



PLYMOUTH CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



10:30 AM SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 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, NOVEMBER 21, 2021
TWENTY-SIXTH 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

For the Beauty of the Earth Setting by Wayne L. Wold
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

WELCOME. Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

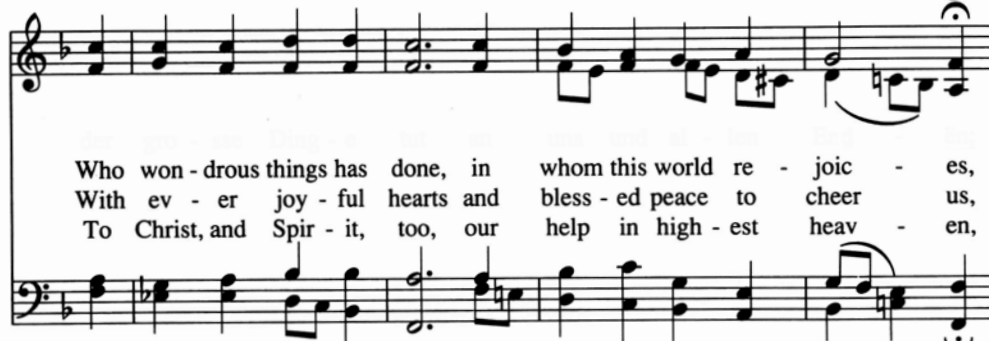
CALL TO WORSHIP. Rev. Jennifer Castle

Come, You Who Are Holy,
Be here,
For the people of God are present.
Come out of the world of hunger and degradation.
Let's dream a world of abundance together.
God is present, and therefore,
All things are possible.
Come out of the world of violence and dehumanization.
Let us dream a world of peace that comes from the discontent of what
too often is.
God is present, and therefore,
All things are possible.
Come.

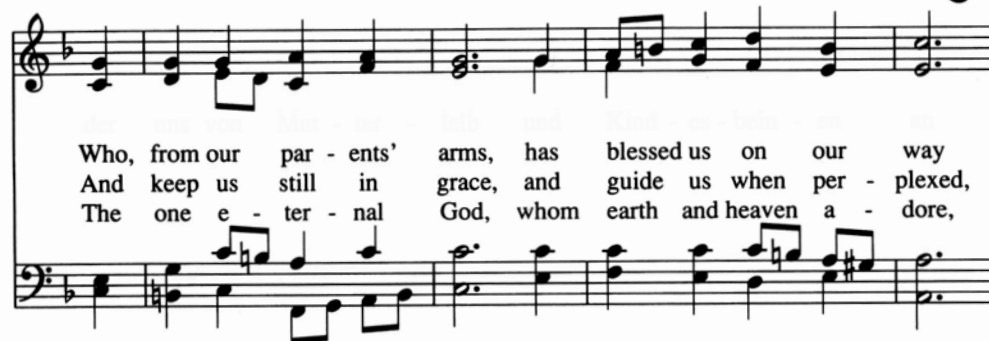
HYMN *Now Thank We All Our God, Vss 1-3* NUN DANKET



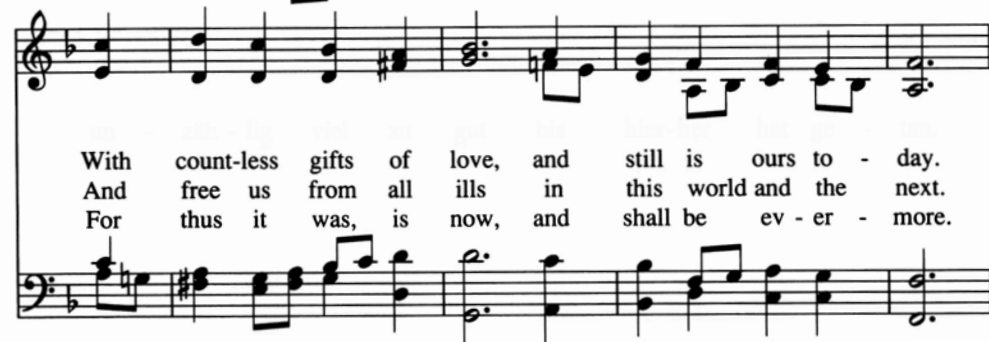
1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,
 2 O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God our Mak - er now be giv - en,



