



PLYMOUTH
United Church of Christ

10:30 AM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

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 is open during limited hours.

Contact Info@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

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

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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, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOMECOMING SUNDAY

*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.*

This Sunday we share together Holy Communion in our worship. For those with us online, before the time of the service you will want to prepare some bread and juice of some sort. Remember this is a meal of grace, so whatever “bread” or “juice” you choose will more than suffice. Set these elements in the sacred place where you experience worship. Thank you for your preparation.

PRELUDE *PRELUDIO*

Canzona in G minor (Part 1)Domenico Zipoli
Dr. Ricardo de la Torre, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP June Hayakawa-Fung
LLAMADO A ADORAR

(Inspired by Psalm 125)

One: Those who trust in the Holy One are like Mount
Zion, which cannot be moved but abides forever.

**Many: Surround us, O God, like the atmosphere
around the earth.**

One: We stretch out our hands and our hearts reaching
for your goodness and righteousness.

**Many: Surround us, O God, like the atmosphere
around the earth.**

One: Lead us on good paths and make us agents of peace.

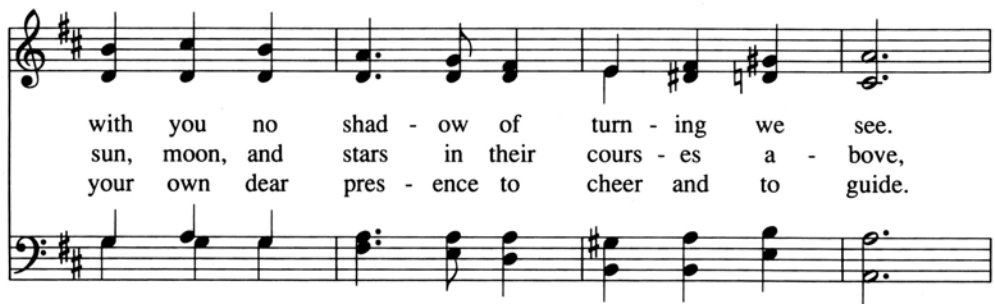
**All: Surround us, O God, like the atmosphere
around the earth.**

OPENING HYMN *HIMNO DE APERTURA*

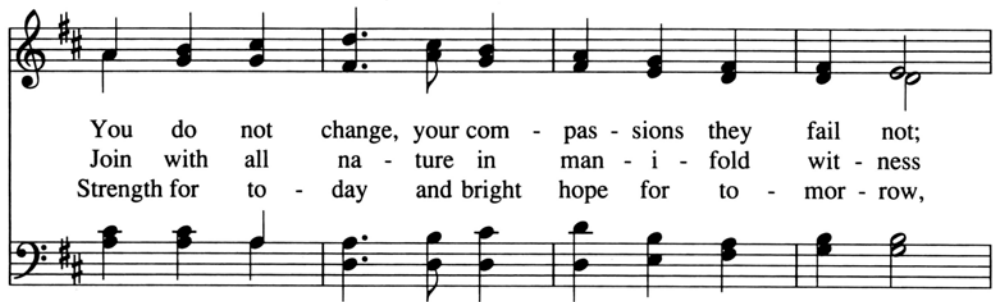
Great Is Thy Faithfulness FAITHFULNESS



1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,



with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.



You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.
to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

Refrain

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed your

hand has pro-vid-ed, Great is your faith-ful-ness, God, un-to me!

WELCOME BIENVENIDA Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRACIÓN DE LA SAGRADA COMUNIÓN

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 INVITACIÓN

COMMUNION PRAYER ORACIÓN DE COMUNIÓN

Christian and Kim Arvin (Son and Daughter-in-Law of Donene Blair), Ahmed Black (Nephew of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Wendy Carpenter (Friend of Jocelyn Coit-Durland), Afghan Family (Siblings of Plymouth), Larry Fung (Husband of June Hayakawa-Fung), Elvis Gordon (Brother of Michael and Elizabeth Gordon), Floyd Gossett, Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Kay Heekin (Mother-in-Law of Kate Forrester), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Julie (Friend of Karen Clark), Concetta Lewis (Sister of Jo-Ann Guthrie), Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Dr. Maxine Mimms, Mari Mitchell & Alex Putnum

Our hearts are with all of those impacted by the recent school shooting at Apalachee High School in Winder, Georgia..



