

A LONG TIME COMING

10:30 AM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 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.

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

JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

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

DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

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10:30 AM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

PRELUDE *PRELUDIO*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel arr. Lee Peterson
Dr. Lee Peterson, piano

WELCOME *BIENVENIDA* Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

LLAMADO A ADORAR Y ENCENDIDO DE LAS VELAS DE ADVIENTO

Robert Malae

Reader: When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed,
The spirit of GOD is upon me, because the Holy One has anointed me; God has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the The Eternal One's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61:1-3a).

We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

Congregation: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

Reader: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Light candles of hope, peace and the pink candle of joy.

OPENING HYMN *HIMNO DE APERTURA*

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (#116) vss 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-joyce! Re-joyce! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION. June Hayakawa-Fung

ORACIÓN DE CONFESIÓN

One: Loving God, Creator of Wonder and Delight, we have fallen into the crevices of worry.

Many: **We have allowed the preoccupation of what was said in the past and will happen in the future to distract us from embodying joy in the present.**

One: Clear a pathway to our souls so that we can find
levity and delight again.

**All: May we find ways from the chasms of
concern to the daylight of hopefulness.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE Ms. Hayakawa-Fung
SEGURIDAD DE GRACIA

The blessedness of God's grace will fill our hearts with a
peace-filled joy as we move about this season and follow the
light ahead. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Kevin Bechtold
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), Louis Ford (Friend of Karen Clark), 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), William Chapman Nyaho, Adele Reynolds, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Gevan Woodke (Friend of Karen Clark), Shaniece (Friend of Karen Clark)

Our hearts are with Toni and Tiffany Arthur on the passing of their relative Mary Ortega.



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 Rev. Bechtold

LLAMADO A LA OFERTA Y COMPARTIENDO LA PAZ

Embracing radical joy transforms our spirits, creating a gentle energy within us. We are renewed, and we sense God's call more clearly. In seeking God's message, we know how to joyfully share our talents, treasures, and time, bringing more peace and comfort into our world.

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 Rev. Bechtold

ORACIÓN DE DEDICACIÓN

God of Holy Darkness and Returning Light, we give of our full hearts, knowing that you will bless this world with love. We give of our full minds, knowing that you will bless this world with peace. We give of our full souls, knowing that you will bless this world with hope. May the joy of your gifts encourage us to share the best we have, creating your Realm here on earth. Amen.

OFFERING MUSIC OFRECIENDO MÚSICA

In the Bleak Midwinter arr. Dr. Lee Peterson

Dr. Lee Peterson, piano

(Service continues next page)

DELIVER CHRISTMAS CHEER

Please deliver a Christmas plant! Take a card and plant from the Lounge-Narthex to deliver and visit with someone. You can also support this ministry by making a donation at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Under the "Give" tab, select "Flower Fund" on the drop-down menu. Thank you for helping to continue this tradition of care.

Ego Tripping (there may be a reason why),

by Nikki Giovanni, 1943-2024

Read by Deacon Indigo Brown

I was born in the congo
I walked to the fertile crescent and built
the sphinx
I designed a pyramid so tough that a star
that only glows every one hundred years falls
into the center giving divine perfect light
I am bad
I sat on the throne
drinking nectar with allah
I got hot and sent an ice age to europe
to cool my thirst
My oldest daughter is nefertiti
the tears from my birth pains
created the nile
I am a beautiful woman
I gazed on the forest and burned
out the sahara desert
with a packet of goat's meat
and a change of clothes
I crossed it in two hours
I am a gazelle so swift
so swift you can't catch me
For a birthday present when he was three
I gave my son hannibal an elephant
He gave me rome for mother's day
My strength flows ever on
My son noah built new/ark and
I stood proudly at the helm
as we sailed on a soft summer day
I turned myself into myself and was
jesus
men intone my loving name
All praises All praises
I am the one who would save



*Nikki Giovanni was an
American poet, writer,
commentator, activist
and educator.*

I sowed diamonds in my back yard
 My bowels deliver uranium
 the filings from my fingernails are
 semi-precious jewels
 On a trip north
 I caught a cold and blew
 My nose giving oil to the arab world
 I am so hip even my errors are correct
 I sailed west to reach east and had to round off
 the earth as I went
 The hair from my head thinned and gold was laid
 across three continents
 I am so perfect so divine so ethereal so surreal
 I cannot be comprehended
 except by my permission
 I mean . . . I . . . can fly
 like a bird in the sky . . .

SCRIPTURE READING *LECTURA DE LAS ESCRITURAS* Luke 1:39-45
 (Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

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 *EL HIMNO*

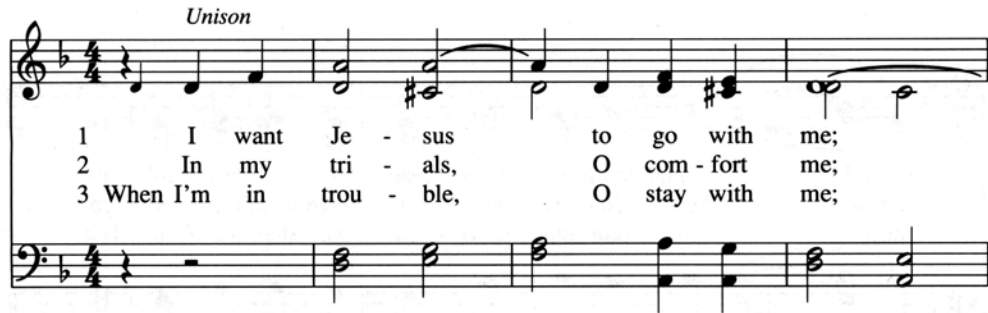
Lift Up Your Heads O Mighty Gates Tune: TRURO
 Plymouth Choir; Eliza Woodyard, Director

SERMON *SERMÓN* Call and Response Dr. Brown

HYMN OF COMMITMENT *HIMNO DE COMPROMISO*

I Want Jesus to Go with Me (#490) African American Spiritual

Unison



1 I want Je - sus to go with me;
2 In my tri - als, O com - fort me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, O stay with me;



I want Je - sus to go with me;
In my tri - als, O com - fort me;
When I'm in trou - ble, O stay with me;



All a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
When my heart is al - most break - ing,
When my head is bowed in sor - row,



O I want Je - sus to go with me.
O I want Je - sus to com - fort me.
O I want Je - sus to stay with me.

BENEDICTION *BENDICIÓN* Dr. Brown

POSTLUDE *POSTLUDIO*

Silent Night arr. Dr. Lee Peterson

Dr. Lee Peterson, piano



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pack Food Boxes of fresh produce and poultry for those living in Seattle's food deserts. We need volunteers at Plymouth, Noon–2 pm Wednesday, December 18 in Hildebrand Hall. Please contact June Hayakawa-Fung (JHayakawafung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) if you can help.

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.

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.

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.

Help Provide Comfort The Community & Care Board requests your help to provide items for comfort bags to be distributed to visitors in need. Please bring gloves, socks, tissues, hand sanitizer and shelf-stable snacks. Items can be left in the bin by the Welcome Table in the Lounge on Sundays.

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.

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.

Members and Visitors can access Plymouth Guest wi-fi network using password: peaceonearth.

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

It's an unwed woman who carries
God.

It's the pagans from the East who
recognize God.

It's the workers in the field who hear
from God.

It's the marginalized neighborhood
who welcomes God.

It's God who chooses the lowly and
the broken to rise.

Christmas is here.
Let hope in.

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.