

# Becoming!

RECOVERING

10:30 AM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 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)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10:30 AM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023  
FIFTEENTH 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.

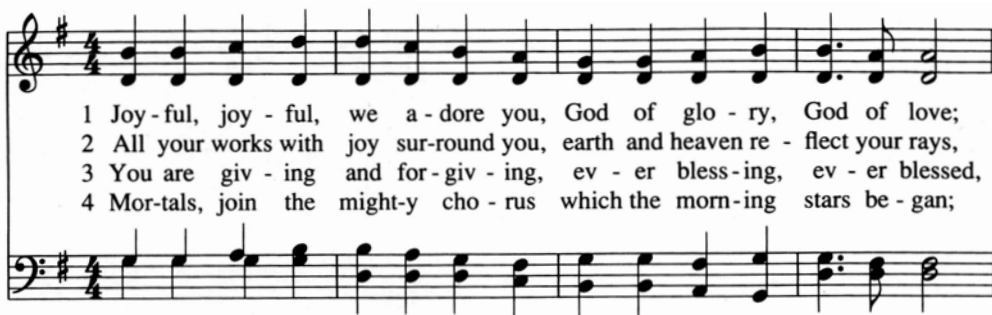
**PRELUDE** . . . . . *Morning Joy*  
arr. by Christine Anderson & John Carter  
Bertha Hanson, bells, Joe Williams, piano

**CALL TO WORSHIP** . . . . . Rev. Donene Blair  
*Adapted from a Call to Worship written by Beth Merrill Neel  
on her blog, ‘Hold Fast to What Is Good.’ Used with permission.*

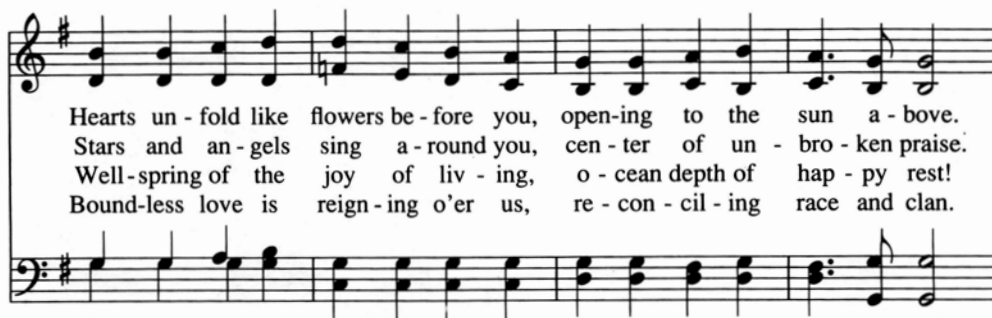
One: Children of God: welcome home!  
**Many: Welcome to this place of love and grace,**  
One: Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.  
**Many: God invites all of us to be a part of the  
beloved community,**  
One: God invites all of us to share in the good news:  
**Many: We are welcome, just as we are. We are  
loved, just as we are.**  
One: In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.  
**Many: Welcome home!**

HYMN . . . . . Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee . . . . . HYMN TO JOY

Henry van Dyke, Ludwig van Beethoven



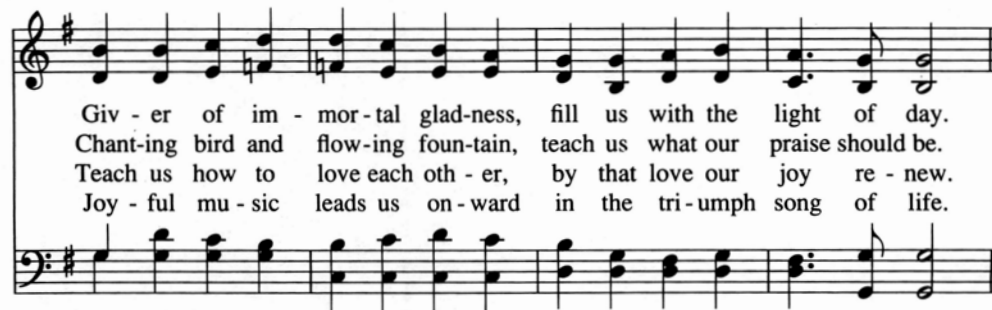
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;  
 2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,  
 3 You are giv - ing and for-giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blessed,  
 4 Mor-tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be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

**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.*

**GREETING . . . . . Padrica Hoffman**  
Executive Director, Plymouth Healing Communities

**CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Rev. Kevin Bechtold, Deacon David Guthrie, and Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

*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**

**COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Michelle J. Bennett (Sister of Dawn Bennett), Merryn Bentley (Granddaughter of Al & Judy Bentley), Walter Bethel (Friend of Karen Clark), Susan Carter (Mother of Heather Banks & Kathleen Bernard), Bruce Chittick & family (Friend of Karen Clark), 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), 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), Kyna Shilling, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon), Pluma Wright (Friend of Glenda Carper), Judy Young (Friend of Glenda Carper)*

*We grieve with Mark Sandstrom and family on the passing of his mother and longtime Plymouth member, Ann Sandstrom, on August 5.*

*Congratulations to Anna Colwell and Kevin Bogel on their marriage September 2,.*

*We grieve with Linda Harris and family on the passing of her husband Greg on August 9. There will be a celebration of his life on Saturday, October 21, 1-3 pm at the Hyatt Regency Seattle.*



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**

**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**

### **SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

### **COMMUNION HYMN**

*Air from Cantata (Let Us Break Bread Together) . . . . . John D. Carter*  
*Amy Van Mechelen, soprano; Joe Williams, piano*

