

Becoming!

RECOVERING

10:30 AM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 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 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

KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

DBlair@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

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 17, 2023
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*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.*

PRELUDE *Cradle-Song*
Johannes Brahms, arr. Leopold Godowsky
Joe Williams, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Donene Blair

One: The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a
new song:

Many: Let our joy be complete!

One: Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to
teach us a new song

Many: Love one another!

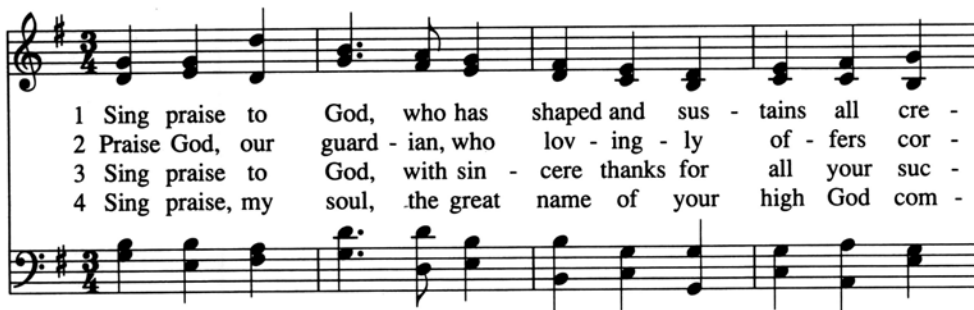
One: Strangers and neighbors, foreigners and family
will join in the new song:

Many: No longer servants but friends!

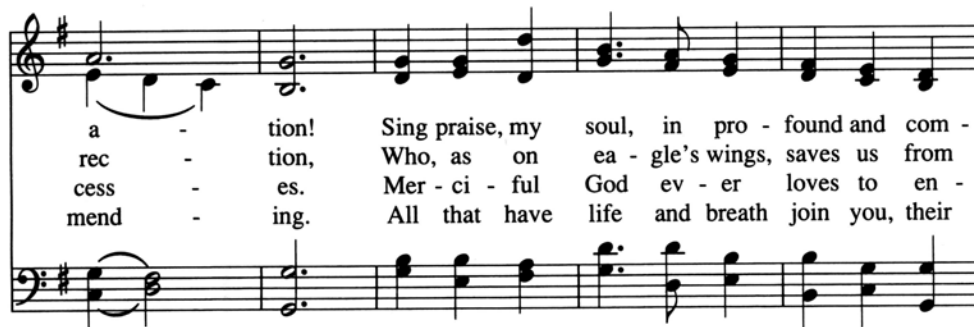
One: Come, let our worship make a joyful noise,

All: Rejoicing in the friendship of God.

HYMN *Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped . . .* LOBE DEN HERREN



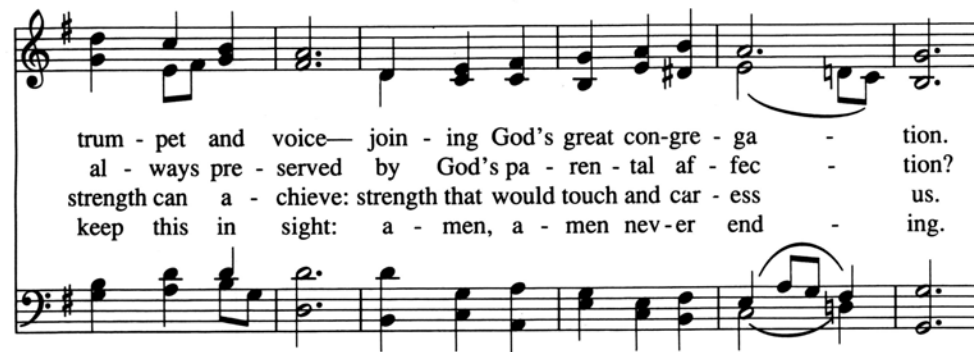
1 Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sus - tains all cre -
 2 Praise God, our guard - ian, who lov - ing - ly of - fers cor -
 3 Sing praise to God, with sin - cere thanks for all your suc -
 4 Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God com -



