



**10:30 AM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 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](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)

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

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

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

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10:30 AM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021  
SIXTEENTH 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**

*Let Us Break Bread Together* . . . . . Setting by Dale Wood  
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

**WELCOME.** . . . . . Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

This Sunday we share together Holy Communion in our online interactive worship.

Before the time of the service you will want to prepare some bread, a slice or a small loaf of any kind of bread and juice of some sort. Let it be something you alone or you with others in your house may break and share. 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 electronically with our faith community. You are invited to light a candle or place a flower or plant or something meaningful into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup. Thank you for your preparation.

## INVOCATION

Rev. Donene Blair, Min. Jennifer Castle. Rev. Kevin Bechtold

God of history and of my heart,  
so much has happened to me during these whirlwind days:

I've known death and birth;

I've been brave and scared;

I've hurt, I've helped;

I've been honest, I've lied;

I've destroyed, I've created;

I've been with people, I've been lonely;

I've been loyal, I've betrayed;

I've decided, I've waffled;

I've laughed and I've cried.

You know my frail heart and my frayed history—  
and now another day begins.

O God, help me to believe in beginnings  
and in my beginning again,  
no matter how often I've failed before.

Help me to make beginnings:

to begin going out of my weary mind into fresh dreams,  
daring to make my own bold tracks in the land of now;

to begin forgiving, that I may experience mercy;

to begin questioning the unquestionable that I may know truth;

to begin disciplining that I may create beauty;

to begin sacrificing that I may accomplish justice;

to begin risking that I may make peace;

to begin loving that I may realize joy.

Help me to be a beginning for others,

to be a singer to the songless,

a storyteller to the aimless,

a befriender of the friendless;

to become a beginning of hope for the despairing,

of assurance for the doubting,

a reconciliation for the divided;

to become a beginning of beauty for the forlorn,

of sweetness for the soured,  
of gentleness for the angry,  
of wholeness for the broken,  
of peace for the frightened and violent of the earth.  
Help me to believe in beginnings,  
to make a beginning,  
to be a beginning,  
so that I may not just grow old,  
but grow new  
each day of this wild, amazing life  
you call me to live  
with the passion of Jesus Christ.

—*Help Me to Believe in Beginnings*, from  
*Guerrillas of Grace: Prayers for the Battle*, by Ted Loder

**HYMN** . . . . . *This is a Day of New Beginnings* . . . . . **BEGINNINGS**

Sue and Tom Maul, Sari Breznau

This is a day of new beginnings,  
Time to remember and move on,  
Time to believe what love is bringing,  
Laying to rest the pain that's gone.  
For by the life and death of Jesus,  
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
Can make for us a world of difference,  
As faith and hope are born again.  
Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,  
Step from the past and leave behind  
Our disappointment, guilt and grieving,  
Seeking new paths, and sure to find.  
Christ is alive, and goes before us,  
To show and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings;  
Our God is making all things new.

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Dr. Brown, Min. Castle, Rev. Blair, Rev. Bechtold

*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

*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, Tommy Rivers Puzey (Friend of Karen Clark), Carol Reynolds Kenning, Jose Robles and Family, Lydia Stuckey (Friend of Dr. Maxine Mimms), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Patricia Valentine, Cynthia Watson (Friend of Karen Clark), Ruth, Eppie, and Keddy Williamson*

*Our hearts are with Stan Orr and the Orr family on the passing of Pris.*

(Names will remain on the prayer list for six weeks, unless otherwise requested.)

A variety of faithful addresses for God (Creator, Mother, Holy One, Father) are welcome at Plymouth UCC, including in the Lord's Prayer.