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**God of Persistence, though you have been betrayed many  
times, you still do not give up on love. Evil is relentless but  
so, too, is your belief in us. In our ability to be transformed.  
To turn from dominance. To mend and repair where harm  
has been done. May we, too, believe in our potential for co-  
creating with you a future of flourishing for all life. We give  
thanks for this meal, a reminder of your unending grace  
and abiding companionship. Amen.**

### **SHARING OF PEACE . . . . . “Peace be with you”**

*Those online are invited to put greetings in the chat on the website or on YouTube.*

### **CALL TO OFFERING . . . . . Rev. Blair**

Hospitality — a warm welcome — is generosity. When we welcome  
each child of God into the life of this church, we extend God's own  
generous hospitality. Our gifts help this graceful ministry to flourish  
and to grow and to give glory to God. Let us gather our gifts  
together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

## OFFERING MUSIC

*The Lord's Prayer* . . . . . Albert Hay Malotte  
Ibidunni Ojikuitu, soprano; Joe Williams, piano

## 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 . . . . . June Hayakawa-Fung

**For the wondrous gift of life, we are thankful, O God. Your generous outpouring of grace reminds us of the fruitful life we are called to bear. May these gifts of time and energy, therefore, embody our desire to share and contribute to a world where all are loved, honored and fully known. Amen.**

## CONTEMPORARY VOICE



Home is the one place in all this world where hearts are sure of each other. It is the place of confidence. It is the place where we tear off that mask of guarded and suspicious coldness which the world forces us to wear in self-defense, and where we pour out the unreserved communications of full and confiding hearts. It is the spot where expressions of tenderness gush out without any sensation of awkwardness and without any dread of ridicule.  
—*Frederick William Robertson (1816-1853, Anglican clergyman whose sermons became widely popular among the working class.)*

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW . . . . .Matthew 18:1–7  
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Rev. Bechtold

In that hour [that Jesus taught about taxes] the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who then is the greatest in the realm of the heavens?” Jesus called a [girl] child, whom he placed among them, and said, “Truly I tell you, lest you all be changed and become like children, you all will never enter the realm of the heavens. Whoever humbles themselves like this [girl] child is the greatest in the realm of the heavens. Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me.

“But if anyone puts an enticement to sin before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of enticement to sin! Enticements to sin are bound to come, but woe to the one by whom the enticement comes!”



<b>ANTHEM.</b> . . . . .	<i>Charity</i>
	by Richard Hageman, arr. by Dorothy Rudd Moore
	Poetry by Emily Dickinson
	Ibidunni Ojikutu, soprano; Amy Van Mechelen, soprano
	Joe Williams, piano
<b>MESSAGE</b> . . . . .	<i>Where the Heart Is</i> . . . . .Dr. Brown
<b>RITUAL.</b> . . . . .	Covenant Cards
<b>HYMN OF COMMITMENT</b>	
	<i>'Home,' from 'The Wiz'</i> . . . . . Charles Smalls
	Ibidunni Ojikutu, soprano; Joe Williams, piano
<b>CHARGE AND BENEDICTION</b> . . . . .	Dr. Brown

## BE THE CHURCH

As we begin a new church year, 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. Here are some available volunteer opportunities. Contact Toni Arthur, [TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org), to get started:

- Participating in money counting after worship
- Preparing communion (first Sundays)
- Becoming a greeter on Sundays and for special events
- Answering phones 2 days a week from 10 am-2 pm
- Cleaning/decluttering (short-term commitment)
- Food preparation and service on needed occasions
- Join the Companion Ministry

This is a partial list. If you have a talent you would like to share, please contact Toni and discuss how best to contribute your gifts to our community. We are grateful for all you bring to the life and ministries of Plymouth UCC.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

***School Supplies Needed*** The Community and Care Board will collect donations of school supplies every Sunday in September. Please bring what you can: notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, backpacks, rulers, glue sticks, etc. All donations are appreciated and will be put to good use.

***Night of Hope*** Join Plymouth Healing Communities for our annual fundraising event, Night of Hope, Thursday, September 21 at Washington Hall (153 14th Ave, Seattle 98122). Special guests include Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown and City of Seattle Deputy Mayor Greg Wong. Read more at [Plyhc.org](http://Plyhc.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).

***Real Rent Duwamish*** invites you to visit their booth at this year's Farm Fest, an annual celebration of urban agriculture and the South Seattle community, 10 am–3 pm Saturday September 16. Read more in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

***Plymouth Knitting Group*** invites all knitters, experienced or beginners, to our monthly gatherings. We supply yarn, needles and instructors. While enjoying conversation we craft prayer shawls for those needing comfort, and other items for charities. Interested? Call or email Betty Behmke ([bpbehmke@gmail.com](mailto:bpbehmke@gmail.com); 206-236-0172) or Andrea Snyder ([asnyder9625@gmail.com](mailto:asnyder9625@gmail.com); 206-769-5973).

***Study with Friends*** All are welcome to online Bible study via Zoom every Wednesday, from 9-10:30 am, led by Rev. Kevin Bechtold. We focus on scripture texts for the coming Sunday's worship. Biblical knowledge is not necessary for joining! Contact Kevin at [KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

***Undoing Institutionalized Racism Workshops*** are designed to educate, challenge and empower people to “undo” the racist structures that hinder effective social change. Next opportunity is September 14–16. Plymouth scholarships available. Find full schedule and link to register at [PinwSeattle.org](http://PinwSeattle.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.



We are a people of

**EXTRAVAGANT**

**WELCOME**

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.