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 ORACIÓN DE JESÚS

Our God who is disabled, holy are your differences.

May your work of inclusion be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Grant us access in all the ways we need,

and forgive us for excluding others, as we forgive those who exclude us.

Keep us away from the temptation of believing we're not enough,

and deliver us from the evils of abelism.

God, in you we find community, welcome and belonging;

now and forever. Amen

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PALABRAS DE INSTITUCIÓN

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMPARTIR EL PAN Y LA COPA

COMMUNION HYMN *HIMNO DE COMUNIÓN*

Let Us Break Bread Together

Air from Cantata, by John Carter

Amy Van Mechelen, soprano; Dr. Ricardo de la Torre, piano

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *ORACIÓN DE ACCIÓN DE GRACIAS*

God, we give you thanks for this meal that nourishes us, body and soul. May it sustain us as we confront evil that keeps us from living the lives you intended for us and for all your creatures and creations. Until every life can be lived abundantly, be our guide, be our hope, be our comforter. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING & SHARING PEACERev. Donene Blair

LLAMADO A LA OFERTA Y COMPARTIENDO LA PAZ

James 2:8 states, “If you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well.” Let us do well in sharing and giving of our resources, gifts, and time within and beyond this faith community for the glory and love of God.

DOXOLOGY *DOXOLOGÍA*

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 DEDICATIONRev. Blair

ORACIÓN DE DEDICACIÓN

Holy God, receive our offerings for the nurture and expansion of your kindom. May they be magnified and the spirit of generosity among your people amplified so that all may do well. Amen.

MUSIC OF RESPONSE *MÚSICA DE RESPUESTA*

*Si mes vers avaient des ailes*Reynaldo Hahn

Amy Van Mechelen, soprano; Dr. Ricardo de la Torre, piano

CONTEMPORARY VOICE *VOZ CONTEMPORÁNEA*

For Calling the Spirit Back from Wandering the Earth in Its Human Feet

by Joy Harjo

Put down that bag of potato chips, that white bread, that
bottle of pop.

Turn off that cellphone, computer, and remote control.

Open the door, then close it behind you.

Take a breath offered by friendly winds. They travel
the earth gathering essences of plants to clean.

Give back with gratitude.

If you sing it will give your spirit lift to fly to the stars' ears and
back.

Acknowledge this earth who has cared for you since you were
a dream planting itself precisely within your parents' desire.

Let your moccasin feet take you to the encampment of the
guardians who have known you before time,
who will be there after time.

They sit before the fire that has been there without time.

Let the earth stabilize your postcolonial insecure jitters.

Be respectful of the small insects, birds and animal people
who accompany you.

Ask their forgiveness for the harm we humans have brought
down upon them.

Don't worry.

The heart knows the way though there may be high-rises,
interstates, checkpoints, armed soldiers, massacres, wars, and
those who will despise you because they despise themselves.

The journey might take you a few hours, a day, a year, a few
years, a hundred, a thousand or even more.

Watch your mind. Without training it might run away and
leave your heart for the immense human feast set by the
thieves of time.

Do not hold regrets.

When you find your way to the circle, to the fire kept burning
by the keepers of your soul, you will be welcomed.

You must clean yourself with cedar, sage, or other healing plant.



Joy Harjo is an American poet, musician, playwright, and author. She served as the 23rd United States Poet Laureate, the first Native American to hold that honor.

Cut the ties you have to failure and shame.

Let go the pain you are holding in your mind, your shoulders, your heart, all the way to your feet. Let go the pain of your ancestors to make way for those who are heading in our direction.

