



10:30 AM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 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, DECEMBER 12, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship with Plymouth Church UCC begins with meditation.

The quiet of this place is meant to encourage and deepen your own inner work.

Thank you for entering this place, 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

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming Arr. by Mark Hayes
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Piano

WELCOME. Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Donene Blair

Prayer for Returning to the Church Building (contextual) from

Emerge: Blessings and Rituals for Unsheltering by the Stillspeaking Writer’s Group

God, I’ve missed this place, the praise, those people, candles,
bread and cup, the doors, the gathering.

But honestly God, I’m uncertain about coming back.

Must we pass the peace? Will others wear a mask?

Will we sing ourselves sick? Always in long sleeves and pants?

Can I be spiritual while thinking about disinfectants?

God, you said in every shadowy valley, there you would be
so I’m trusting in your rod and your staff to protect me.

May my (individual and sanitized) cup overflow;

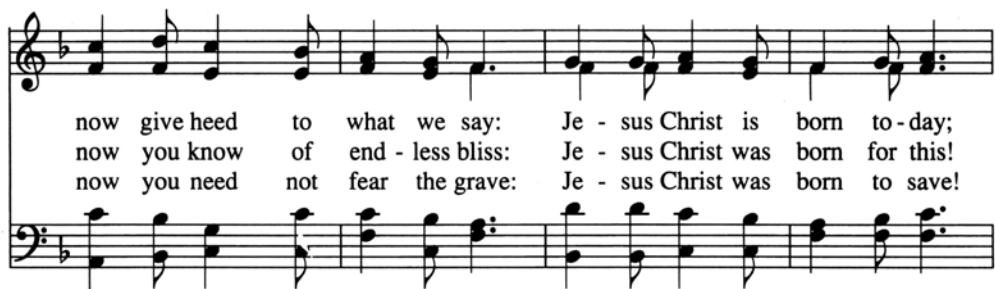
may goodness and mercy follow wherever I go.

Even into your house.

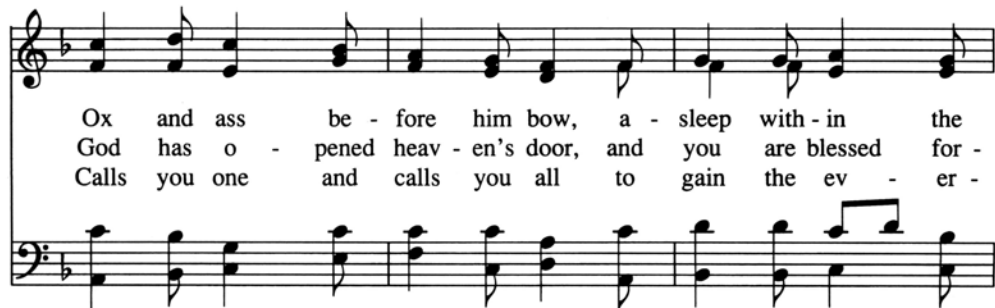
HYMN *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice.* IN DULCI JUBILO
(Hymnal # 129)



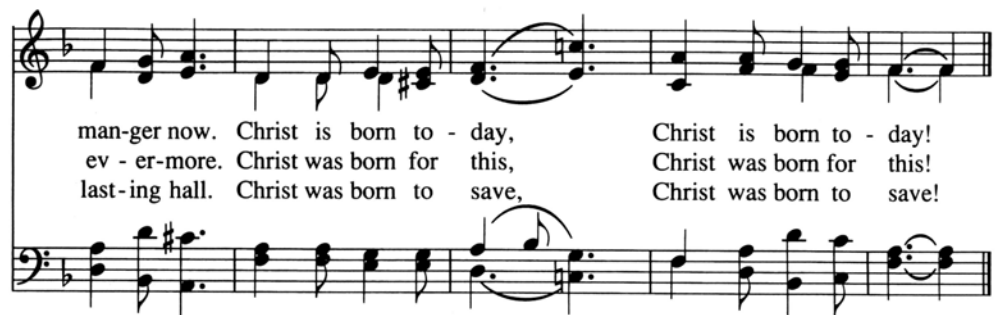
1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



now give heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now you know of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now you need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



Ox and ass be - fore him bow, a - sleep with - in the
God has o - pened heav - en's door, and you are blessed for -
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er -



man-ger now. Christ is born to - day, Christ is born to - day!
ev - er-more. Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!
last-ing hall. Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLES Christine Hanson

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)

Also, 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. While we wait, God is with us as the One of Peace comes near.

(Lighting of the Peace candle)

With hope and peace abiding, the dark transforms into the place where joy might come. Joy doesn't force its way in to our experience, but seeps in through the cracks of our lives, like new-found well water seeking to quench our thirst. It gives strength, and bubbles into our souls when comfort is needed most. Joy waits with us, and promises that wherever we find ourselves, we are with God.

