

Sunday Services

August 27, 2023 - Proper
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Announcements

The Plymouth Herald 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

Call to Worship

One: We see light, hope, and joy;

Many: We bring heart, soul, mind, and body;

One: We share blessings and fears;

Many: We bring faith and doubt.

One: With all that we are and all that we have, let us worship God.

Opening Hymn

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing
NCH 17

To you, O God, all creatures sing,
and all creation, everything
sings your praises,
alleluia!

Your burning sun with golden beam,
your silver moon with softer gleam
sing your praises,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Your wind that blows the tempest by,
your clouds that sail across the sky
sing your praises,
alleluia!

Your morning rises with a song,
and lights of evening sing along,
sing your praises,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Your flowing waters, crystal clear,
make melodies for you to hear,
sing your praises,
alleluia!

Your fire, bountiful and bright,
remembering your warmth and light,
sings your praises,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

To you, O God, day after day,
your planet earth in every way,
sing your praises,
alleluia!

As savory fruit and fragrant flower
show forth your glory and your power,
singing praises,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer of Confession

Renewing God, we confess that all too often we conform to this world. The voices we prioritize are far removed from you. We drown out your Still Speaking Voice with the noise of consumerism and commercialism. We ignore your gentle nudge in favor of our own desires and comfort. We fail to actively love our neighbor, care for your creation, or even honor ourselves as your divine crafting. We resist transformation through the renewing of our minds and settle for echo chambers of thoughts and ideas that deplete and deprive our souls of abundant life. Forgive us and continually challenge us to be the people you have empowered and equipped us to be.

Assurance of Grace

The One who created you knows your struggles. God is still speaking, renewing, and transforming. God's grace is still sufficient and made new each and every day. God has faith in you and abides with you in the journey of new life and transformation. Amen.

Welcome, Land and Labor Acknowledgment, & Birthday/Anniversary Celebration

Welcome guests and distribute guest info cards.

Invite people to coffee hour.

Labor and Land Acknowledgment:

Plymouth Church acknowledges the land that we occupy, which was stewarded by the Duwamish people, the first stewards of this land. We also 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 others 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.

Doug, please be prepared to play birthday video.

Happy birthday to you;

Anniversary, too!

We are so excited to share them with you.

May God bless and keep you in all that you do.

Happy birthday! (*And anniversary!*)

Happy birthday! (*And anniversary!*)

Happy birthday to you!

Sharing the Peace

Prayers of the People & The Prayer of Jesus

"Martin Luther King, Jr."

by Dr. Walter Brueggemann

from his collection, Prayers for a Privileged People

commemorating the 60th anniversary

of the March on Washington, August 28, 1963

Some of us are old enough to remember the balcony in Memphis, the sanitation workers' strike, the shot that broke flesh, the loss of Martin, and then the mule-drawn wagon, and the funeral, and the riots, the violence, the fears, and the failure.

All of us know the crowd in D.C. and "I Have a Dream," the Birmingham jail, the broad stream of violence, and his steadfast nonviolence in Albany and in Skokie and in Selma.

All of us know his awesome, daring speech, his bravery, his hope, and his generative word. And we know the relentlessness of our government in pursuit of him, and the endless surveillance and harassment of this drum major for justice.

At this distance, we have little access to how it was then concerning ambiguity, and fear, and reluctance, and violence, and injustice.

We do not doubt, O God, that you have persisted even beyond Martin's passion, even beyond Martin's brilliance, even beyond Martin's fidelity, and his loss.

We do not doubt that through him and beyond him, you, holy God of the prophets, are still pledged to justice and peace and liberty for all.

We remember Martin in gratitude ... and chagrin. And we pledge, amid our stressed ambiguities, to dream as he did, to walk the walk, and to talk the talk of your coming kin-dom.

We pledge, so sure that your truth will not stop its march until your will is done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

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

The gifts of faith come to us in many ways, and the miracles we witness are not always so obvious. May the manifestation of God's great abundance in our lives inspire us to generosity in as many ways as we see God's love unfurl.

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

Offering Music

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, we thank you for revealing yourself to us in ways both big and small, in ways miraculous and mundane. Use our gifts to further your loving justice in our communities near and far. Amen.

Contemporary Voice

What the Living Do

by Marie Howe

Johnny, the kitchen sink has been clogged for days, some utensil probably fell down there.

And the Drano won't work but smells dangerous, and the crusty dishes have piled up

waiting for the plumber I still haven't called. This is the everyday we spoke of.

It's winter again: the sky's a deep, headstrong blue, and the sunlight pours through

the open living-room windows because the heat's on too high in here and I can't turn it off.

For weeks now, driving, or dropping a bag of groceries in the street, the bag breaking,

I've been thinking: This is what the living do. And yesterday, hurrying along those

wobbly bricks in the Cambridge sidewalk, spilling my coffee down my wrist and sleeve,

I thought it again, and again later, when buying a hairbrush: This is it. Parking. Slamming the car door shut in the cold. What you called that yearning.

What you finally gave up. We want the spring to come and the winter to pass. We want

whoever to call or not call, a letter, a kiss—we want more and more and then more of it.

But there are moments, walking, when I catch a glimpse of myself in the window glass,

say, the window of the corner video store, and I'm gripped by a cherishing so deep

for my own blowing hair, chapped face, and unbuttoned coat that I'm speechless:

I am living. I remember you.

Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 14:49-51; 18:17-21, 29

Matthew 7:15-20

Doug, we will use both scripture passages.

1 Samuel 14:49-51; 18:17-21, 29

49 Now the sons of Saul were Jonathan, Ishvi, and Malchishua, and the names of his two daughters: the name of the firstborn was Merab, and the name of the younger, Michal. 50 The name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam daughter of Ahimaaz and the name of the commander of his army was Abner son of Ner, Saul's uncle. 51 Kish was the father of Saul and Ner the father of Abner was the son of Abiel.

18:17 Then Saul said to David, "Look, here is my older daughter Merab; I will give her to you as a wife; only be my valiant warrior and fight the battles of the HOLY ONE." For Saul said [to himself], "Let me not raise a hand against him rather let the hand of the Philistines do it." 18 Then David said to Saul, "Who am I and what is my lineage, my ancestral house in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the ruler [of Israel]?" 19 But at the time for giving Merab the daughter of Saul to David, it happened that she was given to Adriel the Meholathite as a wife.

20 Now [at the same time] Saul's daughter Michal loved David. Saul was told, and the matter was all right in his eyes. 21 So Saul said [to himself], "Let me give Michal to David that she may be a snare for him and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." So, Saul said to David a second time, "Through the second shall you be my son-in-law this day."

29 And Saul became the enemy of David every day from then.

Matthew 7:15-20

"Beware of false prophets, who will come to you all in sheep's clothing but inside are rapacious wolves. 16 By their fruits you will know them. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or from thistles, figs? 17 Thus, every good tree bears beautiful fruit, but the rotten tree bears wicked fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear wicked fruit, nor can a corrupt tree bear beautiful fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear beautiful fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will know them by their fruits.

Anthem

Sermon

Hymn of Commitment

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

NCH 25

Verses 1, 2, 4, 6

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while troubles last,
and our eternal home!

Charge and Benediction

Postlude