Ask for forgiveness.

Call upon the help of those who love you. These helpers take many forms: animal, element, bird, angel, saint, stone, or ancestor.

Call yourself back. You will find yourself caught in corners and creases of shame, judgment, and human abuse.

You must call in a way that your spirit will want to return.

Speak to it as you would to a beloved child.

Welcome your spirit back from its wandering. It will return in pieces, in tatters. Gather them together. They will be happy to be found after being lost for so long.

Your spirit will need to sleep awhile after it is bathed and given clean clothes.

Now you can have a party. Invite everyone you know who loves and supports you. Keep room for those who have no place else to go.

Make a giveaway, and remember, keep the speeches short.

Then, you must do this: help the next person find their way through the dark.

© Joy Harjo. *Conflict Resolution From Holy Beings*. W. W. Norton & Company, 2015.

SCRIPTURE READING *LECTURA DE LAS ESCRITURAS* . . . John 4:27-29, 39-42
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Rev. Kevin Bechtold

Now at that moment [after Jesus said to the Samaritan woman, “I am, the one who is speaking to you,”] his disciples came and marveled that with a woman Jesus was speaking; but no one said, “What do you want?” or “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city and she said to the people, “Come right now and see a person who told me all, everything I ever did. Is this not the Messiah?”

Thus many Samaritans from that city believed in Jesus because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all I had ever done.” Therefore, when the Samaritan women and men came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. So they said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we ourselves have heard and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

ANTHEM *EL HIMNO*

Lost in the Stars Kurt Weill
Amy Van Mechelen, soprano; Dr. Ricardo de la Torre, piano

SERMON *SERMÓN*

Love Notes from the End of Your Rope. Dr. Brown

HYMN OF COMMITMENT *HIMNO DE COMPROMISO*

Immortal Love, Forever Full SERENITY C.M.

1. Immortal Love, forever full,
forever flowing free,
Forever shared, forever whole,
a never-ebbing sea!
2. Our outward lips confess the Name
all other names above;
love only knows from where it came
and comprehends God's love.
3. We may not climb the heavenly steeps
to bring the Sovereign down;
In vain we search the lowest deeps
for One no depths can drown.
4. But warm, sweet, tender, even yet
this One our help will be;
For faith has still its Olivet,
and love its Galilee.
5. The healing of Christ's seamless dress
still soothes our beds of pain;
We touch it in life's throng and press,
and we are whole again.
6. Through Christ our earliest prayers are said
with words we scarce can frame;
The last low whispers of our dead
still echo with Christ's name.

BENEDICTION *BENDICIÓN* Dr. Brown

POSTLUDE *POSTLUDIO*

Canzona in G minor (Part 2) Domenico Zipoli
Dr. Ricardo de la Torre, organ

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join New Thursday Evening Bible Study All are welcome to a new online Bible Study Thursdays at 7 pm via Zoom using link in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org (link requires the usual Plymouth passcode; if you need the code, please email Rev. Kevin Bechtold). We hope to see you this fall!

School Supplies Needed The Community and Care Board will collect donations of school supplies every Sunday now through the end of September. Please bring what you can: notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, backpacks, rulers, glue sticks, etc. All donations are appreciated.

Sharing Our Sacred Stories Join women of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC at Pilgrim Firs, October 4-6. This gathering welcomes all women — cis, trans and non-binary people comfortable in a space centering the experience of women. More info and link to register at Pilgrim-Firs.org/Calendar.

Pathway to Thriving Join Plymouth Housing's signature luncheon brings our region's forward-thinking community together to take steps toward ending homelessness. Noon-1:30 pm Wednesday, September 25, at the Seattle Westin. Register 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.

Help Lead Worship The Plymouth Worship Team welcomes lay leaders to help with worship, both in person and online. If you feel called to serve, please contact Rev. Kevin Bechtold: KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Members and Visitors can access Plymouth Guest wi-fi network using password: peaceonearth.

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.