Who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es,
 With ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
 To Christ, and Spir - it, too, our help in high - est heav - en,



Who, from our par - ents' arms, has blessed us on our way
 And keep us still in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 The one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heaven a - dore,



With count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 And free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 For thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Kevin Bechtold

Mae Bell, Douglas Berry (Cousin of Michael Gordon), Ken Collins (Friend of Gordon and Stanhope families), Carmen Ramsey Ellington (Friend of Karen Clark), Mary and Jon Eytinge and Family, Floyd Gossett, Jim Halfaker, John Holford (Father of Michelle Sarju), Michael Kaid, Darryl Marshall (Stepfather of Jennifer Castle), Don Miles, Jo Mitchell, Montecino Family, Tommy Rivers Puzey (Friend of Karen Clark), Jose Robles and Family, Thomas Smith (Brother of Twanda Hill), Lydia Stuckey (Friend of Dr. Maxine Mimms), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Patricia Valentine, Bill Zimmerman (Cousin of Doug James)

Our hearts are with Becky Colwell and family on the one-year anniversary of her father Ernie Boyer's passing.

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

HOWARD THURMAN'S THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Today, I make my Sacrament of Thanksgiving.

I begin with the simple things of my days:

Fresh air to breathe,

Cool water to drink,

The taste of food,

The protection of houses and clothes,

The comforts of home.

For all these I make an act of Thanksgiving this day!

I bring to mind all the warmth of humankind that I have known:

My mother's arms,

The strength of my father

The playmates of my childhood,

The wonderful stories brought to me from the lives

Of many who talked of days gone by when fairies

And giants and all kinds of magic held sway;

The tears I have shed, the tears I have seen;

The excitement of laughter and the twinkle in the

Eye with its reminder that life is good.

For all these I make an act of Thanksgiving this day

I finger one by one the messages of hope that awaited me at the crossroads:

The smile of approval from those who held in their hands the reins of my security;

The tightening of the grip in a simple handshake when I

Feared the step before me in darkness;

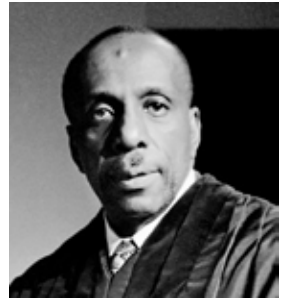
The whisper in my heart when the temptation was fiercest
And the claims of appetite were not to be denied;
The crucial word said, the simple sentence from an open
Page when my decision hung in the balance.
For all these I make an act of Thanksgiving this day.

I pass before me the main springs of my heritage:
The fruits of labors of countless generations who lived before me,
Without whom my own life would have no meaning;
The seers who saw visions and dreamed dreams;
The prophets who sensed a truth greater than the mind could grasp
And whose words would only find fulfillment
In the years which they would never see;
The workers whose sweat has watered the trees,
The leaves of which are for the healing of the nations;
The pilgrims who set their sails for lands beyond all horizons,
Whose courage made paths into new worlds and far off places;
The saviors whose blood was shed with a recklessness that only a dream
Could inspire and God could command.
For all this I make an act of Thanksgiving this day.

I linger over the meaning of my own life and the commitment
To which I give the loyalty of my heart and mind:
The little purposes in which I have shared my loves,
My desires, my gifts;
The restlessness which bottoms all I do with its stark insistence
That I have never done my best, I have never dared
To reach for the highest;

The big hope that never quite deserts me, that I and my kind
Will study war no more, that love and tenderness and all the
inner graces of affection will cover the life of the
children of God as the waters cover the sea.

All these and more than mind can think and heart can feel,
I make as my sacrament of Thanksgiving to Thee,
Our Parent, in humbleness of mind and simplicity of heart.



