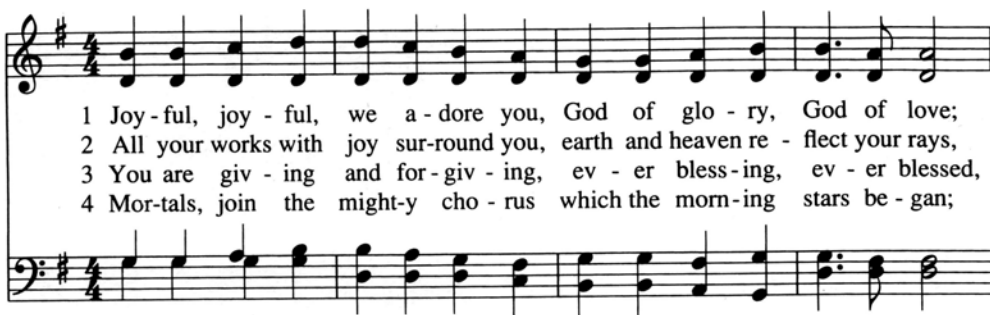
One: A hope that cannot be quenched,

Many: A pursuit of reconciliation no matter the cost:

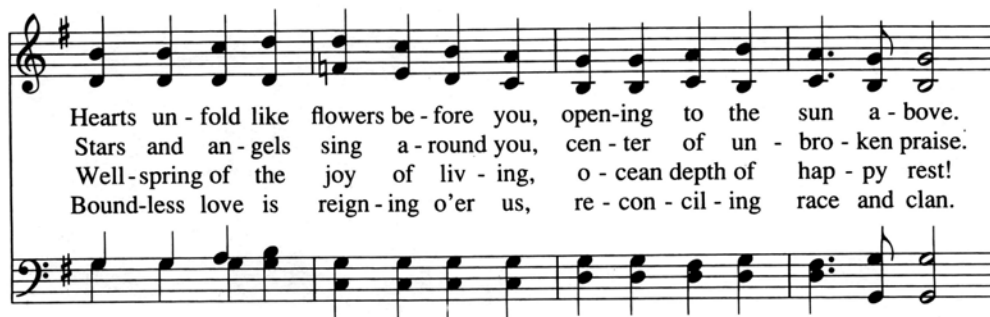
One: These are the things that are of God,

Many: Then let us worship God.

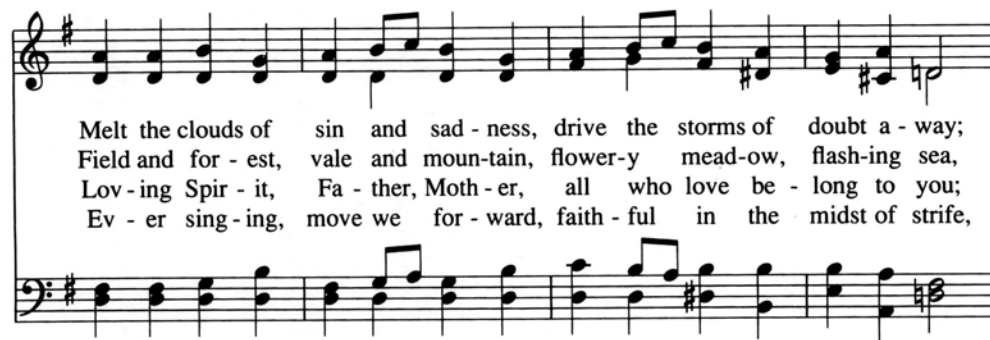
HYMN Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You HYMN TO JOY



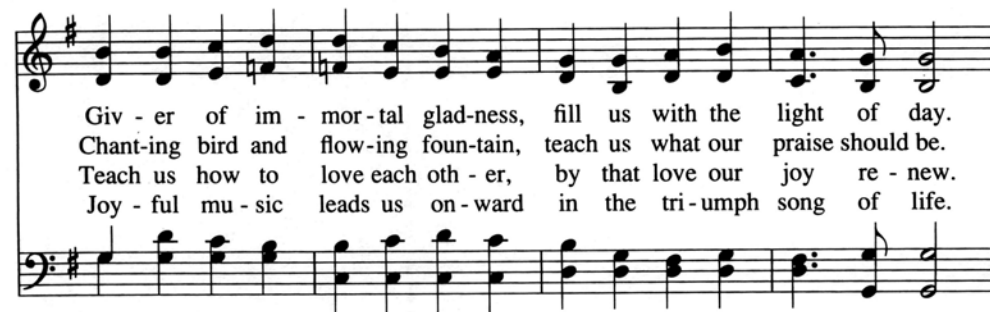
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
 2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
 3 You are giv - ing and for-giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blessed,
 4 Mor-tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open-ing to the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 Bound-less love is reign - ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Lov - ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
 Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION.Rev. Donene Blair

One: Merciful God,
for the things we have done that we regret,

Many: forgive us;

One: for the things we have failed to do that we regret,

Many: forgive us;

One: for all the times we have acted without love,

Many: forgive us;

One: for all the times we have reacted without thought,

Many: forgive us;

One: for all the times we have withdrawn care,

Many: forgive us;

One: for all the times we have failed to forgive,

Many: forgive us.

One: For hurtful words said and helpful words unsaid,
for unfinished tasks
and unfulfilled hopes,

**Many: God of all time,
forgive us and help us
to lay down our burden of regret. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACERev. Blair

Take comfort in the assurance
that even those things that are hidden from memory,
or are too deep for our words,
are not beyond God's forgiving love.
God, who knows us completely,
bestows pardon and peace.

