

Becoming!

RECOVERING

10:30 AM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 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

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

DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

10:30 AM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

*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

*Navajo Vocab for Piano no. 10 Connor Chee
Joe Williams, piano*

CALL TO WORSHIP June Hayakawa-Fung

One: Sacred wind, come blow on us

Many: Let us feel your presence
(breathe in, breathe out)

One: Holy earth, anchor us

Many: Nourish our frames
(breathe in, breathe out)

One: Illuminating fire burn ever brighter

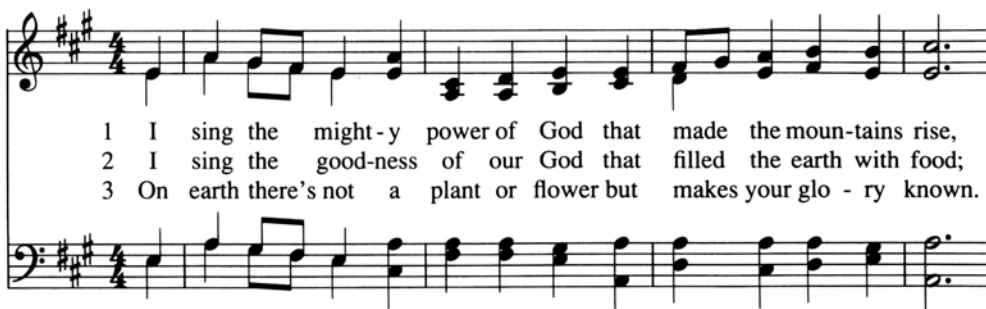
Many: Reflect your truth
(breathe in, breathe out)

One: Life-giving water

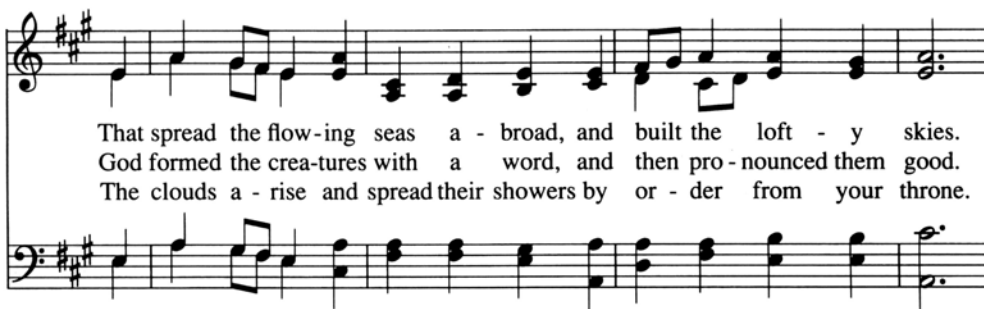
Many: Restore and baptize us
(breathe in, breathe out)

All: Blessed be!

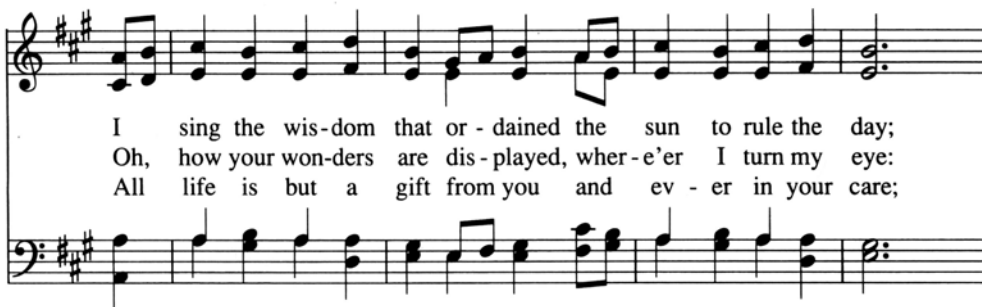
HYMN *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* ELLACOMBE



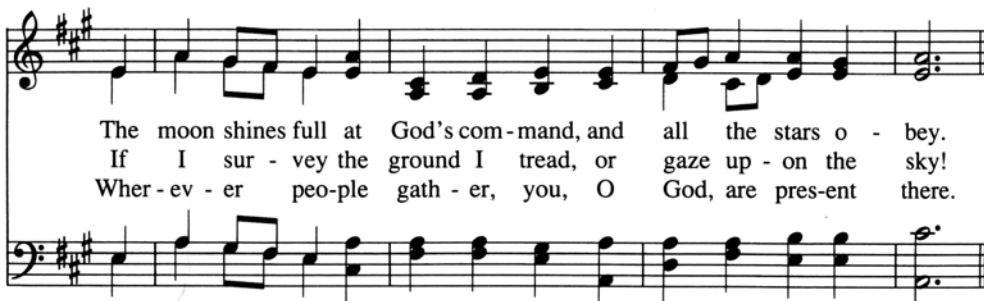
1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
2 I sing the good-ness of our God that filled the earth with food;
3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.



