

10:30 AM SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 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

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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.

“Advent invites us to a commitment to vigilance, looking beyond ourselves,
expanding our mind and heart in order to open ourselves up
to the needs of people and to the desire for a new world.”

—Pope Francis, 2018

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

O Come, O Come Emmanuel Setting by David Low
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

WELCOME. Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

Happy birthday to you;

Anniversary, too!

We are so excited to share them with you.

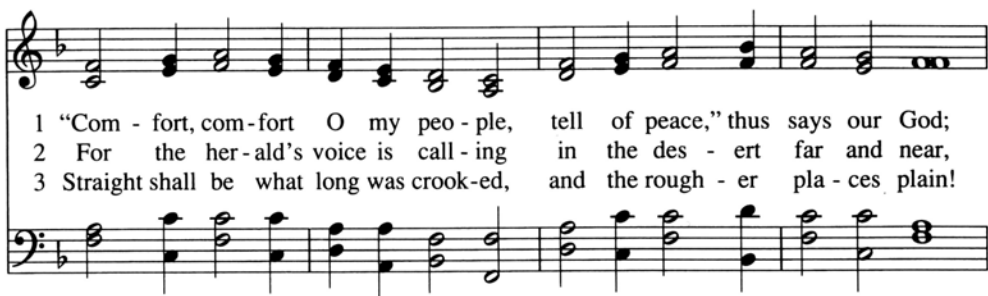
May God bless and keep you in all that you do.

Happy birthday! (And anniversary!)

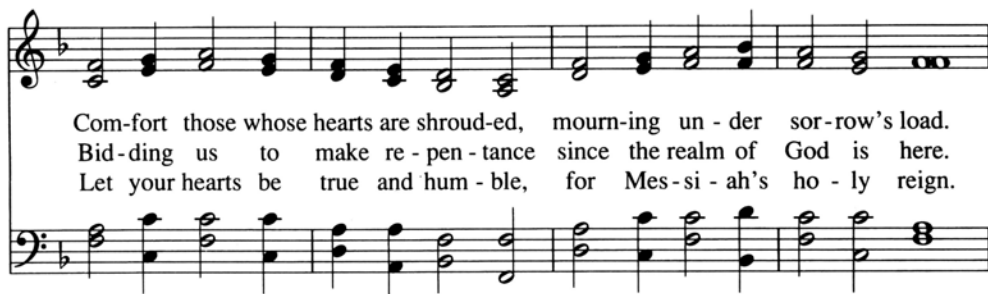
Happy birthday! (And anniversary!)

Happy birthday to you!

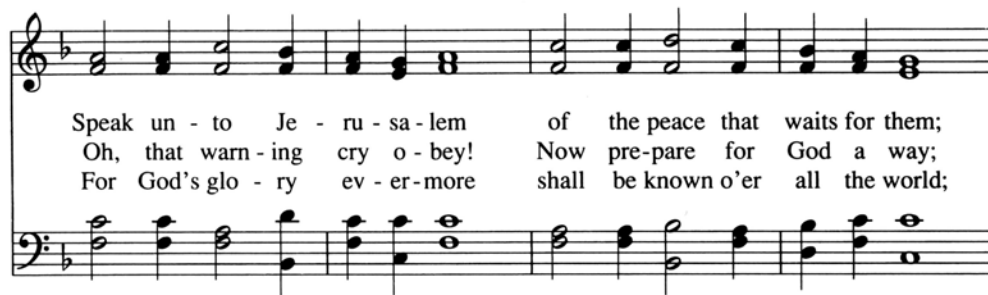
HYMN *Comfort, Comfort O My People* PSALM 42



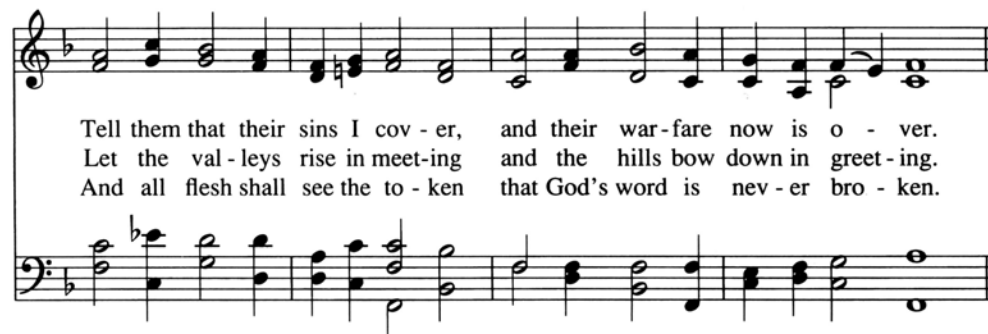
1 "Com - fort, com-fort O my peo - ple, tell of peace," thus says our God;
 2 For the her-ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er pla - ces plain!



Com-fort those whose hearts are shroud-ed, mourn-ing un - der sor-row's load.
 Bid-ding us to make re - pen - tance since the realm of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, for Mes-si - ah's ho - ly reign.