### LORD'S PRAYER

**Holy One, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom 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;  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

### COMMUNION HYMN

*Eat This Bread . . . . . Communauté de Taizé*  
Sari Breznau

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May this communion give us courage to speak faith and act love, not only in church sanctuaries, but in your precious world, and renew our hope even in the midst of pandemic. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need hope, healing, and the courage to begin again. Amen**

## MOMENT OF LOVE IN ACTION

**CONTEMPORARY VOICE . . . . . read by Min. Castle**

*The birthday of the world, by Marge Piercy*

On the birthday of the world  
I begin to contemplate  
what I have done and left  
undone, but this year  
not so much rebuilding  
of my perennially damaged  
psyche, shoring up eroding  
friendships, digging out  
stumps of old resentments  
that refuse to rot on their own.  
No, this year I want to call  
myself to task for what  
I have done and not done  
for peace. How much have  
I dared in opposition?  
How much have I put  
on the line for freedom?  
For mine and others?  
As these freedoms are pared,  
sliced and diced, where

have I spoken out? Who  
have I tried to move? In  
this holy season, I stand  
self-convicted of sloth  
in a time when lies choke  
the mind and rhetoric  
bends reason to slithering  
choking pythons. Here  
I stand before the gates  
opening, the fire dazzling  
my eyes, and as I approach  
what judges me, I judge  
myself. Give me weapons  
of minute destruction. Let  
my words turn into sparks.



*Marge Piercy is an  
American progressive  
activist and writer.*

**READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE . . . . .**Jeremiah 29:4-7; 10-14  
(NRSV translation) read by Rev. Bechtold

*Sometimes the good news that we need to hear is not what we want to hear. Jeremiah faces the consequences of war with an unshakable faith attuned to God and compassionate concern about humanity. The prophet knows that change will come but will be a long time coming, and reminds us if we seek God, we will find God.*

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take spouses and have children; take spouses for your children, and give your children in marriage, that they may bear offspring; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Eternal One, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

**SPECIAL MUSIC . . . . .***Sonata 1 in Gm, Presto . . . . .*J. S. Bach  
Asya Sorshneva, violin

**MESSAGE . . . . .***Begin Again . . . . .* Dr. Brown

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION . . . . .**Dr. Brown

**POSTLUDE**

*God of Grace and God of Glory . . . . .* Setting by Paul Manz  
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ





# CELEBRATE THE ORDINATION OF JENNIFER CASTLE



The Pacific Northwest Conference UCC  
and Plymouth Church UCC  
*joyfully invite you to attend the Ordination of*

**Jennifer Castle**

3 pm (PDT) September 26 via Zoom  
Visit [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) for link to RSVP  
(required to receive information on joining the service)  
or email Jennifer:  
[JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

## 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](https://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** Simply 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](https://PlymouthUCCSeattle.cash.app). Questions? [DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

***September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month***, a time to raise awareness on this stigmatized, and often taboo, topic. In addition to shifting public perception, we use this month to spread hope and vital information to people affected by suicide. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline helps spread the word about actions we can all take to prevent suicide. Learn more at [NAMI.org](http://NAMI.org). **If you or someone you know is in an emergency, call The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK.**

***Pray for Peace*** Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on September 21. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. Plymouth Peace Action Group invites you to join the world in prayer at noon on September 21. Read more at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

***Honor Hispanic Heritage*** Every year from September 15 to October 15, Americans celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month. The 2021 Hispanic Heritage Month theme, “Esperanza: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope” invites us to celebrate Hispanic heritage and to reflect on how great our tomorrow can be if we hold onto our resilience and hope. It also encourages us to reflect on all the contributions Hispanics have made in the past and will continue to make in the future. Keep reading the *Herald* and checking [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) for events and information.

***World Communion Sunday*** special offering is one of four special offerings throughout the church year to support national and local ministries within the United Church of Christ. Our gifts in the month of October will be divided evenly between **Neighbors in Need** and **UCC Earthquake Relief in Haiti**.

***Standing in the Gap*** You are invited to Standing in the Gap, Recovery Cafe's online educational and fundraising event 7:30–9 am Wednesday, September 15. Join us 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](http://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. Please reach out to Caroline Becker ([Becker144@comcast.net](mailto:Becker144@comcast.net); 206.679.9782) or Mike Pierson ([MikePierson2@gmail.com](mailto:MikePierson2@gmail.com); 206.604.8673).

***Help People of Afghanistan and Haiti*** Volunteers are needed to help our **Afghan allies** as they arrive in the United States. 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. They need our prayers, love and solidarity. Visit the News Page at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) and click on “Help People of Afghanistan and Haiti” for direct links to donate and get involved.



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.