That spread the flow-ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.
God formed the crea-tures with a word, and then pro - nounced them good.
The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.



I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
Oh, how your won-ders are dis - played, wher-e'er I turn my eye:
All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;



The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
If I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
Wher - ev - er peo-ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres-ent there.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION. Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

Hear now our confession:

Almighty and Holy One,
we cannot begin to count all our possessions.
We have things in our closets, our attics, and our basements.
We have things tucked away in boxes we haven't opened
in years,
and still we acquire more.
We have so much stuff and yet, there are those in
our communities
who can fit all their worldly possessions in a shopping cart.
We know that you, O God, will defend the poor and come
to them in their need.
But we, O God, need your forgiveness
for we are more attached to our things than we
willingly acknowledge.
Help us confront our attachment to possessions and things
more honestly
so we can share our own abundance more equitably.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE. Rev. Kevin Bechtold

And now for God's assurance:

We draw false and fleeting comfort from our material things.
True comfort comes from God's love for us
and by responding with that same love to family, friend,
neighbor, and stranger.
By God's love we are forgiven. Let us do likewise. Amen.

WELCOME. Rev. Bechtold

Plymouth Church acknowledges that we occupy the unceded land of its first stewards, the Duwamish of the Coast Salish people. We vow our solidarity with the Duwamish in their honorable quest to become a federally recognized tribe.

Plymouth Church 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 other minoritized peoples 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 our church 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. Bechtold

Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Michelle J. Bennett (Sister of Dawn Bennett), 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), Diane Folkert (Mother-in-law of Ara Lawrence), 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), Jose Robles and Family, Rachel Sebastian (Friend of Jeanette Hagen), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon), Pluma Wright (Friend of Glenda Carper), Judy Young (Friend of Glenda Carper)

We grieve with Gary Robins and family on the passing of his mother, Charlotte Robins.

Our hearts are with Jerry Rice and family as they grieve the multiple losses of his father and two uncles.

We grieve with Heather Banks on the death of her beloved companion, Peppermint.



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.**

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

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 Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

*To set up a one time or recurring donation to Plymouth Church
click on the “Give” link on PlymouthChurchSeattle.org or
CashApp your donation to \$PlymouthUCCSeattle.
We give thanks for your generosity.*

OFFERING MUSIC

the earth is a living thing Deborah J. Anderson

Text by Lucille Clifton

Ibidunni Ojikutu, soprano; Joe Williams, piano

the earth is a living thing
is a black shambling bear
ruffling its wild back and tossing
mountains into the sea
is a black hawk circling
the burying ground circling the bones
picked clean and discarded
is a fish black blind in the belly of water
is a diamond blind in the black belly of coal
is a black and living thing
is a favorite child
of the universe
feel her rolling her hand
in its kinky hair
feel her brushing it clean

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

**Generous God, we thank you for all that we have
for all of it comes from you.**

**We gratefully return a portion of what we have
to you.**

**May our offerings sustain and support
the work of this church to close the disparity
between those who have much and those
who have little in this community. Amen.**

CONTEMPORARY VOICE Quotes from bell hooks



*bell hooks was
was an American
author, educator,
and social critic*

“When you live in a country that makes truth something that is associated with the painful, that should not be spoken, it becomes hard to get people to value speaking freely because there are things that we have to say that will be wounding.”

“Will also implies choice. We do not have to love. We choose to love...When we understand love as the will to nurture our own and another’s spiritual growth, it becomes clear that we cannot claim to love if we are hurtful and abusive. Love and abuse cannot coexist.”

“There can be no love without justice...abuse and neglect negate love. Care and affirmation, the opposite of abuse and humiliation, are the foundation of love. It is a testimony to the failure of loving practice that abuse is happening in the first place.”

“The time has come to tell the truth. Again. There is no love without justice. Men and women who cannot be just deny themselves and everyone they choose to be intimate with the freedom to know mutual love. If we remain unable to imagine a world where love can be recognized as a unifying principle that can lead us to seek and use power wisely, then we will remain wedded to a culture of domination that requires us to choose power over love.”

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEWMatthew 25:31-46
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Dr. Brown

“When the Son of Woman comes in his glory with all the angels, then will he sit on the throne of his glory. And gathered before him will be all the nations and he will separate them one from another just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will put the sheep on his right and the goats at the left. Then shall the one who rules say to those at his right, ‘Come, those blessed by my Abba; inherit the realm prepared for you all from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you all gave me food; I was thirsty and you all gave me drink;

a stranger and you all gathered me in. Naked and you all clothed me; I was sick and you all cared for me; in prison and you all visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer asking, ‘Majesty, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and gather you in, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the one who rules will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you all, as much as you all did for one of the least of these my kindred, you all did it to me.’