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. Blair

John Adams (Father of Katherine Guthrie), Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Michelle J. Bennett (Sister of Dawn Bennett), Merryn Bentley (granddaughter of Al and Judy Bentley), Alvina Mae & Walter Bethel (Friends of Karen Clark), Susan Carter (Mother of Heather Banks & Kathleen Bernard), Mike Correy (Friend of Karen Clark), Sue Ellen Daniel (Friend of Barb Laski), Mark & JT Edwards, 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), 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), Judy Young (Friend of Glenda Carper), Ashley and the Zorich Family (Granddaughter of Betty Eberharter)

We grieve with the family and friends of Emilie Adams who passed away July 12.

Our hearts are with Gary Magnuson and family on the one-year anniversary of the passing of his wife, Sharon Masse.

A memorial service for Jim Reynolds will be held 1 pm August 6, at Horizon House Sky Lounge. All Plymouth friends are welcome.



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

We submit that all things came into being through The Word.
All our gifts, resources, and blessings come from the Generous
God, our Creator. May we return a portion of these gifts in
grateful generosity for the ministry of the kingdom.

OFFERING MUSIC

Let us with a Joyful Mind. INNOCENTS
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

**Holy One, we thank you for revealing yourself to
us and through us with abundance and flourishing.
Give us generous hearts. May our offerings offer a
testimony honoring your provision and giving glory
to your name. Receive these gifts and magnify them
for the needs of your creation. Amen.**

CONTEMPORARY VOICE

Excerpt from *The Struggle of the Artist*, by James Baldwin



*James Baldwin was
an American writer
of essays, novels,
plays and poems.*

I am not really interested in talking to you as an artist. It seems to me that the artist's struggle for his integrity must be considered as a kind of metaphor for the struggle, which is universal and daily, of all human beings on the face of this globe to get to become human beings. It is not your fault, it is not my fault, that I write. And I never would come before you in the position of a complainant for doing something that I must do. What we might get at this evening, if we are lucky, is what the importance of this effort is. However arrogant this may sound, I want to suggest two propositions. The first one is that the poets (by which I mean all artists) are finally the only people who know the truth about us. Soldiers don't.

Statesmen don't. Priests don't. Union leaders don't. Only poets. That's my first proposition. We know about the Oedipus complex not because of Freud but because of a poet who lived in Greece thousands of years ago. And what he said then about what it was like to be alive is still true, in spite of the fact that now we can get to Greece in something like five hours and then it would have taken I don't know how long a time.

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEWMatthew 4:1–11

(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation)

read by Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread." 4 But Jesus answered, "It is written,

'Not by bread alone does humanity live,
but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.' "

Then the devil took Jesus to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'God will command God's own angels concerning you' and
'On their hands they will take you up,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' "

Jesus said to it, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Holy One your God to the test.' "

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the dominions of the world and their glory. And it said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to it, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Holy One your God,
and serve only God.' "

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on Jesus.

ANTHEM

Glorify Thy Name! Medley
The Maranatha! Singers and Twila Paris
Dr. Mikhail Johnson

Father we love you we worship and adore you.
Glorify thy name in all the earth.
We will Glorify the King of Kings,
We will Glorify the Lamb,
We will Glorify the Lord of Lords
Who is the Great I Am.

MESSAGElenny duncan

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

CHARGE AND BENEDICTIONlenny duncan

POSTLUDE.*We are one in the Spirit* Peter Scholtes
Dr. Mikhail Johnson



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

Special thanks to today's guest preacher lenny duncan (they/them), a writer, speaker, scholar, and media producer working at the forefront of racial justice in America. lenny is the author of *Dear Church*, *United States of Grace*, and *Dear Revolutionaries*, and a co-creator of the podcast BlackBerryJams with PRX. A PhD student in historical and cultural studies of religion, lenny is currently researching what they call "a people's history of magic." lenny is originally from West Philadelphia, has hitchhiked thousands of miles on American byways, and makes their home up and down the I-5 with their found family, and in the East Bay area of San Francisco for research.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Plymouth Herald will be on hiatus for three weeks, beginning August 9. Weekly publication resumes August 30. Stay up to date by checking PlymouthChurchSeattle.org, and look for periodic email updates.

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.

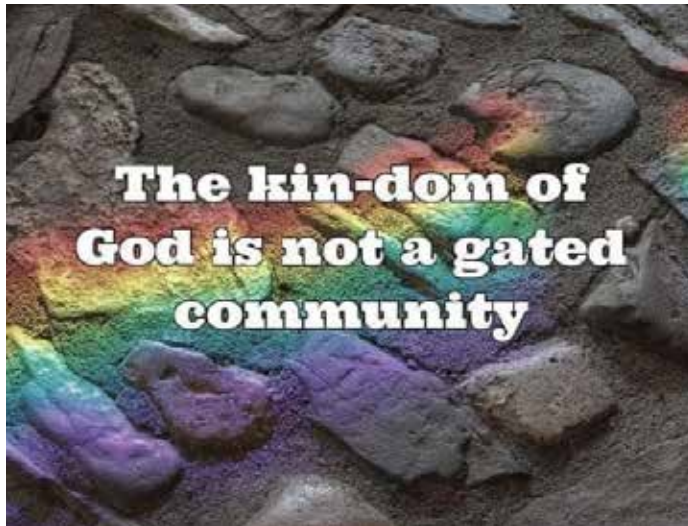
Depression and Theology Dr. Jessica Coblenz will present her book *Dust in the Blood: A Theology of Life with Depression* to discuss how Christians theologically frame depression. August 9, 7-8:30 pm at The Well at Queen Anne UMC (1606 5th Ave W Seattle, 98119). Link for tickets (pay as you are able) in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org, or visit TheWellQueenAnne.org.

Bring Clothing and Shoes Plymouth is 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.



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.