(Lighting of the Joy candle)

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

ADVENT MUSIC O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vs. 6

Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710

Miriam Gnagy, Soprano

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
Love stirs within the womb of night,
and death's own shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall
come to you, O Israel!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Douglas Berry (Cousin of Michael Gordon), Glenda Carper, 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), 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)

We grieve with Pam and the entire Miles family on the recent passing of Don Miles.

A memorial service for Phil Fredrickson will be held 2 pm December 18, at Horizon House Performance Hall. (Outside guests will need to be screened in the lobby as they enter Horizon House.)



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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SHARING PEACE

“Peace be with you.”

CALL TO OFFERING June Hayakawa-Fung

God's wisdom turns the wisdom of the world upside down.

God calls us to unexpected and extravagant opportunities to grow in our gifts and in our faith. Holding things close in fear distracts us from the path of discipleship, but trusting in God and in God's future leads us to great generosity and joy. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

OFFERING MUSIC

Meditation on "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Mark Hayes
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Piano

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

Gracious and holy God,
accept what we offer today:
our resources, our faltering steps,
our brokenness, our joy, our interest and commitment,
our hope, our risking, our lives.
Bless and transform all that we offer
and all that we hold back,
that new life may be ours,
to celebrate and share in the name of love. Amen

SCRIPTURE IN SONG

Mary's Song (The Magnificat) from *Holden Evening Prayer*
by Marty Haugen
Sari Breznau

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you, You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.

Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, strong is your kindness evermore. How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart.

You have cast the might down from their thrones, and uplifted the humble of heart, You have filled the hungry with wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part.

Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice, strong your love, As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forevermore.

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you, You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.

CONTEMPORARY VOICEby Kaitlin Shetler
read by Rev. Jennifer Castle



*Kaitlin Hardy Shetler is
a poet, an advocate for
women and justice, and
an occasional preacher.*

sometimes I wonder
if mary breastfed jesus
if she cried out when he bit her
or if she sobbed when he would not latch
and sometimes I wonder
if this is all too vulgar
to ask in a church
full of men
without milk stains on their shirts
or coconut oil on their breasts
preaching from pulpits off limits to the mother of god
but then i think of feeding jesus
birthing jesus
the expulsion of blood
and smell of sweat
the salt of a mother's tears
onto the soft head of the salt of the earth
feeling lonely
and tired
hungry
annoyed
overwhelmed
loving
and i think
if the vulgarity of birth is not
honestly preached
by men who carry power but not burden
who carry privilege but not labor
who carry authority but not submission
then it should not be preached at all
because the real scandal of the birth of god
lies in the cracked nipples of a
14 year old
and not in the sermons of ministers
who say women
are too delicate
to lead

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE Luke 1:46-55
(Dr. Wilda Gafney translation) read by Rev. Blair

“My soul magnifies the Holy One,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of God’s own womb-slave.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is God’s name.
God’s loving-kindness is for those who fear God
from generation to generation.
God has shown the strength of God’s own arm;
God has scattered the arrogant in the intent of their hearts.
God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
God has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
God has helped God’s own child, Israel,
a memorial to God’s mercy,
just as God said to our mothers and fathers,
to [Hagar and] and Sarah and Abraham, to their descendants forever.”

ANTHEM
In the Bleak Midwinter
by Gustav Holst arr. by Albin C. Whitworth

MESSAGE Dr. Brown

MOMENT OF INSPIRATION
Dance Processional Keon Price, Dancer
Music by Sari Breznau, based on the carol with lyrics by William Morris,
set to a traditional French dance tune
Filmed by Matt Fish

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Dr. Brown

POSTLUDE
Angels We Have Heard on High. Arr. by David Lanz
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Piano

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plymouth Church is returning to in-person worship services on December 12 and 19 at 10:30 am and on Christmas Eve at 3 pm. Please remember to RSVP for Christmas Eve service. We will also livestream these services in recognition that not all of those in covenant with Plymouth will feel comfortable returning to in-person services just yet and some do not even reside in the greater Seattle area. We are excited to worship with you online or in-person!

Help with Christmas Food Boxes Create boxes of fresh produce and poultry for those living in food deserts in the Seattle area. Volunteers needed to pack boxes at Plymouth, 10 am-noon Monday, December 20, and to help deliver boxes later that day. Please contact Indigo Brown (Indigo.Brown@outlook.com) if you can help. We welcome you to contribute financially by mailing a check or contributing online. -*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 (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.

Review Manifest Destiny Jesus If you missed our showing of the powerful film *Manifest Destiny Jesus* last month but still would like to watch it, you are in luck! The film is having an encore, online presentation at Northwest Film Forum this month. The film can be watched from anywhere with internet at NWFilmForum.org/Films/Manifest-Destiny-Jesus-Online.

Plymouth Healing Communities could use a donation of a small night stand. The resident is expected to move in on Wednesday, December 15. PHC needs to know by Monday, December 13, if someone is able to donate this item, and will need to meet the donor (with the night stand) at Argonaut House the afternoon of December 14. Please contact PHC Executive Director Stephanie Monroney at SMonroney@plyhc.org or 303.204.8081.

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.





Artwork @timokamura

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.