

Sunday Services

May 7, 2023 - 5th Sunday
of Easter

Person

Announcements

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. 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

Finale from Variations on a Folksong (Peter, Go Ring Dem Bells) by
Florence Price
Dr. Mikhail Johnson, organ

Call to Worship

Come all of you, you widows, lonely, orphans; displaced;
immigrant; you downtrodden; same gender-loving; unemployed;
you traumatized and impacted; oppressed; people of every age;
you trans and nonbinary; discouraged, all who need God most.

June

Hayakawa-

Fung

Come everyone to have fellowship with God and each other.

The God who bandages wounds, heals the sick, feeds the hungry, provides for the orphans and widows, raises up the downtrodden and gives hope to the hopeless.

The God of nature who provides rain at the right time and blankets to soil, the source of our physical life.

The God who brings us together and makes us one.

In Christ, there is no east or west! We come knowing we are welcome here.

Opening Hymn

#240 Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Author: Robert Williams

Tune: LLANFAIR

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

To the tomb the women bring, Alleluia!
Spices rich, an offering, Alleluia!
Asking where might Jesus be, Alleluia!
Savior come to set us free, Alleluia!

There the angel clothed in white, Alleluia!
Tells the news with great delight, Alleluia!
This the news the angel gives, Alleluia!
That the Sovereign glorious lives, Alleluia!

"Hasten now to Galilee," Alleluia!
"Tell the others what you see! Alleluia!
With excitement trembling, Alleluia!
Off they run, good news to bring, Alleluia!

Christ appears in full array, Alleluia!
Sing with joy this Paschal day, Alleluia!
Christ now from the dead is raised, Alleluia!
Holy Trinity be praised, Alleluia!

Person

Welcome, Land and Labor Acknowledgment

Welcome guests and distribute guest info cards.

Rev. Dr.
Kelle
Brown

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.

Communion**Traditional prayer of Jesus on Communion Sunday**

Lord God, as we come to share the richness of your table, we cannot forget the rawness of the earth. We cannot take bread and forget those who are hungry. Your world is one world and we are stewards of its nourishment.

Rev. Dr.
Kelle
Brown

Lord, put our fullness at the service of the poor.

We cannot take drink and forget the waters we made toxic and those who are thirsty. The ground and the rootless, the earth and its weary people cry out for justice.

Lord, put our fullness at the service of the empty.

We cannot hear your words of peace and forget the world at war or, if not at war, then preparing for it.

Show us quickly, Lord, how to turn weapons into welcome signs and the lust for power into a desire for peace.

We cannot celebrate the feast of your family and forget our divisions. We are one in spirit, but not in fact. History and hurt still dismember us.

Lord, heal your church in every brokenness.**Let us pray:**

Let us pray for the breaking in of God's kingdom in our world today.

Lord God, because Jesus has taught us to trust you in all things, we hold to his word and share his plea:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Where nations budget for war while Christ says, "Put [away] your sword":

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Where too many waste food while Christ says, "I was hungry . . . I was thirsty . . .":

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Where powerful governments, powerful people and holders of tradition and systems claim their policies and ways of being are "heaven-blessed", while Scripture states that God helps the powerless:

Your kindom come, your will be done.

Where the innocent are killed openly and often, as in the case of Jordan Neely, executed for being poor, Black and disabled:

Your kindom come, your will be done.

Where Christians seek the kingdom in the shape of their own church, as if Christ came to build up and not to break down barriers:

Your kindom come, your will be done.

Where our prayers falter, our faith weakens, our light grows dim:

Your kindom come, your will be done.

Where Jesus Christ calls us:

Your kindom come, your will be done.

Loving God, you have declared that your kindom is among us. Open our ears to hear it, our hands to serve it, our hearts to hold it. And now hold with great kindness those on our prayer list.

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, **Mark & JT Edwards**, Susan Emerson (Mother of Kate Forrester), JoAnn English (Relative of Lucian Guthrie), Concetta Lewis (Sister of Jo-Ann Guthrie), Anna Florey, Marni Good (Friend of Ricky Powell), 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), Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), 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)

We lovingly remember Janet Steputis Perry on the one-year anniversary of her passing.

Our hearts are with Albert Gordon on the one-year anniversary of the passing of his wife Della.

Prayer of Jesus

Holy One, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

In Jesus, we come to understand. God enfleshed as a Brown, Jewish, Palestinian man. A refugee. Born into a frowned upon familial structure, with neither security of wealth nor access to power. His life is a witness to hope that does not come from climbing ladders of power or begging for crumbs of dignity. Hope that is born in community, nurturing love, taking risks together, multiplying what we have and finding it is more than enough.

Jesus shared a meal with his companions, his community, his chosen family, before he would be arrested.

Filled with love for them, he took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:

“This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying:
“This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.”

In remembrance of Jesus,
executed by the state,
faithful to the end.

Gracious One, may your Spirit be poured out upon these elements. May this bread and this cup be for us a revival of hope and a renewal of courage as we encounter your presence

among the ordinary gifts of life. Amen

Communion is a sacrament of community. It is the time to seek forgiveness, to pursue repentance, to have eyes that watch for the face of God in the world and among the people.

There will be ____ station(s) and a rover.

Gluten free elements

Rev. Donene Blair available for prayer

The table is set. Come, for all things are ready.

Communion Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees African, American traditional

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you once again for this meal, this day, this gift of resurrection. Send us out into your world to be the presence of love and hope to all who despair and fear, that all may have life, and life abundant. Alleluia, alleluia! Amen.

Sharing the Peace

Dr. Brown

Call to Offering

We live in an “already-but-not-yet” time. We look around and see the healthy green crops of justice and peace struggling to grow, mixed in with the weeds of violence and suffering and war. We wait like the farmer for the bountiful harvest of God’s reign, and in the meantime, we’re working hard to nurture every little green shoot of hope.

These gifts today are one way we tend the garden, staking our hope on the future yield promised by 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.

June
Hayakawa-
Fung

Offering Music

"The Bells" from Spiritual Suite by Margaret Bonds
Dr. Mikhail Johnson, piano

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

unison

We give you this offering today as an act of love and compassion to the world. Take it and use it for the building of the Beloved Community. May these gifts allow us to be the hands and feet of God. Amen

Rev.
Donene
Blair

Contemporary Voice
Still I RiseBY MAYA ANGELOU

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise.

Person

Scripture Reading

John 11:17-27

Rev.
Donene
Blair

John 11:17-27

17 When Jesus arrived [in Bethany], he found that for four days Lazarus had already been in the tomb. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. 19 So, many of the Judeans had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she met him, however Mary remained at the house. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Rabbi, if you had been here, my brother would never have died. 22 Yet even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even though they die, they will live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Rabbi, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who comes into the world."

Anthem

Think on These Things by Dr. Mikhail Johnson
(In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month)
Plymouth Singers

Sermon

Still, I Rise

Hymn of Commitment

I#394

In Christ There Is No East or West

Author: John Oxenham

Author (st. 3): Laurence Hull Stookey

Tune: McKEE

Arranger: Harry T. Burleigh

In Christ there is no East or West,

in Christ no South or North;

But one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;

God's service is the golden cord
close binding human kind.

In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek,
and neither slave nor free;

For men and women live in God,
and all are kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West,
in Christ meet South and North;

One joyous, true community
throughout the whole wide earth.

Charge and Benediction

Dr. Brown

Postlude

Improvisation

Dr. Mikhail Johnson, organ
