



Becoming!

10:30 AM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 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, OCTOBER 22, 2023
TWENTY-FIRST 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.*

Today we welcome The Rev. Sheri Edwards Dalton to share her message with us. Sheri was born and raised in Seattle, and graduated from The University of Washington with a B.S. in Nursing. After working for a few years at Swedish Hospital, she began to feel redirected by the Holy Spirit to enroll at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, graduating in 1987 with an M.Div. degree.

PRELUDE

Solemn, from Sleep Songs Joshua David Davis
Joe Williams, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Kevin Bechtold

One: A love that never ceases,

Many: **A creativity that designed the universe,**

One: A hope that cannot be quenched,

Many: **A pursuit of reconciliation no matter the cost:**

One: These are the things that are of God,

All: **Then let us worship God.**

HYMN *Holy, Holy, Holy* NICAEA



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Saints a - dore you tru - ly,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though we know but dim - ly,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing we praise your maj - es - ty.
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 Though the eyes of hum - an - kind your glo - ry may not see,
 All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim bow be - fore you on - ly,
 You a - lone are ho - ly, you a - lone are wor - thy,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 From the be - gin - ning, God e - ter - nal - ly.
 Per - fect in power, in love and pur - i - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION. Rev. Bechtold

God is many things to us: Creator, Parent, Judge, Healer,
Love, Mystery, to name a few. We bring our confession to
this God, trusting that the fullness of the divine will hear our
plea and grant us mercy that makes us whole again. With that
trust, let us pray together:

**Holy God, we confess to you our pain:
The pain we have inflicted on others,
The pain that keeps us awake at night,
The pain of strangers across the world whose lives
we cannot touch,
And the pain of people who maintain systems
unyielding and untouchable.
We invite you into our pain.
We invite you to heal us, and forgive us,
To undo what is crushing and wrong,
To bring peace and even joy. May we walk with you
in such a way that makes true peace possible, as we
offer this confession in hope.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE. Rev. Bechtold

One: Friends, let us proclaim the Good News:

Many: In Jesus Christ, we are made whole!

One: Let us go out into the world as people made new
by God.

All: Amen.

WELCOME. Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown



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.

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!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Dr. Brown

Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Michelle J. Bennett (Sister of Dawn Bennett), Walter Bethel (Friend of Karen Clark), Marilyn Bumpas, 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), Mykesha Davis (Daughter of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), 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)

 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 OFFERINGRev. Donene Blair

Jesus felt tender compassion for the suffering people he met. This very day you and I are called to a sweet labor of compassion, generosity, healing, and peace. Let us bring our gifts, then, so that the ministry of this church will be a growing, vibrant witness to God’s love. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

*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

Elegy to Palestinian Children Abdullah Khalaf
Joe Williams, piano *عبدالله خلف*

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 DEDICATIONRev. Blair

**God, thank you for your grace, for this community
of faith, for the gifts of our lives. Bless these offerings
today that they might be used to further your path of
righteousness here and now. Amen.**

CONTEMPORARY VOICE

*"This is a modern story of vigil keeping in the time of war.
Guy Naamati, a former resident of Kibbutz Ra'im in Israel,
shares a poem he wrote in response to the Hamas attack..."*

Spared, written October 2023

"That Love is all there is,
Is all we know of Love"
– *Emily Dickinson*

It wasn't us. We weren't there
When terrorists attacked at dawn
Death and bloodshed everywhere
But we still live. And they are gone
Imagining how it would feel
Taken hostage by a gun
Or shot while dancing in a field
Not to see another sun
Or sleeping gently, unaware
When they approach and break the door
The sound of gunfire in the air
And then just silence evermore
But we are safe, and we are here
We weren't there. We're spared of this
I'll softly whisper in your ear
That love is all. It's all there is.

READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE 2 Samuel 21:1–14 (Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Rev. Sheri Edwards Dalton

Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year, and David sought the presence of the MOST HIGH. The HOLY ONE said, "There is blood-guilt on Saul and on his house, because he put the Gibeonites to death." So the king summoned the Gibeonites and spoke to them. Now the Gibeonites were not of the Israelites; they were the remnant of the Amorites. The Israelites had sworn to spare them, yet Saul sought to destroy them in his zeal for the Israelites and Judah. David said to the Gibeonites, "What shall I do for you and how shall I atone that you all may bless the heritage of the HOLY ONE OF OLD?" The Gibeonites

said to him, “We will take no silver or gold of Saul or of his house and there is no one for us to put to death in Israel.” He said, “What do you say that I should do for you all?” They said to the king, “The man who finished us off and intended to destroy us that we would not be able to stand in all the territory of Israel, let seven men from his sons be handed over to us and we will hang them before the DREAD GOD at Gibea of Saul on the mountain of the LIVING GOD.” The king said, “I, myself, will give [them].”

