

Sunday Services

**April 30, 2023 - 4th
Sunday of Easter**

Announcements

All Aboard! Horizon House residents can ride the charter bus to Plymouth on the first Sunday of every month. The bus will pick you up at Horizon House and bring you to Plymouth in time for the 10:30 am service and return you to Horizon House afterward.

Movies that Move Following 10:30 am worship **today**, we will view Disney's *Encanto* in Hildebrand Hall. Viewing is in-person viewing only. Online discussion **7 pm Wednesday, May 3**. (Link for discussion in Sunday Announcements at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org requires usual Plymouth passcode. If you need the passcode, contact DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

Bible Study Sip & Chew Event Please join us for Bible study and fun at BluWater Bistro - Leschi on **4-6 pm Saturday, May 6**. Participants are responsible for their own food and drink. RSVP to Toni Arthur, TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. by May 2.

Undoing Institutional Racism Workshops are designed to educate, challenge and empower people to "undo" the racist structures that hinder effective social change. Next workshop is **May 4-6**. See full schedule and details PinwSeattle.org.

Connect with Congregational Council Members of the Plymouth community are invited to meet with Council members online via Zoom 7-8 pm the second Wednesday of each month. **Next opportunity is May 10**. Email Diane Jacobsen, (DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org), by 5 pm the day of the meeting for the Zoom link.

Celebrate Panamanian Black History with a special tea party at Plymouth UCC **1 pm Saturday, May 13**. Enjoy music, performances, delicious food and gifts, all surrounded by the beauty of Afro-Panamanian culture. Admission \$30. Plan now for a day of surprises and fun.

Pop Some Tops! Come enjoy Plymouth Housing's Annual fundraiser to help end homelessness. Join us on **Friday, June 9 from 7 pm until midnight** for a night of dancing, drinks, and fun. Early bird tickets are now on sale through **May 1**, so get your tickets now at PlymouthHousing.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.

Did You Know... You can view past services on our website, PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Under the "Worship" tab, click "Recent Services." You can also view past services, musical performances and special events on our YouTube channel, Plymouth Church UCC.

Prerecorded Welcome

Prelude

"I. Adagio ma non tanto from" from Sonata in E Major BWV 1035 by J. S. Bach
Joyce Lee, flute
Joe Williams, piano

Call to Worship

It is good to be together, God, in this place, with these people, at this time, together listening for your voice. **In this hour of worship tell us about your kingdom of kindness so that we can seek it.** Show us your justice. **We want to walk with you, humbly, closely, daily.**

June
Hayakawa-
Fung

Opening Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

New Century Hymnal #4

Henry van Dyke

Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the storms of doubt
away;

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect
your rays,

Stars and angels sing around you, center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing
sea,

Chanting bird and flowing fountain, teach us what our praise
should be.

You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,

Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!

Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to you;

Teach us how to love each other, by that love our joy renew.

Mortals join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;

Boundless love is reigning o'er us, reconciling race and clan.

Ever singing move we forward, faithful in the midst of strife,

Joyful music leads us onward in the triumph song of life.

Person

Prayer of Confession

unison

O Lord, you are our shepherd,

And yet we want.

We lie down when we could act,

We stir the pot when we could offer peace,

We wander tempting paths instead of following you.

We see courage and comfort in earthly things rather than in you.

We hate our enemies and refuse to break bread with them,

We see scarcity even when you offer us abundance.

We pray for forgiveness, for your goodness and mercy,

So that we might dwell in You, in your grace, forever.

June
Hayakawa-
Fung

Assurance of Grace

adapted from enfleshed.com

Beloveds, God does not abandon us to the systems that destroy.

God does not bind us to our regrets.

Or forever hold us to what we once believed.

God says, come and follow!

Know forgiveness and know that love abounds. Justice shall be manifest.

Amen.

June
Hayakawa-
Fung

Welcome, Land and Labor Acknowledgment**Welcome guests and distribute guest info cards.**Rev. Kevin
Bechtold

Movies that Move - Encanto

Guest Preacher - Ara Lawrence

Ara Lawrence is from west Michigan and grew up both there, and South Carolina. During college she spent her summers in Bellingham, and has lived in Seattle since 2015. She received her M.Div from Princeton Theological Seminary, after which she earned a living as a bookseller, and worked with churches and organizations in central New Jersey around economic justice and LGBTQ+ religious expression. She was a pastoral intern at the Reformed Church of Highland Park in Highland Park, New Jersey where she preached and led worship, performed pastoral care visits, and assisted with hurricane Sandy rebuilding efforts. She also served in adult education at the Reformed Church of High Park in conjunction with Princeton Theological Seminary's teaching ministry program. Additionally, she has served on the board of Room for All, an open and affirming organization working within the Reformed Church in America, and has spoke at organizations like PFLAG and GSA. She currently works as a software engineer, and serves on the council of Plymouth Church.

