

# RESIST!

**10:30 AM SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025**



# 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 with us today. Please like and send us a greeting  
on Facebook and Instagram.



### **Help support the mission and ministries of Plymouth Church UCC.**

Make a donation under the “Give” tab at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org),  
or scan the code below:



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:**

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

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10:30 AM SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025  
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome to Plymouth Church United Church of Christ and our Labor Day Sunday worship.  
We pray that your soul and body are finding rest and that you will join us again for  
in-person and online worship September 7, our Homecoming Sunday.

**PRELUDE *PRELUDIO***

*Pavane in F# minor Op. 50* . . . . . Gabriel Fauré  
Dr. Lorin Green, flute; Dr. Stephen Price, organ

**CALL TO WORSHIP** . . . . . June Hayakawa-Fung

***LLAMADO A ADORAR***

One: More than kind or charitable, or even humane  
this Love that calls us takes on flesh and bone  
and vulnerability.

**Many: We gather here to practice Love's  
solidarity, rising up in the valleys and  
shadows of death.**

One: More than nice, or agreeable, or even polite this  
Love that forms us risks siding with the last and  
the least.

**Many: We come together to become Love's  
liberation building collective power to  
resist injustice.**

One: More than tolerant or accepting, or even  
affirming this Love that guides us opens to new  
stories of harm and new visions of flourishing.

**Many: We join together to embody Love's  
accountability, laying down our defenses  
to grow beyond the edges of our knowing.**

One: More than peaceful or unifying, or even friendly  
this Love that compels us dares to imagine  
beyond empire.

**All: We worship to remember Love's future  
praying, praising, and protesting until  
Love's kindom comes.**



## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ORACIONES DEL PUEBLO

*All who live in fear of expedited removal, detention, or deportation., Ahmed Black (Nephew of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Monica Blume (Family of Kate Forrester), Wendy Carpenter (Friend of Jocelyn Coit-Durland), Lin Davis (Wife of Mo Longworth), JT Edwards, Diane Folkert (Mother and Mother-in-Law of Alex & Ara Lawrence), Louis Ford (Friend of Karen Clark), Artrice Gordon (Brother of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Floyd Gossett, Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Jo-Ann Guthrie, Elvis Gordon (Brother of Michael and Elizabeth Gordon), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Julie (Friend of Karen Clark), Debbie Longworth (Sister of Mo Longworth), Robert Malae, Dave Mom (Brother-in-law of Mo Longworth), Dale and Jinny Sewell, Shaniece (Friend of Karen Clark), Sue Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), Rev. Harriet Walton (Friend of Dr. Maxine Mimms), Gevan Woodke (Friend of Karen Clark)*

*Our hearts are with Helen Gorsuch and family on the passing of her husband Phil Gorsuch on August 25. A service will be held 1 pm Friday, September 5, at Congregational Church on Mercer Island (4545 Island Crest Way).*

## CONTEMPORARY VOICE VOZ CONTEMPORÁNEA



*In 1864, Jourdon Anderson and his wife, Amanda, escaped a life of slavery and moved to Ohio. A year later, he received a desperate letter from the man who had enslaved them, in which he was asked to return to work on his now ailing plantation. Jourdon's magnificent reply, read here by Laurence Fishburne, was dictated by Jourdon and reprinted in numerous newspapers. Jourdon Anderson never returned to Big Spring, Tennessee. He passed away in 1907, aged 81, and is buried alongside Amanda and their eleven children.*

Dayton, Ohio, August 7, 1865.

To my old Master, Colonel P. H. Anderson, Big Spring, Tennessee.

Sir: I got your letter, and was glad to find that you had not forgotten Jourdon, and that you wanted me to come back and live with you again, promising to do better for me than anybody else can. I have often felt uneasy about you. I thought the Yankees would have hung you long before this, for harboring Rebs they found at your house. I suppose they never heard about your going to Colonel Martin's to kill the Union soldier that was left by his company in their stable. Although you shot at me twice before I left you, I did not want to hear of your being hurt, and am glad you are still living. It would do me good to go back to the dear old home again, and see Miss Mary and Miss Martha and Allen, Esther, Green, and Lee. Give my love to them all, and tell them I hope we will meet in the better world, if not in this. I would have gone back to see you all when I was working in the Nashville Hospital, but one of the neighbors told me that Henry intended to shoot me if he ever got a chance.

I want to know particularly what the good chance is you propose to give me. I am doing tolerably well here. I get twenty-five dollars a month, with victuals and clothing; have a



comfortable home for Mandy,—the folks call her Mrs. Anderson,—and the children—Milly, Jane, and Grundy—go to school and are learning well. The teacher says Grundy has a head for a preacher. They go to Sunday school, and Mandy and me attend church regularly. We are kindly treated. Sometimes we overhear others saying, “Them colored people were slaves” down in Tennessee. The children feel hurt when they hear such remarks; but I tell them it was no disgrace in Tennessee to belong to Colonel Anderson. Many darkeys would have been proud, as I used to be, to call you master. Now if you will write and say what wages you will give me, I will be better able to decide whether it would be to my advantage to move back again.

As to my freedom, which you say I can have, there is nothing to be gained on that score, as I got my free papers in 1864 from the Provost-Marshal-General of the Department of Nashville. Mandy says she would be afraid to go back without some proof that you were disposed to treat us justly and kindly; and we have concluded to test your sincerity by asking you to send us our wages for the time we served you. This will make us forget and forgive old scores, and rely on your justice and friendship in the future. I served you faithfully for thirty-two years, and Mandy twenty years. At twenty-five dollars a month for me, and two dollars a week for Mandy, our earnings would amount to eleven thousand six hundred and eighty dollars. Add to this the interest for the time our wages have been kept back, and deduct what you paid for our clothing, and three doctor’s visits to me, and pulling a tooth for Mandy, and the balance will show what we are in justice entitled to. Please send the money by Adams’s Express, in care of V. Winters, Esq. Dayton, Ohio.