“Then the one who rules will say to those on the left, ‘Go from me, all you who are accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you all gave me no food; I was thirsty and you all gave me no drink; a stranger and you all did not gather me in, naked and you all did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you all did not care for me.’ Then they also will answer, asking, ‘Majesty, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then the ruler will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you all, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you all did not do it for me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

ANTHEM. *Do Not Leave Your Cares at the Door*

Adapted by Elizabeth Alexander from
A Call To Worship by Rev. Norman V. Naylor
Plymouth Singers, Sari Breznau

Do not leave your cares at the door.
Do not leave them there when you come into this place.
Be open to forgiveness and transformation —
Come on in; you are welcome here;
And do not leave your cares at the door.

Bring your pain and sorrow and joy,
There’s a place for them upon the altar of life.
Be open to forgiveness and transformation —
Come on in; you are welcome here;
So do not leave your cares at the door.

This is a place of grace,
Of losing and finding our way upon a winding road,
Meeting and parting, stumbling and starting over.
Every journey is sacred here, even yours.
Amen.

MESSAGE *The Necessity of Separation.* Dr. Brown

HYMN *Give Me Jesus*

African American Spiritual, arr. by Moses Hogan

In the mornin' when I rise (3x)

Give me Jesus (3x)

You may have all this world

Give me Jesus

Dark midnight was my cry (3x)

Give me Jesus (3x)

You may have all of this world

Give me Jesus

Oh, when I comes to die (3x)

Give me Jesus (3x)

You may have all of this world

Give me Jesus

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Dr. Brown

MAKING VISIBLE THE FIFTH STRAND

Plymouth Church Seattle UCC welcomes the Rev. Dr. Yvonne V. Delk Sunday, October 15. All are invited to come learn the often untold story about our Afro-Christian roots in the shaping of the UCC faith tradition.

- **Sunday, October 15, 10:30 am:** The Rev. Dr. Yvonne Delk preaching at Plymouth Church UCC, in-person and online.
- **After Worship at Plymouth:** Presentation by The Rev. Dr. Yvonne Delk, editor, Afro-Christian Convention: *The Fifth Stream of the United Church of Christ* (Pilgrim Press, 2023), on the Convention's Franklinton Center at Bricks in nurturing racial equity and justice. In-person, interactive, hybrid event. Introduction by Rev. Joanne Braxton, PhD, President of the Braxton Institute for Sustainability, Resiliency and Joy.
- **Monday, October 16:** *Dialogue on Resisting and Thriving*. Mother Delk leads a small group conversation about the significance of the Franklinton Center at Bricks as a fundamental UCC resource for the Conference. Facilitated by Dr. Braxton. For Conference leaders, congregants, friends of the Conference. To sign up: JBraxton@BraxtonInstitute.org.



The Rev. Dr. Yvonne V. Delk was first Black woman ordained in the United Church of Christ, and the second woman to hold a national leadership role in our denomination. Mother Delk, as she is respectfully known, contributed to many programs that focused on ecumenism, racial justice, anti-poverty, and the full inclusion of marginalized persons in religious life. Read more in the Herald or news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Ibidunni Ojikutu begins as Plymouth's Artist-in-Residence, remaining with us until June 2, 2024. In addition to bimonthly appearances in worship, she will perform a full-length recital with New York City based pianist Dr. Nnenna Ogwo following the service on October 29.

Take the Survey Please help Plymouth's Immigration Ministry Team by filling out this short online survey at bit.ly/imt2023survey. Your responses are important to help us in our mission to seek justice for the most vulnerable among us. Thank you.

We Care The Community and Care Board continues our Plymouth tradition of sending "We Care Packages" to graduated high school seniors. Please bring cards, notes, and small items (snacks, tea or coffee, gift cards, etc.) to the church by October 14.

Candidate Forum on Housing and Homelessness Come to St. James Cathedral Hall (912 Columbia St), 6:30 pm Thursday, October 19 to hear from City Council Candidates Tammy Morales, Tanya Woo, Alex Hudson and Joy Hollingsworth. Questions? Contact MarkP@StJosephParish.org.

Join Plymouth Ukulele Club What better way to cheer up the colder months than strumming a ukulele with new friends! Ukulele Club meets online on Mondays at noon, with occasional in-person gatherings. Email Sari at saribreznau@gmail.com for info. We even have instruments you can borrow!

God Says Now! Come to Plymouth 7 pm Thursday, Oct 26, to hear Father Anne discuss why ordination of women in the Roman Catholic Church matters. At 8 pm there will be an element of action, followed by Mass at 8:30 pm. All are welcome. Read more in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

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.

Disrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline Join an online event October 29 to discuss ways for communities to unite and break down the oppressive systems that lead to youth incarceration. Read more and register in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.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.



**JESUS IS THE REFUGEE.
THE MAN ON DEATH ROW.
THE CHILD AT THE BORDER.
THE SINGLE MOM WITH TWO JOBS.
THE PERSON WITH A DISABILITY.
THE FRIEND WITH AN ADDICTION.
THE WOMAN SHARING #METOO.
THE TRANSGENDER CO-WORKER.
THE KID WITH NO LUNCH MONEY.
THE LEAST OF THESE.**

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.