

Sunday Services

August 20, 2023 - Proper
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Announcements

The Plymouth Herald is on hiatus. Weekly publication resumes August 30. Stay up to date at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org, and look for periodic email updates.

Plan Now to attend worship Sunday, September 10, as we begin our church program year. Let us move forward together to see what the Spirit has in store!

Bring Clothing and Shoes Plymouth is a proud sponsor of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound. You can help by dropping off gently used clothing and shoes of any size at the church in the grey bin by the elevator on the 1st floor. Contact Toni Arthur, TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org with questions.

Who To Go To For What A link to a guide for who on staff to contact with your needs or questions is posted on our "Meet The Staff" page under the "About" tab at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. The guide includes areas of responsibility and contact information.

Licks of Fire Join us as we end medical debt for the most impacted in the Pacific Northwest, the South, and in places where the crisis of medical debt looms. Read how you can get involved in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Help Wanted If you can provide purchased, pre-packaged food and arrange it on a platter in the kitchen before worship for coffee hour following worship, please contact Toni Arthur (TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Your help with this ministry of hospitality is greatly appreciated!

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.

Prerecorded Welcome

Prelude

Akahi by Ernest Kaleihoku Ka'ai
Joe Williams, piano

Call to Worship

One: God has set this day before us,

Many: A day set apart, a day of rest and praise.

One: God has set our lives before us,

Many: A span of years in which we love, and learn, and serve.

One: God has set God's seal upon our hearts,

Many: So that we might live fully in deep love.

One: Let us worship God.

Opening Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory (1, 3, 5)

NCH 436

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

Prayer of Confession

Responsively

One: Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful.

Many: We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.

One: We love with condition.

Many: We judge and condemn.

One: We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes.

Many: We do not turn to You as the source of our healing.

One: Forgive us, we pray.

Many: Empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service.

Assurance of Grace

Friends, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and be reminded of this surpassing grace – we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

Welcome, Land and Labor Acknowledgment

Welcome guests and distribute guest info cards.

Invite people to coffee hour.

Labor and Land Acknowledgment:

Plymouth Church acknowledges the original stewards of this land that we occupy, the Duwamish people, and stand with them in their fight to become federally recognized tribe. In addition, we offer a labor acknowledgement for the African American enslaved upon whose backs this country gained much of its wealth, as well as the work and lives of other minoritized people who emigrated to this country. In our journey to become more fully the church, we honor our social location of power and privilege, and our position to do justice within and in the world, and recognize that such a statement is only the beginning of the work to which we are called.

Sharing the Peace

Prayers of the People & The Prayer of Jesus

"There Is Something I Wanted To Tell You"

from Guerillas of Grace: Prayers for the Battle

by Ted Loder

Holy One, there is something I wanted to tell you, but there have been errands to run, bills to pay, arrangements to make, meetings to attend, friends to entertain, washing to do...and I forget what it is I wanted to say to you, and mostly I forget what I'm about, or why.

O God, don't forget me, please, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Eternal One, there is something I wanted to tell you, but my mind races with worrying and watching, with weighing and planning, with rutted slights and pothole grievances, with leaky dreams and leaky plumbing and leaking relationships I keep trying to plug up; and my attention is preoccupied with loneliness, with doubt, and with things I covet; and I forget what it is I wanted to say to you and how to say it honestly or how to do much of anything.

O God, don't forget me, please, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Almighty One, there is something I wanted to ask you, but I stumble along the edge of a nameless rage, haunted by a hundred floating fears of terrorists of all kinds, of losing my job, of failing, of getting sick and old, of having loved ones die, of dying, of having no one love me, not even myself, and of not being sure who I am or that I am worth very much, and...I forget what the real question is that I wanted to ask, and I forget to listen anyway because you seem unreal and far away, and I forget what it is I have forgotten.

O God, don't forget me, please, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

O Loving Parent in Heaven, perhaps you've already heard what I wanted to tell you. What I wanted to ask is, forgive me, heal me, increase my courage, please. Renew in me a little of love and faith, and a sense of confidence, and a vision of what it might mean to live as though you were real, and I mattered, and everyone was sister and brother. What I wanted to ask in my blundering way is, don't give up on me, don't become too sad about me, but laugh with me, and try again with me, and I will try again with me, and I will with you, too.

What I wanted to ask is for peace enough to want and work for more, for joy enough to share, and for awareness that is keen enough to sense your presence here, now, there, then, always. Amen.

