



10:30 AM SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021

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.

The church building is closed for all activities until further notice.

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

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

WBlight@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

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10:30 AM SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

PRELUDE

*Adagio from Sonata No. 1Felix Mendelssohn
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ*

WELCOME. Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

INVOCATIONRev. Donene Blair

O God, you are our refuge.
You are the shore in sight,
you are hands that reach out,
you are the ground on which we rest.
God, you are our strength.
You are the life we long for,
you are the refusal to give up,
you are the keys of home we carry with us.
God you are our help and time of trouble.
We call on you from the ruins and the rubble,
We call on you from the wildness and the deep,
We call on you to meet us in this place!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Carmen Ramsey Ellington (Friend of Karen Clark), Pat Forrester (Sister-in-Law of Kate Forrester), Floyd Gossett, Juno Griswold, **John Holford** (Father of Michelle Sarju), Michael Kaid, **Darryl Marshall** (Stepfather of Jennifer Castle), Bob Mitchell, Jo Mitchell, Montecino Family, Pris Orr, Tommy Rivers Puzey (Friend of Karen Clark), Carol Reynolds Kenning, Jose Robles and Family, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Patricia Valentine, Cynthia Watson (Friend of Karen Clark), Ruth, Eppie, and Keddy Williamson*

Our hearts are with Kathy Rood on the passing of her uncle Richard Rood.

Bold=newly added; Names will remain on the prayer list for six weeks, unless otherwise requested.

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE Luke 14:1, 7-14
(NRSV translation) read by Rev. Kevin Bechtold

Seating charts emphasize the high status of some and the lower status of others. We would like to think these social issues are descriptions of the first-century world. Yet social distinctions matter too often in Christian communities, as those who experience less privilege can attest. The radically inclusive kin-dom Jesus inaugurates subverts systems that reward the “haves” and further disadvantage the “have-nots.” As we seek to live out the counter-cultural value of inclusion for the marginalized, our actions mirror Jesus’ agenda to fill God’s house and offer the banquet to all.

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.

“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

CONVERSATION Dr. Brown and Rev. Dr. Linda Smith

MUSIC OF REFLECTION

Italian Concerto (Andante Movement) JS Bach
Erin Jorgensen, marimba
Julian Martlew, sound; Mikhail Skopstov, camera
Directed by Marcy Stone-Francois
(used with permission)

LOVE IN ACTION Tom Maul

CONTEMPORARY VOICEread by Deacon Indigo Brown

Never Say It Is Not Me, by Hafiz

I taste what you taste. I know the kind of lyrics
you most like. I know which sounds will become
Resplendent in your mind and bring such pleasure
to your feet that they will jump or whirl.

When anything touches or enters your body
Never say it is not me.

My lips are now burning and everywhere.

I am running from every corner
Of this earth and sky just wanting to kiss you;

I am every particle of wheat and dust — I am rioting at your soul's door;
I am spinning in midair like golden falling leaves
Trying to win your glance.

I am sweetly rolling against your walls and shores
All night, even though you are asleep. I am singing from
The mouth of animals and birds.

My dear, when anything ever touches or enters your body,
Never say it is not me, for God is just trying, the Beloved is
Just trying to get close, rushing to your side
From every corner of existence, needing to say,
“I am yours.”



Hafiz was a 14th century Persian poet who lauded the joys of love and wine and targeted hypocrisy.

ANTHEM

Prelude No. 24 in B Minor from the Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 1 . . . JS Bach

Erin Jorgensen, marimba

Julian Martlew, sound; Mikhail Skopstov, camera

Directed by Marcy Stone-Francois

(used with permission)

CONVERSATION Dr. Brown and Dr. Smith

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Dr. Brown

POSTLUDE

Con moto maestoso from Sonata No. 3 Felix Mendelssohn

Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

THANK YOU

Special thanks to today's guest clergy and musician.