a - tion! Sing praise, my soul, in pro - found and com -
 rec - tion, Who, as on ea - gle's wings, saves us from
 cess - es. Mer - ci - ful God ev - er loves to en -
 mend - ing. All that have life and breath join you, their



plete ad - o - ra - tion! Glad - some re - joice— or - gan and
 sin - ful de - jec - tion. Have you ob - served, how we are
 cour - age and bless us. On - ly con - ceive, what god - ly
 notes sweet - ly blend - ing. God is your light! Soul, ev - er





trum - pet and voice— join - ing God's great con - gre - ga - tion.
 al - ways pre - served by God's pa - ren - tal af - fec - tion?
 strength can a - chieve: strength that would touch and car - ess us.
 keep this in sight: a - men, a - men nev - er end - ing.

WELCOME. Rev. Blair

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE. Rev. Kevin Bechtold

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), Bob Woodruff, Pluma Wright (Friend of Glenda Carper), Judy Young (Friend of Glenda Carper)

 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

**Our parent, who is among us, blessed be your Creation.
May your loving presence be a reality here on earth.
May we become more interested in building your kingdom
here and now than in waiting for it to come down from above.
Let us share our bread with those who hunger.
Let us learn to forgive as well as to receive forgiveness.
Help us through the time of temptation, delivering us from all evil.
For ours are the eternal blessings that you pour upon the earth. 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 June Hayakawa-Fung

We sing our praises to the Lord, for God is good! We give our whole selves — our talents and material possessions — to the Church with the expectation that they be used to further God’s work in the world. Please commit yourself in covenant this day, and give as you’re able.

OFFERING MUSIC

Rocking Chair Florence Price
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 Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

God, may our resources, and all that we have received as a gift from you, be used through our church community and beyond to further your never-ending project of renewal in our world. Amen.

CONTEMPORARY VOICE

The Children of the Poor, by Gwendolyn Brooks

1.

People who have no children can be hard:
Attain a mail of ice and insolence:
Need not pause in the fire, and in no sense
Hesitate in the hurricane to guard.
And when wide world is bitten and bewarred
They perish purely, waving their spirits hence
Without a trace of grace or of offense
To laugh or fail, diffident, wonder-starred.
While through a throttling dark we others hear
The little lifting helplessness, the queer
Whimper-whine; whose unridiculous
Lost softness softly makes a trap for us.
And makes a curse. And makes a sugar of
The malocclusions, the inconditions of love.



Gwendolyn Brooks is one of the most influential and widely read 20th-century American poets. She was the first African American poet to receive a Pulitzer Prize, in 1950.

2.

What shall I give my children? who are poor,
Who are adjudged the leastwise of the land,
Who are my sweetest lepers, who demand
No velvet and no velvety velour;
But who have begged me for a brisk contour,
Crying that they are quasi, contraband
Because unfinished, graven by a hand
Less than angelic, admirable or sure.
My hand is stuffed with mode, design, device.
But I lack access to my proper stone.
And plenitude of plan shall not suffice
Nor grief nor love shall be enough alone
To ratify my little halves who bear
Across an autumn freezing everywhere.

3.

And shall I prime my children, pray, to pray?
Mites, come invade most frugal vestibules
Spectered with crusts of penitents' renewals
And all hysterics arrogant for a day.
Instruct yourselves here is no devil to pay.
Children, confine your lights in jellied rules;
Resemble graves; be metaphysical mules.
Learn Lord will not distort nor leave the fray.
Behind the scurryings of your neat motif
I shall wait, if you wish: revise the psalm
If that should frighten you: sew up belief
If that should tear: turn, singularly calm
At forehead and at fingers rather wise,
Holding the bandage ready for your eyes.

(Service continues next page)

September is Suicide Prevention Month — a time to raise awareness and discuss this highly stigmatized topic. We use this month to spread hope and vital information to people affected by suicide. Everyone can benefit from honest conversations about mental health. Learn more and access resources at National Alliance on Mental Illness, NAMI.org.