But the king had pity on Meribbaal, son of Jonathan the son of Saul because of the oath of the MOST HIGH that was between them, between David and Jonathan son of Saul. The king took the two sons of Rizpah daughter of Aiah, whom she gave birth to for Saul, Armoni and [Mephibbaal called] Mephibosheth, and the five sons of Merab daughter of Saul, whom she gave birth to for Adriel son of Barzillai the Meholathite. David gave them into the hands of the Gibeonites and they hung them on the mountain before the CREATOR OF ALL and they fell, the seven of them, as one. Now they were put to death in the first days of harvest, at the beginning of barley harvest.

Then Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it on a rock for herself, from the beginning of harvest until rain fell on them from the heavens; she did not allow the birds of the air to come on the bodies by day or the beasts of the field by night. Now it was told David what Rizpah daughter of Aiah, the low status wife of Saul, had done. Then David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from the nobles of Jabesh-gilead who had stolen them from the square of Beth-shan where the Philistines had hung them up on the day the Philistines killed Saul at Gilboa. And he brought up from there the bones of Saul and the bones of his son Jonathan and they gathered the bones of those who had been hung. And they buried the bones of Saul and of his son Jonathan in the land of Benjamin in Zela, in the tomb of Saul’s father Kish and they did all that the king commanded. And God granted entreaty on behalf of the land after that.

ANTHEM

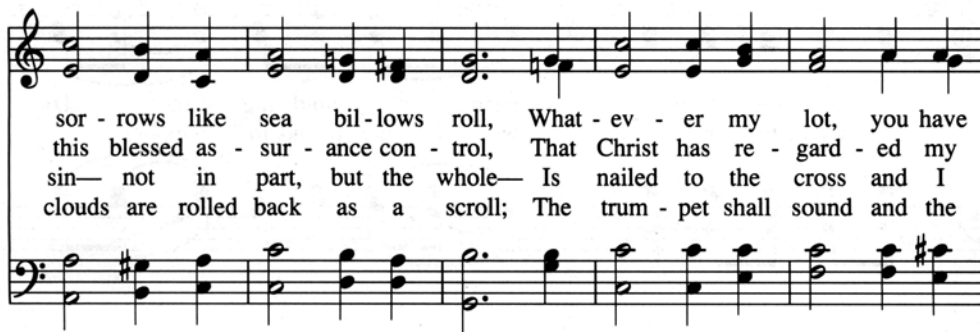
The Poet Acts from *The Hours* Philip Glass
Emmy Fansler Bakari, dancer
Joe Williams, piano

