



# Becoming!

10:30 AM SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 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.

[KBrown@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:KBrown@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

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

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10:30 AM SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023  
TENTH 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.*

Our Organist in Residence, Dr. Mikhail Johnson, invites you to stay after worship today for a recital, marking the end of his residency. We give thanks to Dr. Johnson for his contribution to our worship life.

#### PRELUDE

*Let all the World in Every Corner Sing. . . . .* ST. AUGUSTINE  
Dr. Mikhail Johnson

**CALL TO WORSHIP. . . . .** Rev. Kevin Bechtold

One: Welcome, friends, to this holy day.

**Many: We come to offer thanks; we come to sing  
and pray.**

One: Welcome, friends, to this time set apart,

**Many: A time to remember those we love, and  
time to remember the holy promises of God.**


One: Welcome, friends, to this table of remembrance  
and joy,

**Many: The table where we are fed, the feast we  
share with many.**



One: Welcome, friends, and let us worship God.

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. 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.*

**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. . . . . Dr. Brown**

**COMMUNION PRAYER. . . . . Rev. Bechtold**

*John Adams (Father of Katherine Guthrie), Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Michelle J. Bennett (Sister of Dawn Bennett), Merryn Bentley (Granddaughter of Al & 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), 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), Ashley and the Zorich Family (Granddaughter of Betty Eberharter)*

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



**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** . . . . . Dr. Brown

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*Let Us Break Bread Together* . . . . . African American Spiritual

Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
My God, have mercy on me.

**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. Donene Blair

God’s wisdom turns the wisdom of the world upside down. God  
calls us to unexpected and extravagant opportunities to grow in  
our gifts and in our faith. Holding things close in fear distracts us  
from the path of discipleship, but trusting in God and in God’s  
future leads us to great generosity and joy. 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**

*Thanks, Thanks, I give you thanks . . . . .* Joy Gardner and Lillie Knauls  
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

**As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, O God,  
may they be used to pass on the promise of hope, of  
peace, of life, of community to all in need of your  
gifts and presence in their lives. Amen.**



**CONTEMPORARY VOICE . . . . . by Jim Yerman**



*Jim Yerman is a poet  
and a retired special  
education teacher.*

When the sun has finally slipped away  
and the sky is devoid of light  
I love to sit and listen  
to the music of the night.

The concert begins under the stars  
there is no stage  
no tickets  
no doors  
as the ocean keeps a rhythmic beat  
and crashes its cymbals on the shore.

As the crickets play their violins  
and the nightingales sing,  
you never know what melodies  
the wind this night will bring.

For that is the wistful beauty of night music...  
it touches your heart...  
your soul...  
and then...  
you know, once the concert is concluded  
you'll never hear that song again.

**READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE . . . 1 Samuel 15:1-3, 8, 10-17, 24-25**  
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Rev. Blair

Samuel said to Saul, “I was sent by the DREAD GOD to anoint you ruler over God’s people, over Israel; now then, hearken to the call of the words of the INSCRUTABLE GOD: Thus says the SOVEREIGN of heaven’s vanguard, ‘I will punish Amalek for what they did to Israel, setting against them in their ascent from Egypt. Now go and smite Amalek, and put to holy destruction all they have; do not spare them and put them to death from woman to man and from infant to nursing baby and from ox to sheep, from camel to donkey.’”

Saul seized Agag ruler of the Amalekites alive, and put to holy destruction all the people at the edge of the sword.

The word of the SOVEREIGN GOD to Samuel was: “I regret that I crowned Saul as ruler, for he has turned away from me, and my commands he has not instituted.” Then Samuel was angry, and he cried out to the GOD WHO HEARS, all night. And Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, and it was told to Samuel: “Saul went to Carmel, where he erected a monument for himself, then turned around and passed by, going down to Gilgal.” Now,



Samuel came to him and Saul said to him, “Blessed are you by the HOLY ONE OF OLD; I have instituted the command of the HOLY ONE OF SINAI.” Then Samuel said, “What is this sound of sheep in my ears, and the sound of cattle I am hearing?” And Saul said, “They brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and the cattle to sacrifice to the HOLY ONE your God; but the rest we have put to holy destruction.” Then Samuel said to Saul, “Stop! Let me tell you what the ANCIENT ONE said to me last night.” Saul replied, “Speak.” Samuel said, “Though you are small in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The HOLY ONE anointed you ruler over Israel.”

Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned; for I have transgressed the utterance of the DREAD GOD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. Now then, I pray, pardon my sin, and return with me, so that I may worship the HOLY ONE OF OLD.”

**ANTHEM.** . . . . . *Come Now, Almighty God* . . . . . ITALIAN HYMN  
Dr. Mikhail Johnson

**MESSAGE** . . . . . *When God Speaks by Night* . . . . . Dr. Brown

**HYMN** . . . . . *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* . . . . . ST. ANNE



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad-ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm-y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
From ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, soon bears us all away; We fly for - got - ten, as a dream fades at the o - pen - ing day.	6 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come, Still be our God while trou - bles last, and our e - ter - nal home!
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**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** . . . . . Dr. Brown

**POSTLUDE.** . . . . . *Holy Holy Lord God Almighty* . . . . . NICAIA  
Dr. Mikhail Johnson



## ORGAN RECITAL

*Plymouth has been blessed to have composer and keyboard virtuoso  
Dr. Mikhail Johnson as our Organist in Residence since June 25.  
You are invited to stay after worship for a recital to mark the end of his residency.  
We give thanks to Dr. Johnson for his contribution to our worship life.*

**OPENING REMARKS** . . . . . Dr. Mikhail Johnson

*Si Di Staar Deh! (Look! There's the star!)* . . . . . Dr. Johnson

*Hymnprovisation #1* . . . . . Dr. Johnson

*Adoration* . . . . . Florence Price

*Hymnprovisation #2* . . . . . Dr. Johnson

*(Oh Blessed Caecilia!) Homage to the Saint of Music.* . . . . . Dr. Johnson



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

***From Hiroshima to Hope*** Join Seattle's annual lantern-floating peace ceremony, 6–8 pm **today** 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](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

***A Memorial Service*** for Jim Reynolds will be held 1 pm **today**, at Horizon House Sky Lounge. All Plymouth friends are welcome.

***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](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org), and look for periodic email updates.

***Depression and Theology*** Dr. Jessica Coblentz 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](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org), or visit [TheWellQueenAnne.org](http://TheWellQueenAnne.org).

***Sound Medicine Meditation*** Tory Trujillo offers a deeply healing Sound Medicine Meditation 12:30 pm in Hildebrand Hall Sunday, August 20. Be prepared to receive a profoundly transformational and healing experience. Read more in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

***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](http://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](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.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](mailto:TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) with questions.

***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](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). The guide includes areas of responsibility and contact information.



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.