

# *Creatively*

# *Maladjusted*

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

*— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

**10:30 AM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 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.

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10:30 AM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025  
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 *PRELUDIO***

*I Love You, Lord* . . . . . Arr. Fred Bock  
Dr. Stephen Price, Organ

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

Happy birthday to you;  
Anniversary, too!  
We are so excited to share them with you.  
May God bless and keep you in all that you do.  
Happy birthday! (And anniversary!)  
Happy birthday! (And anniversary!)  
Happy birthday to you!

**SHARING PEACE *COMPARTIENDO LA PAZ***

**INDIA ARIE AT PLYMOUTH OCTOBER 5**



India Arie invites you to the launch of a new movement: A Sacred Space. Starting at Plymouth Church Seattle, she will begin a Sound Healing and Meditation concert series. She will be joined in song with her friend Joel Cross at 5 pm Sunday, October 5, in Hildebrand Hall. Doors will open at 4 pm. Let us fill the house! There are limited seats with general admission of \$75. Purchase tickets through the Plymouth website, [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Make your way to this sacred space.

## OPENING HYMN *HIMNO DE APERTURA*

*When in Our Music God is Glorified* (NCH #561). . . . . ENGELBERG

1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, and ad - o -  
2 How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found a new di -  
3 So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song, in faith and  
4 Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise! Let all re -

ra - tion leaves no room for pride, It is as though the whole cre -  
men - sion in the world of sound, As wor - ship moved us to a  
love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong, Borne wit - ness to the truth in  
joice who have a voice to raise! And may God give us faith to

a - tion cried: Al - le - lu - ia!  
more pro - found Al - le - lu - ia!  
ev - ery tongue: Al - le - lu - ia!  
sing al - ways: Al - le - lu - ia!

CALL TO WORSHIP

LLAMADO A ADORAR

*(Inspired by Psalm 146)*

One: Praise God! Praise the Holy One, O my soul!

**Many: We will sing praises to God our whole lives long!**

One: Praise God in whom we may trust. Praise God in whom we may hope.

**Many: Happy are we whose hope is in the Maker of heaven and earth.**

One: The Holy One lifts the bowed down. The Righteous One loves justice.

**All: The Holy One brings the way of the wicked to ruin. Praise God who reigns forever!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION. . . . . Rev. Erica Williams

ORACIÓN DE CONFESIÓN

One: Compassionate God, we need to repent.

**Many: We confess that too often we only care about our own suffering and discomfort and ignore the pain and troubles of our neighbor.**

One: We turn away or even contribute to the plight of others.

**Many: We feast on systems that create deprivation and inequity. We enjoy the spoils of war that leave human siblings to subsistence in rubble and ruins.**

One: We accept distortions of the gospel that claim that your creation is insufficient to meet the needs of your beloved when your kingdom enables all to flourish.

**All: Meet us as we turn back to your way and your reign. Liberate us so that we may be instruments of restoration, repair, and renewal in your name.**

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE** . . . . . Rev. Williams

**SEGURIDAD DE GRACIA**



God's mercy endures and renews. The world envisioned by the Holy One is available when we believe it, commit to it, and pursue it with all our being. Receive God's grace to do a new thing, in word and in deed, so that the world may know the love of God, the hope of God, and the promise of God through what we say, how we live, what we do, and the fruit we produce. **Amen..**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** . . . . . Rev. Kevin Bechtold

**ORACIONES DEL PUEBLO**

*All who live in fear of expedited removal, detention, or deportation, Monica Blume (Family of Kate Forrester), Wendy Carpenter (Friend of Jocelyn Coit-Durland), Lin Davis (Wife of Mo Longworth), JT Edwards, The Bagoyo Family (Family of Linda Rose Cook), Diane Folkert (Mother and Mother-in-Law of Alex & Ara Lawrence), Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Louis Ford (Friend of Karen Clark), Floyd Gossett, Jo-Ann Guthrie, Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Denise Johnson (Friend of Michael and Elizabeth Gordon), Julie (Friend of Karen Clark), Debbie Longworth (Sister of Mo Longworth), Robert Malae, Dale and Jinny Sewell, Shaniece (Friend of Karen Clark), Bing Tso, Rev. Harriet Walton (Friend of Dr. Maxine Mimms), Gevan Woodke (Friend of Karen Clark)*

*Our hearts are with Cory Maclay and family on the one-year anniversary of the passing of her Aunt Patricia Jean Wortman Kopcho.*

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

**PRAYER OF JESUS ORACIÓN DE JESÚS**

**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.**

## CONTEMPORARY VOICE

### VOZ CONTEMPORÁNEA

*A Brave and Startling Truth*, by Maya Angelou

We, this people, on a small and lonely planet  
Traveling through casual space  
Past aloof stars, across the way of indifferent suns  
To a destination where all signs tell us  
It is possible and imperative that we learn  
A brave and startling truth  
And when we come to it  
To the day of peacemaking  
When we release our fingers  
From fists of hostility  
And allow the pure air to cool our palms  
When we come to it  
When the curtain falls on the minstrel show of hate  
And faces sooted with scorn are scrubbed clean  
When battlefields and coliseum  
No longer rake our unique and particular sons and daughters  
Up with the bruised and bloody grass  
To lie in identical plots in foreign soil  
When the rapacious storming of the churches  
The screaming racket in the temples have ceased  
When the pennants are waving gaily  
When the banners of the world tremble  
Stoutly in the good, clean breeze  
When we come to it  
When we let the rifles fall from our shoulders  
And children dress their dolls in flags of truce  
When land mines of death have been removed  
And the aged can walk into evenings of peace  
When religious ritual is not perfumed  
By the incense of burning flesh  
And childhood dreams are not kicked awake  
By nightmares of abuse