If you fail to pay us for faithful labors in the past, we can have little faith in your promises in the future. We trust the good Maker has opened your eyes to the wrongs which you and your fathers have done to me and my fathers, in making us toil for you for generations without recompense. Here I draw my wages every Saturday night; but in Tennessee there was never any pay-day for the negroes any more than for the horses and cows. Surely there will be a day of reckoning for those who defraud the laborer of his hire.

In answering this letter, please state if there would be any safety for my Milly and Jane, who are now grown up, and both good-looking girls. You know how it was with poor Matilda and Catherine. I would rather stay here and starve—and die, if it come to that—than have my girls brought to shame by the violence and wickedness of their young masters. You will also please state if there has been any schools opened for the colored children in your neighborhood. The great desire of my life now is to give my children an education, and have them form virtuous habits.

Say howdy to George Carter, and thank him for taking the pistol from you when you were shooting at me.

From your old servant,  
*Jourdon Anderson*



**SCRIPTURE READING *LECTURA DE LAS ESCRITURAS* . . . . . Luke 17:1-4**

(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation)

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

Now Jesus said to his disciples, “It is not possible that things that will trip you up and lead you to stumble into sin will not come, but woe to the person on whose account they come! It would be better if a millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea than for them to cause one of these little ones to stumble into sin. Guard yourselves! If a sibling sins, you must rebuke them, and if there is repentance, you must forgive them. And if seven times a day they sin against you and turn back to you seven times and say, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive them.”

**SERMON *SERMÓN* . . . . . *Millstones of Mercy* . . . . . Dr. Brown**

**BENEDICTION *BENDICIÓN* . . . . . Dr. Brown**

*A Franciscan Blessing*

MAY GOD BLESS YOU with discomfort,  
at easy answers, half-truths,  
and superficial relationships  
so that you may live  
deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger  
at injustice, oppression,  
and exploitation of people,  
so that you may work for  
justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears,  
to shed for those who suffer pain,  
rejection, hunger, and war,  
so that you may reach out your hand  
to comfort them and  
to turn their pain to joy.

And may God bless you  
with enough foolishness  
to believe that you can  
make a difference in the world,  
so that you can do  
what others claim cannot be done.

**POSTLUDE *POSTLUDIO***

*Recessional*. . . . . Douglas Wagner

Dr. Stephen Price, organ



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Homecoming September 7*** Plan now to attend worship 10:30 am Sunday, September 7, as we begin our church program year with joyful worship and lunch with friends afterward. This is a special day to pledge time, talent, and treasure and to express our desire to covenant with God, Plymouth Church, and one another.

***Dialogue with Kelsey: Before and After My Daughter's Death*** You are invited to Plymouth 3 pm Saturday, September 6, to learn about Barbara Bennett's new book on grief, healing, and a forever relationship. Park in Plymouth garage.

***Faith in the Time of Monsters*** Come to Town Hall Seattle (1119 Eighth Avenue) 6 pm Saturday, September 6, for an evening with Dr. Cornel West, presented by Valley and Mountain UMC. More info and tickets at [TownHallSeattle.org](http://TownHallSeattle.org).

***Detention Lottery*** The Church Council of Greater Seattle invites you *Detention Lottery* 4 pm Sunday, September 7, at Seattle First United Methodist (180 Denny Way). This production reveals realities of migrant detention in our country. Read more and RSVP at [TheChurchCouncil.org/News](http://TheChurchCouncil.org/News).

***A Church that Reads Together Leads Together*** Purchase your copy of *Black Prophetic Fire* by Cornel West. Discussions of the book will begin in September, so begin reading today! Available at Beacon Press: [Beacon.org](http://Beacon.org).

***Need Support?*** If you are feeling in need of understanding, connection and support, consider joining our Transitions Support Group. We meet monthly on Zoom and help each other through life's ups and downs. Contact Faith Community Nurse June Hayakawa-Fung ([JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)).

***Bring School Supplies on Sundays*** Help more kids start their school year right with the school supplies they need most. All donations are appreciated. Leave them in the bin by the Welcome Table in the Lounge. See list of most-requested items in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

***Advocate for a Moral Budget*** Join Faith Action Network for Moral Budget Advocacy Week, September 22-26. Details and registration at [FANWA.org](http://FANWA.org).

***The Power of Connection*** Support Plymouth Housing Noon-1:30 pm Wednesday, September 17. This inspiring event brings together our region's forward-thinking community to take meaningful steps toward ending homelessness. Visit [PlymouthHousing.org](http://PlymouthHousing.org) for more info.

***Please Remember*** Plymouth now receives mail at a PO Box instead of our street address. Send all postal correspondence to: Plymouth Church UCC / PO Box 21368 / Seattle WA 98111.



Plymouth Church Seattle United Church of Christ

# Homecoming Sunday

*Creatively Maladjusted*

**September 7, 2025**

**10:30 a.m.**

"There are some things within our social order  
to which I am proud to be maladjusted..."

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

[www.plymouthchurchseattle.org](http://www.plymouthchurchseattle.org)

*Rev. Dr. Kelle J Brown, Senior Pastor*

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.