Prayer List:

John Adams (Father of Katherine Guthrie), Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Michelle J. Bennett (Sister of Dawn Bennett), Merryn Bentley (Granddaughter of Al & Judy Bentley), Alvina Mae & Walter Bethel (Friends of Karen Clark), Susan Carter (Mother of Heather Banks & Kathleen Bernard), Mike Correy (Friend of Karen Clark), Sue Ellen Daniel (Friend of Barb Laski), Mark & JT Edwards, JoAnn English (Relative of Lucian Guthrie), Marni Good (Friend of Ricky Powell), Floyd Gossett, Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Lucian Guthrie, Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), The Keith Family (Friends of Mari Mitchell and Alex), Concetta Lewis (Sister of Jo-Ann Guthrie), Lindsey (Niece of Nan Macy), Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Paula Orrego, Jim Oswald (Friend of Bing Tso), Anna Partch (Friend of Sari Breznau), Joshua Robinson (Grandson of Patricia Valentine), Jose Robles and Family, Rachel Sebastian (Friend of Jeanette Hagen), Kyna Shilling, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon), Pluma Wright (Friend of Glenda Carper), Judy Young (Friend of Glenda Carper), Judy Young (Friend of Glenda Carper), Ashley and the Zorich Family (Granddaughter of Betty Eberharter)

Prayer of Jesus

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.

Call to Offering

Each of us is a fragile and complete miracle,
evidence of God's creative hands,
and amazing grace.

We are each unique,
unrepeatable gifts to the world.

We are proof of God's love.

And so we who are the gifts of creation
now give gifts to our Creator.

Gifts brought in love.

*Remind those in person to put offering in basket on chancel table and
those online to follow directions on screen.

Offering Music

There's Something About That Name by William J. Gaither

Jerry Rice, voice

Joe Williams, piano

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Help us to be co-conspirators of love and justice, for we have received so
freely from you
and give as freely in our turn. Make us available, involved and engaged.
Make us one.
Amen.

Contemporary Voice

Objects

by Triztessa

My Body Is Not Your Muse

by Dinara Tengri

We aren't,

after all,

objects

you fit into

the shape of your

wants and needs or

whatever kind of life

you lead us

and you turn me

like a marvel

like a caveman

discovering

this light

and then you switch

I am not the type

I am not the end of the game

I am not the comfort

You seek.

My Body Is Not Your Muse by Dinara Tengri

My hair is not a raven's wing,

A wave of black, a river whose

treacherous shores

you long to explore.

My [breasts] are no doves: soft and fluttering;

No Promised Land of milk and honey:

there is no one to welcome you home.

My stomach is not a valley of wonders

leading to a treasure so many men
have died for.

My eyes are not slanted windows to some
ancient Eastern wisdom; no obsidian pools
that many great warriors have drowned in.

My features are not exotic
My skin is not silken
My soul is not unknowable
My mind is not inscrutable
And my body is not your muse.

Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 17:55-18:9

1 Samuel 17:55-18:9

55 When Saul saw David go out to meet the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Whose son is this boy, Abner?" Abner said, "By the soul of the king, if I knew . . ." 56 Then the king said, "You ask whose son the stripling is." 57 As David returned from smiting the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. 58 And Saul said to him, "Whose son are you boy?" And David answered, "I am the son of your enslaved Jesse the Bethlehemite."

18:1 Now it happened by the time David finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. 2 And Saul took David that day and would not permit him to return to the house of his father. 3 Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as his own soul. 4 So Jonathan stripped off the robe that was on him and gave it to David and his armor and even his sword and his bow and also his belt. 5 David went out and in all to which Saul sent him, was successful; then Saul placed him over the warriors. And it was good in the eyes of all the people, even in the eyes of the enslaved of Saul.

6 And it was as they were coming back, when David returned from smiting the Philistine, the women came out of all the towns of Israel to sing with the dances to meet King Saul with hand drums, with rejoicing, and with musical instruments. 7 And the women sang in response to each another as they reveled,

"Saul has killed his thousands,
and David his ten thousands."

8 And Saul raged, hot; this saying was evil in his eyes. And he said, "They gave to David ten thousands and to me they gave thousands. There is only the throne left for him!" 9 So it was that Saul eyed David from that day on.

Anthem

"Marche des Davidsbündler contre les Philistins" from Carnival by Robert Schumann

Joe Williams, piano

Sermon

When David Speaks

Hymn of Commitment

Reflection video

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Dream Boat by Florence Price

Joe Williams, piano