If you or someone you know is in crisis — whether they are considering suicide or not — call or text the toll-free Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988 to speak with a trained crisis counselor 24/7.

READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE Psalm 13
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Rev. Bechtold

How long, HOLY ONE? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long will I counsel myself,
sorrow in my heart, every day?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
Look! Answer me, FAITHFUL ONE my God!
Enlighten to my eyes lest I sleep [into] death.
Then my enemy will say, “I have prevailed over him”;
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.
Yet I trusted in your lovingkindness;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the WOMB OF LIFE,
because she has poured goodness on me.

ANTHEM. Passion Richard Thompson
Ellaina Lewis, soprano; Joe Williams, piano

When I am left alone
When my soul feels weak
So I am breathless with no sound
Quiet and left to die
But still there is life
I find the inner song of my soul.
Now my passion grows to reach new heights of joy!
To feel love again
Love will not die!

MESSAGE The Womb of Life . . . Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

HYMN I Believe Dave Ragland
Ellaina Lewis, soprano; Joe Williams, piano

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining
I believe in love even when I feel it not
I believe in God even when she is silent.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Dr. Brown

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Newest Members and Visitors are invited to gather after worship today for a lunch and brief introduction to the clergy, staff and ministries of Plymouth Church. Time permitting, we'll offer a tour of the building too!

Join Prison Visitations Consider joining biweekly visits to the Monroe Prison. We visit every other Friday, getting together in Monroe first, then meeting with inmates in the prison from 1-3 pm. This is a serious, meaningful justice commitment. Contact Christine Hanson, HansonChristineAnn@gmail.com, or 509-679-7430.

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.

Sound Medicine Meditation Tory Trujillo offers a deeply healing Sound Medicine Meditation, also called a sound bath. Join us in Hildebrand Hall 12:30 pm Sunday, September 24. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat if you have one. Suggested Donation \$20.

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.

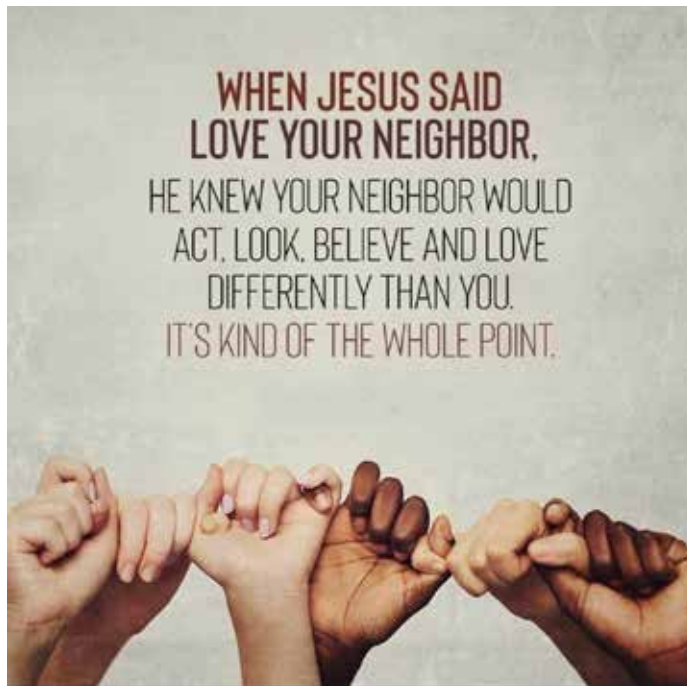
Plymouth Knitting Group invites all knitters, experienced or beginners, to our monthly gatherings. We supply yarn, needles and instructors. While enjoying conversation we craft prayer shawls for those needing comfort, and other items for charities. Interested? Call or email Betty Behmke (bpbehmke@gmail.com;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

Undoing Institutionalized Racism Workshops are designed to educate, challenge and empower people to “undo” the racist structures that hinder effective social change. Next workshop is October 4-6. Plymouth scholarships available. Schedule and link to register at 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 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. The guide includes areas of responsibility and contact information.



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.