



10:30 AM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 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](http://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](mailto:KBrown@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

[KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

[DBlair@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:DBlair@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

[JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

[JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

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

[WBlight@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:WBlight@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

[DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

[RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

[TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

10:30 AM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**PRELUDE**

*Keep Awake, Be Always Ready (Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme) BWV 645*

by J.S. Bach

Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

**WELCOME.** . . . . . Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

**CALL TO WORSHIP** . . . . . Rev. Jennifer Castle

*World AIDS Day Litany* by Evelyn Sanders

We praise you, Holy One, for the gift of life, precious, stubborn, fragile and beautiful;  
We are grateful for the time we have to live upon the earth, to love, to grow, to be.  
We give thanks for the will to live and for our capacity to live fully all of the days that  
we are given;

and for those who have taken from the devastation of AIDS the opportunity to build  
lives of wholeness.

We give you thanks for the partners, friends, caregivers and families who have been steadfast in  
their love; for the people who have devoted their life's work to the prevention, treatment and  
healing of HIV with passion and commitment,

For the diligent science, brilliant ideas and insights that have led to new, life-giving treatments,  
for the governments who have acted to provide health care for people living with HIV.

We give thanks for those whose prejudice and judgment have yielded to understanding, for  
those who have overcome fear, indifference or burnout to embrace a life of caring compassion,

We praise you, Eternal One, for those who have loved enough that their hearts have broken,  
who cherish the memories of those we have lost, and for those who console the grieving.

God, grant us the love, courage, tenacity, and will to continue to make a difference in a  
world with HIV;

Inspire us to challenge the forces that allow the needless spread of AIDS to continue —  
prejudice, unjust laws, repression, prudery, stigma and fear.

Into your care we trust and lift up the 60 million souls who have contracted HIV

We lift up to you our dreams of a world where all are cared for,

our dreams of wholeness,

our dreams of a world without AIDS,

a dream we know you share.

HYMN . . . . . *Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn.* . . . REJOICE, REJOICE

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In deep - est night Christ's com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, whose hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 cold the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

Je - sus is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;

D D/F# G D Em Am D

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing  
 One with - out voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our end - less

Em D7 G C B7 Em

geth - er, to o - pen wide the heaven - ly door, and  
 kind - ness, the thun - der of the an - thems roll to  
 won - der, the weak are raised a - bove the strong, and  
 sto - ry, may God fill ev - ery day we share, and

Am7 D7 G 1-3 G/B C 4 G/B C G

lives now in-side us for ev - er. . . .  
 shat - ter all hate and in - jus - tice. . . .  
 weap-ons are bro-ken a - sun - der. . . .  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry. . . .

1-3 4

**LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLES . . . . . June Hayakawa-Fung**

This is our beginning, a beginning born in the dark. In the womb of time, our vision is dim, but it is the chance for us to learn again how to feel our way to God. The night is long and feels unbearable, making us sure we are alone. The darkness grows, and looms, and breeds fear and insecurity. It stumbles over our best attempts to move. The world leans toward despair, waiting and wanting with deep sighs in their hearts. But even in the dark, hope is born.

*(Lighting of the Hope candle)*

Even in the dark, peace is available. In the midst of much turmoil and violence, there can be peace. The kind of peace that surprises us as it washes over our worst fears. We can live in the kind of peace that settles our spirits, and the sort that inspires us to right action. While we wait, God is waiting and walking with us, as the One of Peace comes near.

*(Lighting of the Peace candle)*

**People: We dare to walk in the light of peace!**

**ADVENT MUSIC . . . . . O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**  
Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710

O Come, O wisdom from on high.  
and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
and help us in that way to go.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*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, Stan Orr, 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.**

*Copyright © by J. Manny Santiago, 1999. From the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists. Used with permission*

## **CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION . . . . .Dr. Brown**

*Everyone is welcome at our table to share the bread and the cup, whether you are a believer, a seeker, a skeptic, doubter or somewhere in between.*

## **INVITATION**

## **COMMUNION PRAYER**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**We thank you, God,  
for breaking into our world  
and pouring into our lives and our experiences.  
We thank you, God,  
for this meal of thanksgiving  
and the stories of peace, love, grace, and hope that it  
tells. Amen.**

## **WORLD AIDS DAY . . . . .Ms. Hayakawa-Fung**

## **MOMENT OF LOVE IN ACTION . . . . .Ruth Williamson**

**READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE . . . . . Genesis 17:15-22**

(Dr. Wilda Gafney translation)

read by Rev. Donene Blair

Thus God said to Abraham, “Now as for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, for Sarah is [now] her name. And I will bless her, and indeed of her will I give you a son. And I will bless her, and she will become nations; rulers of peoples shall come into being from her.” Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, “Can a child be born to a hundred years old? And can Sarah, ninety years old, give birth?” Then Abraham said to God, “If only Ishmael could live in your sight!” God said, “Nevertheless your wife Sarah shall give birth to a son for you, and you shall call his name Isaac. And I will establish my covenant with him, an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. Now as for Ishmael, I have heard you and I will bless him and make him fruitful and I will make him exceedingly, exceedingly numerous and he shall be the father of twelve chieftains, and I will make him a great nation. But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall give birth to for you at this season next year.” And when God finished speaking with him, God ascended from Abraham.

