

# ***A LONG TIME COMING***

**10:30 AM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024**



**PLYMOUTH**  
United Church of Christ

# 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 is open during limited hours.

Contact [Info@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:Info@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

**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)

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

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

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10:30 AM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*When you enter Plymouth Church UCC,  
may you feel the peace, intimacy, belonging,  
acceptance and refuge of Sanctuary.*

**PRELUDE *PRELUDIO***

*A Carol from Two Sketches* . . . . .Harold Samuel  
Peter Nelson-King, piano

**WELCOME *BIENVENIDA*** . . . . . June Hayakawa-Fung

**CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES**

***LLAMADO A ADORAR Y ENCENDIDO DE LAS VELAS DE ADVIENTO***

Rev. Demontrice Bigham & Rev. Jermell Witherspoon

***Reader 1:*** In days when God’s people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, “Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins” (Isaiah 40:1).

***Reader 2:*** We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

***Congregation:*** **We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.**

***Reader 1:*** We light these candles as signs of God’s shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God.

*Light candles of hope and peace.*

## OPENING HYMN *HIMNO DE APERTURA*

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (#116) vs 1-3 . . . . . VENI EMMANUEL



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, and  
3 O come, O come, O A - do - nai, who



ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly  
or - der all things far and nigh; To us the path of  
came to all on Si - nai high, And from its peak a



ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.  
knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.  
sin - gle law pro - claimed in maj - es - ty and awe.

### *Refrain*



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION. . . . . Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

### *ORACIÓN DE CONFESIÓN*

One: God of Blissful Serenity, as you move about your  
Realm on Earth, you desire our prayers to come alive.

**Many: Knowing the hopes of our hearts, you call us to  
create action that will help our neighbors.**

One: Yet, there are times we continue to pray in mind  
only, never fulfilling our calling to care for our neighbors.

**All: What we forget is that joy abounds when  
we can transform a prayer from thoughts  
to concrete actions, blessing our siblings  
across our world.**

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE . . . . . Ms. Hayakawa-Fung**

**SEGURIDAD DE GRACIA**

When we bring alive our prayers, we experience Christ in our midst. May we embrace the grace of God and initiate opportunities to care for God's children with open hearts.

**Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE . . . . . Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown**

**ORACIONES DEL PUEBLO**

*Afghan Family (Siblings of Plymouth), Toni Arthur, Ahmed Black (Nephew of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Wendy Carpenter (Friend of Jocelyn Coit-Durland), Diane Folkert (Mother and Mother-in-Law of Alex & Ara Lawrence), Elvis Gordon (Brother of Michael and Elizabeth Gordon), Floyd Gossett, Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Kay Heekin (Mother-in-Law of Kate Forrester), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Julie (Friend of Karen Clark), Concetta Lewis (Sister of Jo-Ann Guthrie), William Chapman Nyaho, Adele Reynolds Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Gevan Woodke (Friend of Karen Clark), Shaniece (Friend of Karen Clark)*



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 ORACIÓN DE JESÚS**

**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.**

**CALL TO OFFERING & SHARING PEACE . . . . . Dr. Brown**

**LLAMADO A LA OFERTA Y COMPARTIENDO LA PAZ**

As we share in God's grace, we seek ways to share our gratitude with God and our neighbors. Through prayer and pondering, we discover new ways to give our offerings of talents, treasures, and time with a joyful spirit.

## DOXOLOGY *DOXOLOGÍA*

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 DEDICATION . . . . .Dr. Brown

## ORACIÓN DE DEDICACIÓN

**God of All Joy,**

**We give thanks each time we remember your gifts in  
our lives. May your boundless wisdom compel us to  
use our resources and energies in ways that will share  
the most love in our world. Amen.**

## OFFERING MUSIC *OFRECIENDO MÚSICA*

*Gabriel's Oboe* . . . . .Ennio Morricone  
Maureen Stone, oboe; Peter Nelson-King, piano

## CONTEMPORARY VOICE *VOZ CONTEMPORÁNEA*

*Feeling Good* by Nina Simone, performed by Rev. Jermell Witherspoon



*Nina Simone was  
an American singer,  
songwriter, pianist,  
composer, arranger, and  
civil rights activist.*

Birds flying high, you know how I feel  
Sun in the sky, you know how I feel  
Breeze driftin' on by, you know how I feel  
It's a new dawn  
It's a new day  
It's a new life for me, yeah  
It's a new dawn  
It's a new day  
It's a new life for me, ooh  
And I'm feeling good  
Fish in the sea, you know how I feel  
River running free, you know how I feel  
Blossom on the tree, you know how I feel

It's a new dawn  
It's a new day  
It's a new life for me  
And I'm feeling good  
Dragonfly out in the sun you know what I mean,  
don't you know?  
Butterflies all havin' fun, you know what I mean  
Sleep in peace when day is done, that's what I mean  
And this old world, is a new world  
And a bold world for me, yeah-yeah  
Stars when you shine, you know how I feel  
Scent of the pine, you know how I feel  
Oh, freedom is mine  
And I know how I feel  
It's a new dawn  
It's a new day  
It's a new life for me  
I'm feeling good

**SCRIPTURE READING *LECTURA DE LAS ESCRITURAS* . . . . Matthew 24:1-13**  
(NRSV Translation) read by Dr. Brown

As Jesus came out of the temple and was going away, his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. Then he asked them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly I tell you, not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” Jesus answered them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah!’[a] and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines[b] and earthquakes in various places: all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs. “Then they will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. Then many will fall away,[c] and they will betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

