



10:30 AM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 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 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

JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

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

WBlight@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

10:30 AM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021
TWENTY-THIRD 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.*

You can contribute to the mission and ministries of Plymouth UCC anytime, anywhere! Go to PlymouthChurchSeattle.org and click on the “Give” box, *or* text to give: Simply text the amount you’d like to give (i.e. 10.00) to Plymouth UCC’s mobile giving number (206.208.1442), hit send. Questions? Contact Diane, DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

PRELUDE

Aria (Homage to Bach) Alfred V. Fedak
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

WELCOME. Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

PRAYER OF INVOCATION. Rev. Donene Blair

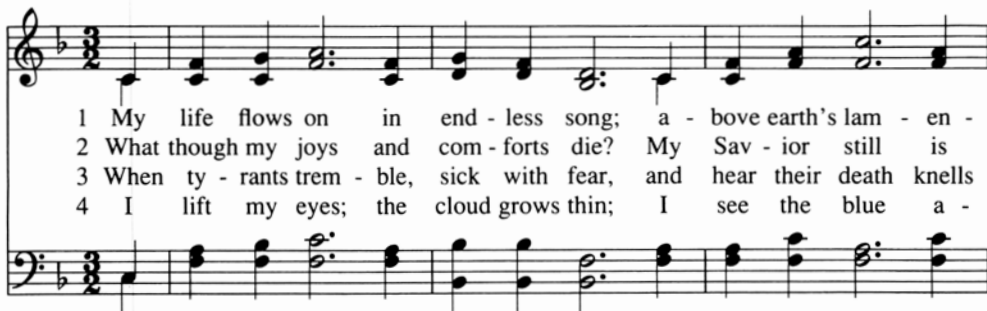
God of herons and heartbreak,
teach us to love the world again.
Teach us to love extravagantly
knowing it may
(it will) break our hearts
and teach us that it is worth it.
God of pandemics and suffering ones,
teach us to love the world again.
God of loneliness and longing,
of bushfires and wilderness,
of soup kitchens and border towns,
of snowfall and children,
teach us to love the world again.
Amen.

—Sarah Bessey

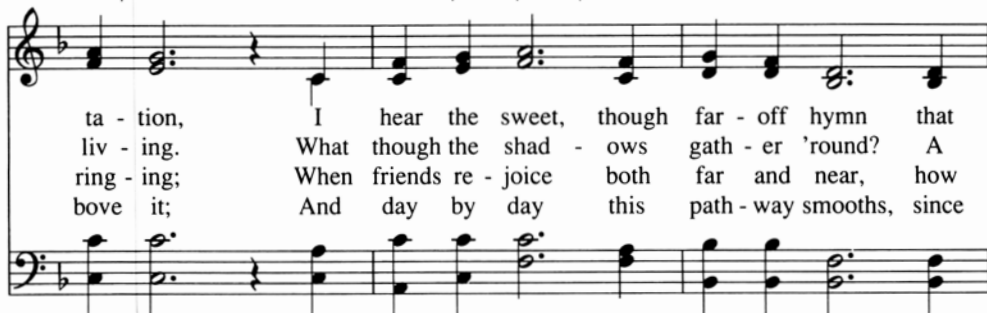


Sarah Bessey is a Canadian author, blogger, co-founder and co-host of the progressive Evolving Faith Conference and podcast.

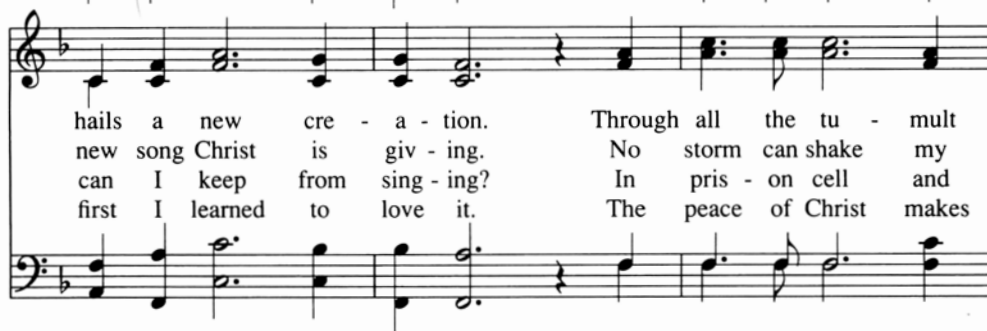
HYMN *My Life Flows on in Endless Song* **ENDLESS SONG**
 Jennylynn Vidas, Emily Kurlinski, Tim Keller, Michael Delos