The Rev. Dr. Linda M. Smith leads key initiatives in concert with African American Pastors in Renton, and is pastor and executive director of SKY Urban Empowerment and Transformation Center. She holds a doctorate degree in Restorative Spirituality and Leadership and a Master's Degree in Divinity and Transforming Spirituality. She is also a spiritual director, and a Leadership Development and Spiritual Coach with 35 years of working with individuals and organizations as a workshop leader, leadership development coach and

consultant. Linda is the author of *The Pathway to the Soul*, and she journeys with people to achieve their dreams and become empowered. Linda's personal mission is to help those on the journey of life discover their greatness and live their authentic self.

Musician Erin Jorgensen says of her instrument: "My marimba is a concert-sized one with a lovely low end—the lowest note is two octaves below middle C, like a cello range. When you use soft mallets in that low end, you can really feel the vibrations, as you can with a cello or a string bass or an electric bass. I'm interested in the colors that come from that low and midsection, the resulting overtones and harmonics, and mixing that with voice, talking or singing. There's something about that low marimba sound that is so dreamy and trance inducing and immediate"



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help People of Afghanistan and Haiti Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services is scrambling to find volunteers to help our Afghan allies as they arrive in the United States. They need things like rides from the airport, food, and apartment set-up help. Please volunteer if you can, or share with others who might be able to help. On August 14, 2021 the people of Ayiti/Haiti experienced another devastating earthquake that has left more than thousands dead and hundreds of thousands injured. They deserve not only our prayers and love, but our solidarity. Visit the News Page at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org and click on “*Help People of Afghanistan and Haiti*” for direct links to donate and get involved.

Standing in the Gap You are invited to Standing in the Gap, Recovery Café's educational and fundraising event. Join us Wednesday, September 15 from 7:30–9 am online for a morning to learn about the healing work of Recovery Café, what we're doing to serve our members during the pandemic, and how you can help. Visit RecoveryCafe.org to register or donate.

Help Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build In response to 9-11, the local Habitat for Humanity chapter began an annual Interfaith Build. If you are interested in participating Saturday, September 18, it would be great to have you. There are volunteer slots at the site, and opportunities to assist in providing lunch for volunteers and staff. If you would like to be involved, please reach out to Caroline Becker (Becker144@comcast.net; 206.679.9782) or Mike Pierson (MikePierson2@gmail.com; 206.604.8673).

Your Plymouth Care Team is committed to maintaining availability of staff to handle any care concerns that might come our way. Please use the care line phone number to get in touch with the Care Team should anything arise: 206.639.7739. Messages are checked at least once a day and the Care Team makes every attempt to follow up as soon as we are able. Please call and leave a message if there is something you feel the Care Team should be aware of as we endeavor to serve you!

Reconcile and Reform Are you eager to gather, learn, and worship again with other Christians from around the country and the world who are working to advance LGBTQ inclusion in the church? Convene in person this fall for our Reconcile and Reform conference in Phoenix, Arizona. Register now. The conference will be held October 28–30 at Crowne Plaza Hotel & Resort in Phoenix. Read more and get tickets at ReformationProject.org/Conference.

Join Online Bible Study Gather online with friends for Wednesday morning Bible study, 9–10:30 am. All are welcome! If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact Jennifer at JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. You can also access Bible study directly through the website at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org (Under the “Worship” tab, click “Online Events.”) You will need to use the general password for Plymouth Zoom meetings, so please contact Jennifer if you don't have it. We hope to see you Wednesday morning!

GIVING OPTIONS TO SUPPORT PLYMOUTH UCC

Thank you for your faithful support of the mission and ministries of Plymouth United Church of Christ. Listed below are a variety of ways for you to provide offerings and gifts.

ONLINE GIVING THROUGH SIMPLE CHURCH Click on the MAKE A GIFT box at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Choose to deduct directly from your bank account or credit/debit card to make a one-time offering, or schedule recurring offerings.

TEXT TO GIVE Text to 206.208.1442 and enter a dollar amount. You will receive prompts to complete the transaction. Once set up, you will be able to text offerings with one step.

CASH APP Download the Cash App mobile app from the Apple App Store or Google Play and follow the instructions to set up giving directly from your bank account. Our Cash App ID is \$PlymouthUCCSeattle.

CHECK BY MAIL Mail offerings to the church: Plymouth Church, UCC / 1217 6th Ave / Seattle WA 98101

Questions? Please contact Diane: DJacobsen@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.