MESSAGE*Keeping the Vigil*Rev. Dalton

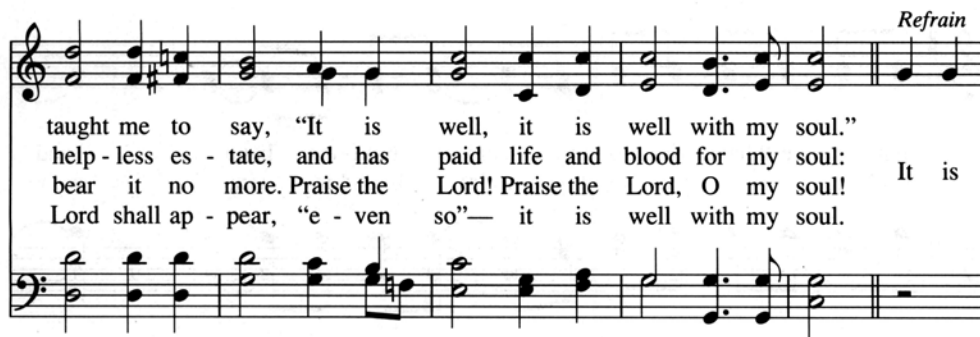
HYMN *It Is Well* Horatio Spafford



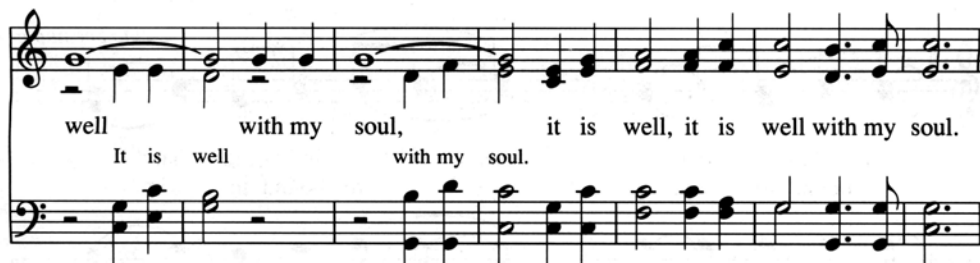
1 When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each day, when
 2 Though e - vil should tempt me, though tri - als should come, let
 3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought—my
 4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, What - ev - er my lot, you have
 this blessed as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my
 sin— not in part, but the whole— Is nailed to the cross and I
 clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trum - pet shall sound and the



Refrain
 taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
 help - less es - tate, and has paid life and blood for my soul: It is
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall ap - pear, "e - ven so"— it is well with my soul.



well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTIONRev. Dalton

POSTLUDE

Hijaz Kar Kurd Theme & Variations Donia Jarrar
Joe Williams, piano دنيا جرار

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

Plan to remain after worship Sunday, October 29, for a special recital with Ibidunni Ojikutu and Dr. Nnenna Ogwo at 12:30 pm (suggested donation \$20). Program features songs from Florence Price, Hale Smith, Margaret Bonds, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Robert L. Morris and African American spirituals.



Ibidunni Ojikutu began her tenure as Plymouth’s Artist-in-Residence on October 8. Looking forward to her time with us, she says, “I’m beyond excited to contribute to the magic that Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown has created in this beautiful congregation. Plymouth is a welcoming, open, loving yet accountable space. I’m really fortunate to have found another church home that allows me artistic freedom and whose focus is on kindness and service. I look forward to seeing how I grow as an artist and a person.” Read more at IbidunniOjikutu.com.

Dr. Nnenna Ogwo is a pianist, composer, educator and arts innovator of Caribbean and African descent. As a concert pianist, she has performed in Europe, the Middle East, South America, the Caribbean, and the United States, equally at ease performing on grand stages as well as more intimate settings and is known for an engaging warmth that makes diverse audiences feel at home. This is an essential aspect of her mission to expand and diversify classical music audiences. Read more at Nnenna.net.



Spread the word — invite friends and family for an afternoon of inspiring music in our Sanctuary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

End Medical Debt for the most impacted in the Pacific Northwest and other areas where the crisis of medical debt looms. Donate now by clicking the button on the homepage at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Deadline to donate is November 1!

Sign the Book of Life Remember and honor friends and family who have passed by writing their names in the Book of Life. Add names online using the link in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org, or sign the book at Plymouth in the Lounge by November 1.

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. All are welcome. Read more in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

The Rise & Dangers of White Supremacy Free talk with journalist David Neiwert Thursday, October 26, 6:15–8:30 pm. Everett Civic Auditorium (2415 Colby Ave, Everett, WA 98201). Panelists include Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, Aneelah Afzali and Jennifer Bereskin. More info and link to register in News article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Waiting & Watching Plymouth will once again create our own Advent Devotional, with the help of Plymouth friends and friends throughout the Pacific Northwest Conference. What are you waiting for in your life? For what are you looking? Send contributions to RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org by November 15.

Church-wide Talent Show Shine your tap shoes, warm-up your yodel, dust off your poetry! Enjoy lunch and a show Sunday, November 19, right after worship. Save the date and watch for sign-ups coming soon. —*Sari Breznau*

Hear from Rev. Dr. Wilda Gafney “Changing the Way we Hear Scripture: Writing a Lectionary While Womanist.” Free lecture, 7 pm Saturday, October 28, at Seattle First Baptist (1111 Harvard Ave, Seattle)

2024 Calendars Sought for Inmates The inmates at Monroe Correctional Facility really appreciate current calendars. If you receive free calendars in the mail you won’t use, please donate them. Drop them in the box at church on Sundays. Questions? Contact Christine Hanson: HansonChristineAnn@gmail.com.

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.

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 November 6–8. Plymouth scholarships available. Find full schedule and link to register at PinwSeattle.org.



You can **pray** until you faint, but unless
you get up and try to **do something**,
God is not going to put it in your lap.

Fannie Lou Hamer

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.