**CONTEMPORARY VOICE . . . . . read by Deacon Indigo Brown**

*The World Rising*, by Alice Walker (© 2017)

The world rising  
Can put an end  
To anything:  
The murder of children  
Whales  
Elephants  
Oceans.  
Get up. Roll over  
On that part  
Of you  
That will not  
Welcome  
Recognize  
Encourage  
Or even see  
Our rise.  
A compassionate roll:  
We must be done  
With cruelty  
Especially to ourselves,  
To start again  
Beaming like the sun;  
Fresh.



*Alice Walker is an American novelist, short story writer, poet, and social activist. She became the first African-American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, for her novel *The Color Purple*.*



But a roll that shows  
We've reached the end  
Of polite moves  
To repair and re-create the Earth,  
And will press hard  
On any parts of us  
Even those we have loved,  
That insist  
On remaining  
Oblivious  
And  
Asleep.

**READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE** . . . . . Luke 1:39-45  
(Dr. Wilda Gafney translation) read by Rev. Blair

Mary set out in those days and went to the hill country with haste, to a Judean town. There she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. Now when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. From where does this [visit] come to me? That the mother of my Sovereign comes to me? Look! As soon as I heard the sound of your greeting in my ear, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Now blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of those things spoken to her by the Holy One."

**ANTHEM**

*O Magnum Mysterium (O Great Mystery)*. . . . . Morten Lauridsen  
Kyle Erickson, Trumpet; Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals should see the newborn Lord,  
lying in a manger!  
Blessed is the virgin whose womb  
was worthy to bear the Lord, Jesus Christ.  
Alleluia!

**MESSAGE** . . . . . *Impolite Moves*. . . . . Dr. Brown

**MOMENT OF REFLECTION**

**BENEDICTION** . . . . .Dr. Brown

Be people of peace.

Let peace live in your heart and share the peace of Christ  
with all you meet.

Share peace by acting out of compassion and not fear.

Share peace by listening in honoring and just ways.

Share peace by praying for our world.

In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share peace.

As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share  
peace and hope with those you meet. Amen.

**POSTLUDE**

*Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn* . . . . .Setting by David Lasky

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. Questions? DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Congregational Meeting and Budget Approval Vote TODAY*** Join the online congregational meeting after the worship service today, using the usual Coffee Hour Zoom link and password. The purpose of this meeting is to consider and vote on the church's budget for 2022.

***In-Person Worship Options in December*** We plan to have in-person worship, with live-streaming available online, December 12 and 19. An in-person service at 3 pm Christmas Eve will be both streamed live and recorded to view online at any time. If you are planning to attend in person Christmas Eve, please RSVP to give us an idea of how best to prepare and accommodate you.

***Create a New Christmas Tradition: Food Boxes*** This year we will create Christmas food boxes for those living in food deserts in the greater Seattle area. Details will be forthcoming, so please watch for how you can help. This effort will be led by Indigo Brown and other young adults in our community. We look forward to making this a holiday tradition!

—Plymouth Community and Care Board

***Share the Spirit*** Plymouth has a long tradition of delivering poinsettias to folks who are isolated or have suffered a loss. We need your help! If you can safely deliver a poinsettia by dropping it off at a safe distance and wearing a mask, please email June Hayakawa-Fung at JHayakawafung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

***Let Your Light Shine*** Continue Plymouth's tradition of lighting white candles as we sing Silent Night, Holy Night during the Christmas Eve worship. We invite you to join with videos of you holding lit white candles. Make a recording of about 30–60 seconds duration. Send your videos to Rev. Kevin Bechtold (KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) by Monday, December 20, at 12 noon. Contact Rev. Bechtold if you have questions about technical issues.

***What Does Faith Have to Say About Vaccination?*** Join an interfaith panel for a discussion about the relationship between faith and science Tuesday, December 7, 6–7 pm PDT. Link to register at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. This event is free and all are welcome. Questions or accommodations? Write to DBerliner@KingCounty.gov or call 206.263.4161.

***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*).

***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.

# BE THE CHURCH

*Protect the environment.* Care for the poor.

Forgive often. **Reject racism.**

**Fight for the powerless.**

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

Unitarian Universalist  
**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.