Howard Thurman was an American author, philosopher, theologian, educator, and civil rights leader. As a prominent religious figure, he played a leading role in many social justice movements and organizations of the twentieth century.

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

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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MOMENT OF LOVE IN ACTION

CONTEMPORARY VOICE

The Powwow at the End of the World, by Sherman Alexie

I am told by many of you that I must forgive and so I shall after an Indian woman puts her shoulder to the Grand Coulee Dam and topples it. I am told by many of you that I must forgive and so I shall after the floodwaters burst each successive dam downriver from the Grand Coulee. I am told by many of you that I must forgive and so I shall after the floodwaters find their way to the mouth of the Columbia River as it enters the Pacific and causes all of it to rise. I am told by many of you that I must forgive and so I shall after the first drop of floodwater is swallowed by that salmon waiting in the Pacific. I am told by many of you that I must forgive and so I shall after that salmon swims upstream, through the mouth of the Columbia and then past the flooded cities, broken dams and abandoned reactors of Hanford. I am told by many of you that I must forgive and so I shall after that salmon swims through the mouth of the Spokane River as it meets the Columbia, then upstream, until it arrives in the shallows of a secret bay on the reservation where I wait alone. I am told by many of you that I must forgive and so I shall after that salmon leaps into the night air above the water, throws a lightning bolt at the brush near my feet, and starts the fire which will lead all of the lost Indians home. I am told by many of you that I must forgive and so I shall



Sherman Alexie is a Spokane-Coeur d'Alene Native American novelist, short story writer, poet, and filmmaker.

after we Indians have gathered around the fire with that salmon
who has three stories it must tell before sunrise: one story will teach us
how to pray; another story will make us laugh for hours;
the third story will give us reason to dance. I am told by many
of you that I must forgive and so I shall when I am dancing
with my tribe during the powwow at the end of the world.

READING FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE 1 Timothy 6:17-19
(NRSV translation) read by Rev. Donene Blair

Being a counter-cultural movement, early Christians envisioned an equal distribution of material resources. On the other hand, wealthy people were appreciated as “benefactors” in early Christianity. It is important to remember that those who stake their well-being on temporal wealth will never have enough; but there is no shortage of blessings for God’s people.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

ANTHEM. Grateful Nimo Patel
Performed by Plymouth Singers

MESSAGE On Certainty Dr. Brown

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Dr. Brown

Somewhere there is a home	Let us work to make that home
A place of return	A house for you, for we,
Of reunion	For them,
Safety and courage	For us
Of peace	Let us live there
A communion of friends, equals	In freedom
Not only in God’s eyes	Let us work to make that home
But ours too	Today, tomorrow, and in the days to come
Believing in that home	In the Spirit
Gives us hope and strength	Let us meet God there
	Amen

POSTLUDE. Now Thank We All Our God Sigfrid Karg-Elert
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-Person Worship Options in December! We are excited to announce opportunities for in-person worship at Plymouth! We will hold an in-person service on December 12 and 19. We will also stream these services online. Watch the *Herald* and the website for more information in the coming weeks.

Your Voice Counts Plymouth Immigration Ministry Team is counting on you to guide us as we build a Good Neighbor Team to walk alongside a refugee family in our area in 2022. Please take our short survey to let us know your thoughts. Deadline for completion is midnight, November 21. Link to the survey at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org (under the News tab, click on article, *Your Voice Counts*).

Congregational Meeting and Budget Approval Vote Save the date for an online congregational meeting that will be held December 5 after the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to consider and vote on the church's budget for 2022, as was outlined in the information session on November 7.

Gratitude and Gratefulness: Conference Men's Retreat There won't be a Plymouth Men's Retreat this winter, however, there will be a PNC-UCC Men's Retreat. The organizing committee invites you and your friends to join us. It'll be similar to our typical retreat with some Covid-changes. Read more in the News section at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

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!

Toxic Positivity: Continue the Conversation Dr. Tracy Simpson compiled a list of resources about toxic positivity (link to that resource page at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org — under the News tab, click on article *Toxic Positivity*). We have only scratched the surface of this complicated topic, and we will be working with the Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown to continue and expand the conversation.

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.