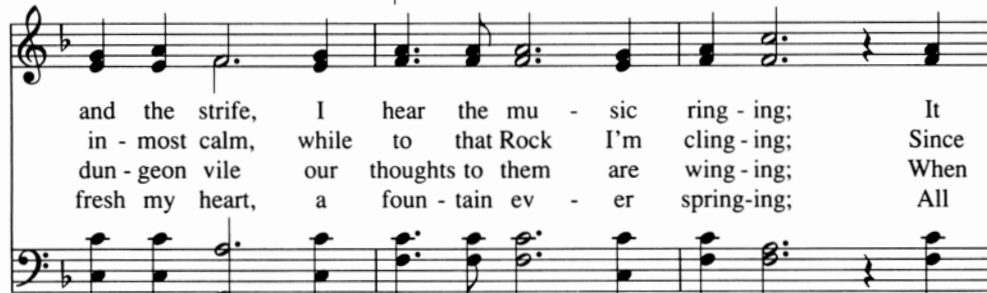
1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -
 2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is
 3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells
 4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -



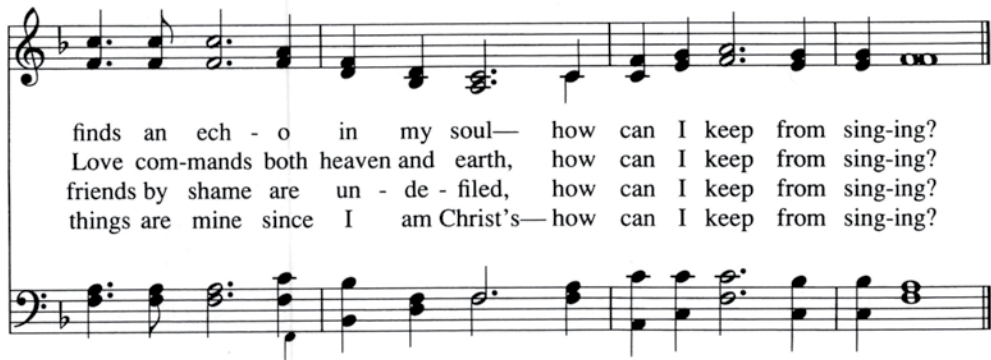
ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that
 liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A
 ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how
 bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since



hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult
 new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my
 can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and
 first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes



and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It
 in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since
 dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When
 fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Kevin Bechtold

Ken Collins (Friend of Gordon and Stanhope families), Brenda Daniels (Cousin of Michael Gordon), Carmen Ramsey Ellington (Friend of Karen Clark), Mary and Jon Eytinge and Family, Keisha Gordon (Daughter of Michael Gordon), 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), Jose Robles and Family, Lydia Stuckey (Friend of Dr. Maxine Mimms), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Patricia Valentine
 Our hearts are with Michael and Elizabeth Gordon and family on the passing of his cousin's wife, Barbara Daniels.

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

(Service continues next page)

REFLECT, REVEAL, REJOICE!

Once again we will be creating a daily devotional for Advent made up of submissions from the Plymouth community. Our theme is *Reflect, Reveal, Rejoice!* We know that the pandemic and its resulting isolation and need for social distancing has been terribly difficult for all of us. We also know that for many, space has been made where we can see more clearly than we would have otherwise.

Here is the question we would like you to answer in your submission: ***What has been revealed to you in this time of pandemic?*** Answers can be submitted in words, in photography, in art. Submissions are due Wednesday, November 17. Please email your submission to JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

God of the great cosmos and God of this particular place,
God of all time, and God of this moment,
God of peoples everywhere and God of this community
here gathered,

We meet you in the rich tapestry of this day —

With thanksgiving for your wondrous gift of life,

With thanksgiving for lives lived in companionship with others,

With thanksgiving especially this day for your church,
incomplete and imperfect, enduring and faithful,

And for this church — Plymouth Church — for its members
and ministers, its followers and leaders, for all who through
the ages have called you God and given themselves to your
purposes of justice and peace in this world.

God of creation and grace, as you have happened to us and
between us in the past, continue to be in the midst of our
lives in these times —

We pray for the wounded planet, that we may participate in
healing and restoring,

We pray for those who mourn and are in distress, for those
who are sick of body, mind or spirit, that your love may
restore hope and smooth out our ragged edges.

We pray for those who suffer injustice and oppression and
for those who participate in such activity, that by your
transforming power that which is now broken may be made
whole, that which separates may be united, that which is
wrong may be made right.

As we live through the joy of this day, then, let us remember
your call to be your people — simply and faithfully — in all
we do with and for one another and all of your creation.

We lift these prayers, longing to be your ones of the Risen
Christ whose spirit lives and dwells among us, enabling us to
love and to hope.