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.

Sharing the PeaceRev. Kevin
Bechtold

Person

Prayers of the People & The Prayer of Jesus

When God Speaks Your Name

by Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes

I bet God doesn't call you Robert or Elizabeth.

The Beloved has a name for you

no one else has given you,

a name no one else has. No one.

Better than a nickname,

or even a heartfelt term of endearment.

The name of your soul,

declared to the universe in the language of mystery,

pronounceable only by God.

When you pray, it is for that name you are listening.

When God speaks your name

it is as when God says "Let there be light."

It is the name of who you alone are created to be,

the name by which God knows you,

calls you into life.

Listen for the silence in which that name is spoken.

(It takes time; it's a deep and wide silence.)

Listen for that name.

Let the one who alone calls you by name lead you out. Amen.

Scrolling Prayer List

Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Susan Carter (Mother

of Heather Banks & Kathleen Bernard), Sue Ellen Daniel

(Friend of Barb Laski), John Daniels, Eric Minea (Cousin of

Kristine Danzinger), Susan Emerson, JoAnn English (Relative

of Lucian Guthrie), Anna Florey, Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb

Laski), Diane Folkert & Family (Mother-in-law of Ara Lawrence),

Michelle J. Bennett (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Allie James

(Friend of Dawn Bennett), Irma Johnson (Friend of Toni Arthur),

Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), Concetta Lewis

Rev.

Donene

Blair

Person

(Sister of Jo-Ann Guthrie), Mamadou Diakhate (Friend of Floyd Gossett), Montecino Family, Paula Orrego, Jim Oswald (Friend of Bing Tso), Anna Partch (Friend of Sari Breznau), Jose Robles and Family, Doug Ryan (Brother of Mary Ryan), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon)

Our hearts are with Glen & Joan Griswold and family on the one-year anniversary of the loss of Glen's mother, Juno Griswold

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

Hospitality – a warm welcome – is generosity. When we welcome each child of God into the life of this church, we extend God's own generous hospitality. Our gifts help this graceful ministry to flourish and to grow and to give glory to God. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

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

Rev.
Donene
Blair

Offering Music

"Idylle" from Suite, op. 116 by Benjamin Godard

Joyce Lee, flute

Joe Williams, piano

Doxology

Person

Prayer of Dedication

Lord God, thank you for the blessings
you have given us year after year.
Help us to wisely use the time you have given us.
Lead us, while we remain here on earth,
to serve you through all the people around us
who are in need.
Amen.

Rev.
Donene
Blair

Contemporary Voice

by Ansel Elkins

Autobiography of Eve

Wearing nothing but snakeskin
boots, I blazed a footpath, the first
radical road out of that old kingdom
toward a new unknown.

When I came to those great flaming gates
of burning gold,

I stood alone in terror at the threshold
between Paradise and Earth.

There I heard a mysterious echo:
my own voice
singing to me from across the forbidden
side. I shook awake--
at once alive in a blaze of green fire.

Let it be known: I did not fall from grace.

I leapt
to freedom.

Person

Scripture Reading

Matthew 22:23-33

Matthew 22:23-33

Rev. Kevin
Bechtold

23 The same day [that Jesus taught about taxes] some Sadducees came to him, saying there is no resurrection; and they questioned him, saying, 24 “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies without having children, his brother shall marry the [widow] woman, and raise up offspring for his brother.’ 25 Now there were seven brothers among us; the first married, and without having offspring, leaving the woman to his brother. 26 The same for the second, and the third, to the seventh. 27 After everything the woman died. 28 In the resurrection, then, for which of the seven will she be wife? For they all had her.” 29 Jesus answered them, “You all are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, rather they are like angels in heaven. 31 And about the resurrection of the dead, have you all not read what was said to you by God, 32 ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? God is God not of the dead, but of the living.” 33 And when the crowd heard it, they were astounded at his teaching.

Anthem

"The Lamb" from Songs of Innocence by Leanard Enns

Plymouth Singers

Joyce Lee, flute

Joe Williams, piano

Sermon

Min. Ara
Lawrence

Hymn of Commitment

There is a Balm in Gilead (African American Spiritual) arr. Dave Ragland

There is a balm in Gilead To make the wounded whole
There is a balm in Gilead To heal the sin-sick soul

If you cannot preach like Peter If you cannot pray like Paul
You can tell the love of Jesus And say he died for all

There is a balm in Gilead To make the wounded whole
There is a balm in Gilead To heal the sin-sick soul

Charge and Benediction

Min. Ara Lawrence

Postlude

"A Strange Song" by Chip Taylor & Harry Belafonte

DuWayne Andrews Jr, voice

Joyce Lee, flute

Joe Williams, piano