## ANTHEM *EL HIMNO*

*Pavane For A Silent Night*, by Jean Anne Shafferman & Patrick Liebergen  
Plymouth Choir and Maureen Stone, oboist; Eliza Woodyard, Director

## SERMON *SERMÓN*

*The Journey Is a Marathon, Not A Race* . . . . . Rev. Bigham

## HYMN OF COMMITMENT *HIMNO DE COMPROMISO*

*Guide My Feet* (#497) . . . . . African American Spiritual

1 Guide my feet while I run this race, guide my feet  
2 Hold my hand while I run this race, hold my hand  
3 I'm your child while I run this race, I'm your child  
4 Stand by me while I run this race, stand by me

Yes, my God.

while I run this race, guide my feet while I run this race,  
while I run this race, hold my hand while I run this race,  
while I run this race, I'm your child while I run this race,  
while I run this race, stand by me while I run this race,

Yes, my God.

For I don't want to run this race in vain.

## BENEDICTION *BENDICIÓN* . . . . . Rev. Bigham

## POSTLUDE *POSTLUDIO*

*Deuská ukolébavka*, from *Vánoce* . . . . . Bohuslav Martinu  
Peter Nelson-King, piano



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Plymouth 2025 Calendars Available*** Pre-order your 2025 Plymouth calendar featuring families of choice. Makes a great gift! \$25 each. Use the link to order on our website home page: [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

***Christmas Is Coming!*** Join Plymouth in celebration Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, in the Sanctuary and live online at 6:30 pm. Service features beloved carols, stirring anthems, moving readings, and sharing of the light. Invite friends and family!

***Please Note:*** On Sunday, December 29, we will have online worship only. The building will be closed. You can access the worship service on Plymouth's web site or on Plymouth's YouTube channel at 10:30 am, December 29.

***Pathway to Freedom*** Film screening at Plymouth, 5-7 pm **today**, followed by a panel discussion on justice activism. Pizza, salad and refreshments served. Donations accepted to help the mission of Families Shoulder to Shoulder. Kindly RSVP to [ciara@familiesshouldertoshoulder.org](mailto:ciara@familiesshouldertoshoulder.org).

***Blue Christmas*** Come to Plymouth 4-5 pm on the longest night, Saturday, December 21, for a concert to benefit those struggling through the holidays. Featuring Nelda Swiggett, Clif Swiggett and Michael Glynn, with guest vocalist Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown. Watch for more details soon.

***The Gospel Magnificat*** Enjoy two performances of a gospel jazz setting of the Cantic of Mary by Kent Stevenson. 4 pm **today** at Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church (75th & Greenwood Ave N) and 7 pm Sat. Dec. 14 at First Baptist (1111 Harvard Ave). \$25 at the door (\$15 students), More info: 206-519-4575.

***Plymouth Welcome Circle*** seeks help to find a 4 bedroom, 2 bath house within the Seattle city limits for the Afghan family we have been supporting. Landlord needs to accept a housing voucher (Section 8). Contact Janet Gwilym with leads: [J.Gwilym@hotmail.com](mailto:J.Gwilym@hotmail.com).

***2025 Calendars Sought for Inmates*** The inmates at Monroe Correctional Facility appreciate current calendars. If you get free calendars in the mail you won't use, please drop them in the box at church on Sundays. Questions? Contact Christine Hanson: [HansonChristineAnn@gmail.com](mailto:HansonChristineAnn@gmail.com).

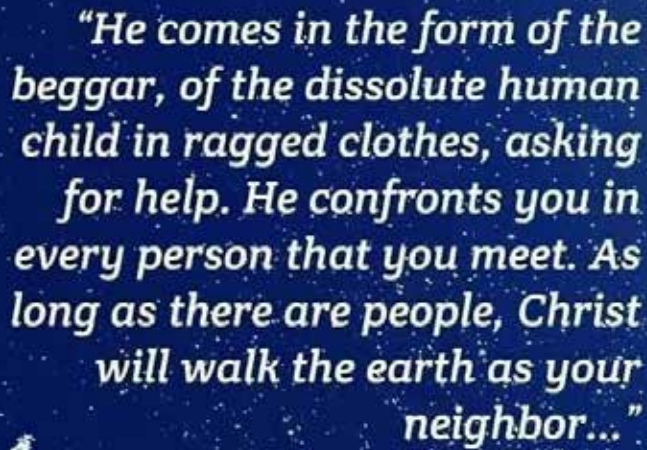
***Born to be Wild*** Conference Men's Retreat at Pilgrim Firs January 31-February 2, 2025, led by Pastor Bill Comfort. All believers, seekers and doubters who identify as male are welcome. Link to register and more info in news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

***Study the Bible with Plymouth*** Wednesdays at 9 am or Thursdays at 7 pm. The Zoom link in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) will be the same every week for both Wednesday morning and Thursday evening studies.

***Be The Church*** You are invited to volunteer at Plymouth Church! Remember that covenant giving also includes your time and using your gifts. There are many tasks that you can do. Training provided if needed. Contact Toni Arthur: [TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

***Members and Visitors*** can access Plymouth Guest wi-fi network using password: [peaceonearth.org](http://peaceonearth.org).

***The Plymouth Church Library*** is open before and after worship every Sunday morning.



*“He comes in the form of the  
beggar, of the dissolute human  
child in ragged clothes, asking  
for help. He confronts you in  
every person that you meet. As  
long as there are people, Christ  
will walk the earth as your  
neighbor...”*

*— Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

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.