



10:30 AM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024

LAN

# 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 and Instagram.



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**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)

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

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

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

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

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

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10:30 AM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024  
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

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

**PRELUDE *PRELUDIO***

*Away In A Manger* . . . . . arr. Dr. Lee Peterson  
Dr. Lee Peterson, piano

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

**SONG OF REFLECTION**

*Still, Still, Still* . . . . . (traditional Austrian carol)  
Elizabeth Landis, harp

**CONTEMPORARY VOICE *VOZ CONTEMPORÁNEA***

by Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac,  
pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem  
Read by Morgan Gwilym-Tso

The irony for us Palestinian Christians is that evangelicals, with their overemphasis on prophecy, have lost the capacity of being prophetic. You want to prove that the Bible is right? You don't do this by pointing to self-fulfilling prophecy or by pointing to world events as prophecy fulfillment. This is not how you prove that the Bible is right. We prove that the Bible is right by radical obedience to the teachings of Jesus--by proving that Jesus' teachings actually work and that they can make the world a better place. Let us love our enemies. Forgive those who sin against us. Let us feed the poor. Care for the oppressed. Walk the extra mile. Be inclusive, not exclusive. Turn the other cheek. And maybe, and only maybe then, the world will start to take a seriously and believing in our Bible.

**OFFERING MUSIC *OFRECIENDO MUSICA***

*In the Bleak Midwinter*. . . . . arr. Dr. Lee Peterson  
Dr. Lee Peterson, piano

## CONTEMPORARY VOICE *VOZ CONTEMPORÁNEA*

*Looking for Good Fish*, by Hafiz

Read by Dr. Brown

Why complain about life  
If you are looking for good fish  
And have followed some idiot  
Into the middle of the copper market?

Why go crazy  
If you are looking for fine silk  
And you keep rubbing your hands against  
Burlap and hemp sacks?

If your heart really needs to touch a face  
That is filled with abundance  
Then why didn't you come to this  
[one] sooner?

For my cheek is the universe's cloister  
And if you can make your prayers sweet enough  
Tonight

Then [I] will lean over and offer you  
All the warmth in my body  
In case God is busy  
Doing something else  
Somewhere.

Why complain if you are looking  
To quench your spirit's longing  
And have followed a rat into the desert?

If your soul really needs to touch a face  
That is always filled with compassion  
And tenderness  
Then why,

Why my dear  
Did you not come to your friend  
Sooner?



*Hafiz was a 14th century Persian poet who lauded the joys of love and wine and targeted hypocrisy.*

**SCRIPTURE READING *LECTURA DE LAS ESCRITURAS* . . . . . Luke 2:41-51**  
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Rev. Kevin Bechtold

Now, the parents of Jesus went yearly to Jerusalem for the festival of Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as customary for the festival. And when the days of the festival were completed, they returned while the boy Jesus stayed in Jerusalem, and his parents did not know it. Thinking he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey and then they started to look for him among their kin and those who knew him. And when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. Then after three days passed they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. Then when his parents saw him, they were shocked and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us thus? Look! Your father and I have been tormented in searching for you." Then Jesus said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in the house of my Abba?" And they did not understand the thing he said to them. And then, he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was subject to them. And his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

**ANTHEM *EL HIMNO***

*O Holy Night.* . . . . . Adolphe Adam  
Ibidunni Ojikutu, soprano; Peter Nelson-King, piano

**SERMON *SERMÓN* . . . . . *Searching and Finding.* . . . . . Dr. Brown**

*(Service continues next page)*

## SPACE STILL OPEN FOR SELMA TRIP



March 6-14, 2025, Museum Without Walls is organizing a trip to Selma and Montgomery—two cities that are at the heart of the Civil Rights Movement. This journey will take us to the very places where so much of the fight for equality unfolded, and where lives were changed forever. We're honored to partner with Plymouth Church UCC and Congregational Church on Mercer Island. \$500 deposit required when registering. Link to register in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). **Register with deposit by December 30.**

**HYMN OF COMMITMENT *HIMNO DE COMPROMISO***

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing* (NCH #144) . . . . . MENDELSSOHN

**Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the Christ-child bring;”  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled  
Joyful, all you saints arise, join the triumph of the skies  
With the angel host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the Christ-child bring!”**

**Christ by highest heav’n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time the Savior comes, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the Christ-child bring!”**

**Hail the bearer of God’s peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life our Savior brings, ris’n with radiant, healing wings.  
Mildly laying glory by, born that we no more may die  
Born to raise us all from earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the Christ-child bring!”**

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

**POSTLUDE *POSTLUDIO***

*Toccata on Joy to the World* . . . . . Helman

LaDonna Bowers, organ





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Volunteers Wanted*** to staff a children and youth table in the Lounge during the service. We are looking to provide a space geared towards the youngest in our midst with activities during worship. If you feel called to be a part of this ministry, please email Rev. Kevin Bechtold, [KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

***Plymouth 2025 Calendars Available*** Order your 2025 Plymouth calendar featuring families of choice. Makes a great gift! \$25 each. Use the link to order in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

***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.

***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.

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.

## **The Work of Christmas**

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among people,  
To make music in the heart

~Howard Thurman