When we come to it  
Then we will confess that not the Pyramids  
With their stones set in mysterious perfection  
Nor the Gardens of Babylon  
Hanging as eternal beauty  
In our collective memory  
Not the Grand Canyon  
Kindled into delicious color  
By Western sunsets  
Nor the Danube, flowing its blue soul into Europe  
Not the sacred peak of Mount Fuji  
Stretching to the Rising Sun  
Neither Father Amazon nor Mother Mississippi who, without favor,  
Nurture all creatures in the depths and on the shores  
These are not the only wonders of the world  
When we come to it  
We, this people, on this minuscule and kithless globe  
Who reach daily for the bomb, the blade and the dagger  
Yet who petition in the dark for tokens of peace  
We, this people on this mote of matter  
In whose mouths abide cankerous words  
Which challenge our very existence  
Yet out of those same mouths  
Come songs of such exquisite sweetness  
That the heart falters in its labor  
And the body is quieted into awe  
We, this people, on this small and drifting planet  
Whose hands can strike with such abandon  
That in a twinkling, life is sapped from the living  
Yet those same hands can touch with such healing, irresistible  
tenderness  
That the haughty neck is happy to bow  
And the proud back is glad to bend  
Out of such chaos, of such contradiction  
We learn that we are neither devils nor divines



When we come to it  
We, this people, on this wayward, floating body  
Created on this earth, of this earth  
Have the power to fashion for this earth  
A climate where every [person]  
Can live freely without sanctimonious piety  
Without crippling fear  
When we come to it  
We must confess that we are the possible  
We are the miraculous, the true wonder of this world  
That is when, and only when  
We come to it.

**SCRIPTURE READING *LECTURA DE LAS ESCRITURAS* . . . . . John 4:7-26**

(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation)

Read by Rev. Bechtold

A Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” Now his disciples had gone to the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, “How are you, a Judean, asking a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Judeans do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God and who is the one telling to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. From where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, the one who gave us the well, and with his daughters and sons and his flocks drank from it?” Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again. But the one who drinks of the water that I will give will never thirst. The water that I will give will become in them a fount of water springing up into eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may never thirst or keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come [back] to this place.” The woman answered and said to him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You said rightly, ‘I have no husband.’ For five husbands have you had, and now the one you have is not your husband. What you have said is true!” The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our mothers and fathers worshiped on this mountain, yet you say in Jerusalem is the place where people must worship.” Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Sovereign God. You all worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Judeans. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Sovereign God in spirit and truth, for these are the worshippers the Sovereign God seeks. God is spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to Jesus, “I know that the Messiah is coming” (the one who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am, the one who is speaking to you.”

**ANTHEM *EL HIMNO***

*Come Rejoice* . . . . . Tracy Y. Cannon  
The Plymouth Choir

**SERMON *SERMÓN*** . . . . . *Maladjusted Conversations* . . . . . Dr. Brown

**HYMN OF COMMITMENT *HIMNO DE COMPROMISO***

*This Little Light of Mine* . . . . . THIS LIGHT

- 1.) This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine;  
this little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 2.) This joy I have,  
the world didn't give to me.  
this joy I have,  
the world didn't give to me.  
This joy I have,  
the world didn't give to me.  
No, the world didn't give it,  
the world can't take it away.
- 3.) This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine;  
this little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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

The prophet Dr. Angelou said,  
When we come to it  
We, this people, on this wayward, floating body  
Created on this earth, of this earth  
Have the power to fashion for this earth

A climate where every [person]  
Can live freely without sanctimonious piety  
Without crippling fear  
When we come to it  
We must confess that we are the possible  
We are the miraculous, the true wonder of this world  
That is when, and only when  
We come to it.  
May it be so! Ashe. Amen.

## **POSTLUDE *POSTLUDIO***

*When in Our Music God is Glorified* . . . . . Arr. Karrin Ford

Dr. Stephen Price, organ



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***Discovering Vanport*** The panel discussion on last summer's trip to Vanport led by Museum Without Walls has been rescheduled for after worship Sunday, October 12, in the Lounge. Come hear what the group learned about the destruction of Oregon's second-largest city in 1948.

***Creatively Maladjusted*** Join our 2025 stewardship campaign: *Creatively Maladjusted*. Your financial generosity helps fuel ministries of justice, love, inclusion, music, and worship. Join us as we seek to raise \$500,000 and embody courageous, creative generosity.

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

***Help Provide Comfort*** Bring donations for Comfort Bags for our neighbors this fall: non-perishable snacks, socks, gloves, hats, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and other personal hygiene products. Please leave your donations in the bin at the Welcome Table in the Lounge.

***Make a World of Difference*** Our World Communion Sunday Special Offering on October 5 will be divided evenly between Neighbors in Need and Alain Locke Initiative. Read more in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

***No Kings!*** Join the nationwide protest in Seattle on October 18 to make clear we will not be intimidated and will stand up for democracy and the rights of all people. Keep checking our website and reading the *Herald* for updates.

***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.



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.