Amen.

—*God of the Great Cosmos*, by Rev. Susan Yarrow Morris



LORD'S PRAYER

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 kin-dom 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.

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SHARING PEACE The peace of Christ be with you

MOMENT OF LOVE IN ACTION Christine Hanson

CONTEMPORARY VOICE read by Rev. Blair



Kate Bowler is a Canadian academic and writer, currently an associate professor of the history of Christianity in North America at Duke Divinity School.

I feel things big. And for the longest time, I felt so much shame because of it. I need reminders that my emotions are not bad or good. They're just information.

You feel angry because this is unjust. You feel sad because this is awful. You feel tired because this is exhausting.

Your emotions are not wrong or bad or lying to you or the full truth. They're giving you a bit of data that you shouldn't ignore. We love and lose and fall and get back up and fail and try again.

This is what it means to be human, to feel the pain, the grief, the stress, the risk, the fear, the heartbreak. So you, beautiful creature, right here is your permission slip to feel it all, to feel the joy and delight and excitement and the sorrow and fear and despair.

All the yellows and pinks and violets and grays, because you are the whole sky. —Kate Bowler

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE Luke 12:22-34

(NRSV translation) read by June Hayakawa-Fung

We expect the gospels to reassure us that we find security in God through Jesus. What we sometimes neglect is that the gospels also speak about our condition and obligations in ways that make us fear for our security. Luke is no exception. Jesus speaks about trusting God while also striving for the kin-dom — a whole new life reflecting God’s intentions for human flourishing. That takes real work, and real risk, especially when it involves challenging systems where the well-being of many relies on the largesse of the privileged few.

Jesus said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Creator knows that you need them. Instead, strive for God’s kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Parent’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

ANTHEM Storm Comin’ Wailin’ Jennys

Performed by Hayden McManus, Kristine Danzinger, Sari Breznau

MESSAGE Toxic Positivity

Rev. Jennifer Castle in conversation with Dr. Tracy Simpson

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Rev. Castle

POSTLUDE.Toccata in D Minor. J.S. BACH

Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Finance Committee will lead an all congregation introduction to and discussion of the draft 2022 budget after worship on Sunday November 7, via Zoom.

Take the Reopening Survey As we move towards resuming in-person worship, we are asking each household to complete a survey to help us better understand what is on the hearts and minds of the Plymouth community. Please complete the survey by midnight **TONIGHT**. Link to the survey at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Sign the Book of Life Remember and honor friends and family who have passed by writing their names in the Book of Life. The book becomes part of worship on All Saints Sunday, November 7. Names of persons who have passed away in the last 12 months will be spoken in prayer during service that Sunday. Use the simple form at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org to add names (please place an asterisk by names of those who have passed in the last 12 months). Please send by Wednesday, November 3.

Meet Good Neighbors Learn how Plymouth as a community mission can commit to welcoming a refugee or asylee family for 2022. The Good Neighbor program at World Relief trains and supports groups of volunteers to work alongside one of their caseworkers to assist a family for a minimum of six months. A core group of volunteers able to commit to a few hours per month will need to participate in this program, along with less frequent volunteers. Join Zoom information session 7-8 pm Saturday, November 6. Register at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Dia de los Muertos Concert Visit our Online Worship Center at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org to watch the livestream Dia de los Muertos Concert 6:30 pm Thursday, November 4, with Paula Nava Madrigal and Sari Breznau. Program features Mexican folk music, selections from Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* and more.

Empty Nest Group Forming Whether your nest is just emptied, or it has been a while, you are welcome to join us. We will meet on Zoom 10 am to 11:30 am, four Saturdays, starting Saturday, November 6. Vicki Schoettle will serve as facilitator and Toni Arthur and June Hayakawa-Fung are the staff contacts. Let us know you want to join and we will send you the link.

Manifest Destiny Jesus Please join us on Zoom 7 pm Wednesday, November 10, for a screening of the film *Manifest Destiny Jesus*, followed by a Q & A and discussion with the filmmakers. We are excited to be bringing this opportunity to Plymouth and hope you will join us. Please contact Rev. Jennifer Castle (JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) with questions.

2022 Calendars Requested With the Monroe Correctional Center inmate visitation program still on hold due to the pandemic, the opportunity remains to provide inmates with 2022 calendars — there is a big demand there for them. If you have any to spare, please call Chris Hanson at 509.679.7430 or email her: hansonchristineann@gmail.com to arrange pick up. If you live at Horizon House, please put them in Sue Jones' cubby hole in the mailroom (#1S). Thanks!

**JESUS SAID TO
LOVE ONE ANOTHER.
THERE ARE
NO EXCEPTIONS.**

God is still speaking.
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



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.