Speak un - to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre-pare for God a way;
 For God's glo - ry ev - er-more shall be known o'er all the world;



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war-fare now is o - ver.
 Let the val - leys rise in meet-ing and the hills bow down in greet-ing.
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPERev. Jennifer Castle

This is our beginning, a beginning born into mystery. In the womb of this Advent season, our vision is dim and we are pushed into mystery. This time presents a chance for us to learn again how to be held, and feel our way to God. The night is long and feels unbearable, making us sure we are alone. As the world leans toward despair, waiting and wanting with deep sighs in their hearts.

But even in the mystery and not knowing, there is a rustling of new life! Here, hope is born. By instinct, we stumble, walk, crawl and run toward the One who brings transformation. If we dare, we can embrace that the light not as an antidote to the night, but as God's loving reminder that we cannot resist the promise of hope. May hope shine.

(Lighting of candle)

People: We dare to walk in the light of hope!

ADVENT MUSIC O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710

Plymouth Singers, Verse 1

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile, here
Until the child of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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)



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

READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE Genesis 16:7-13

(Dr. Wilda Gafney translation)

read by Rev. Donene Blair

Now the messenger of the All-Seeing God found Hagar by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And the messenger said, “Hagar, slave-girl of Sarai, from where have you come and where are you going?” And she said, “From my mistress Sarai am I fleeing.” The messenger of the Inscrutable God said to her, “Return to your mistress, and subject yourself to her.”

The messenger of the Wellspring of Life said to Hagar, “Greatly will I multiply your seed, so they cannot be counted for multitude.” Then the messenger of the Fount of Life said to her,

“Look! You are pregnant and shall give birth to a son,

and you shall call him Ishmael (meaning God hears)

for the Faithful One has heard of your abuse.

He shall be a wild ass of a man,

with his hand against everyone,

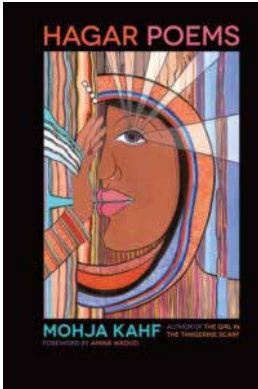
and everyone's hand against him;

and he shall live in the sight of all his kin.”

So Hagar named the Living God who spoke to her: “You are El-ro'i”; for she said, “Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing God?”

CONTEMPORARY VOICE

Hagar Dreamwork: The Therapist's Notes, by Mohja Kahf



You've got this Hagar thing all wrong
It's mythic. You're stuck
at left-wing literal levels
of rage-for-justice rhetoric
and knee-jerk feminist bludgeoning
Go get your Jung and Ibn al-Arabi;
What is the Hagar function in the psyche?
Here we have the angel and the baby;
here, two wives, two brothers,
a doppelganger story.
It's all interior, desert and city,
mountain and well.
Take it from history;
wake up and jot down the latest jigsaw clue:
All the characters in the Hagar dream are you.

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE Luke 1:26-38

(Dr. Wilda Gafney translation)

read by Rev. Kevin Bechtold

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town of Galilee, Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the name of the virgin was Mary. And the angel came to Mary and said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Most High God is with you." Now, she was troubled by the angel's words and pondered what sort of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Fear not Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Sovereign God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his sovereignty there will be no end." Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have not known a man intimately?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit, She will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the one born will be holy. He will be called Son of God. And now, Elizabeth your kinswoman has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for she who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the woman-slave of God; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel left her.

ANTHEM *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come.* . . . Paul O. Manz
Performed by The Palmason Singers

MESSAGE *The God Who Sees* Dr. Brown

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

How Excellent Brenda Joyce Moore
Resounding Love Interfaith Gospel Choir
Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, Soloist

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Dr. Brown

POSTLUDE

Lift Up Your Heads Setting by David Cherwien
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ



GIVING OPTIONS TO SUPPORT PLYMOUTH UCC

Thank you for your faithful support of the mission and ministries of Plymouth United Church of Christ. Listed below are a variety of ways for you to provide offerings and gifts.

ONLINE GIVING THROUGH SIMPLE CHURCH Click on the MAKE A GIFT box at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Choose to deduct directly from your bank account or credit/debit card to make a one-time offering, or schedule recurring offerings.

TEXT TO GIVE Simply text to 206.208.1442 and enter a dollar amount. You will receive prompts to complete the transaction. Once set up, you will be able to text offerings with one step.

CASH APP Download the Cash App mobile app from the Apple App Store or Google Play and follow the instructions to set up giving directly from your bank account. Our Cash App ID is [\\$PlymouthUCCSeattle](https://cash.app/$PlymouthUCCSeattle). Questions? DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

CHECK BY MAIL Mail your offerings to the church: Plymouth Church, UCC / 1217 6th Ave / Seattle WA 98101

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome Special Guests! We extend a warm welcome to those joining us in worship today from New Pilgrims UCC in Anacortes. We are glad you are here!

Advent Devotional Available Plymouth's own daily Advent devotional, Reflect, Reveal, Rejoice, is composed of stories, poetry, art and photographs from the Plymouth community. Download at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org (under the news tab, click on *Reflect, Reveal Rejoice: Advent Devotional*).

In-Person Worship Options in December We are excited to announce we will hold an in-person service on December 12 and 19. We will also stream these services online. Visit the News section at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org to learn more.

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 outlined in the 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!

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.