

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, January 7, 2024
Worship In the Sanctuary or Online

Epiphany Sunday
Sacrament of Communion

Matthew 2:1–12
Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

11:30 am Coffee Hour, Lounge

Find links to video stream and worship bulletin and participate online at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

If you have personal concerns, you may contact a minister or member of the Pastoral Care Team by calling the pastoral care line, **206-639-7739**, checked daily.

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 UCC.



1217 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101-3199

Return Service Requested

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Michelle J. Bennett (Sister of Dawn Bennett), Walter Bethel (Friend of Karen Clark), Susan Carter (Mother of Heather Banks & Kathleen Bernard), Bruce Chittick & family (Friend of Karen Clark), Mike Correy (Friend of Karen Clark), Sue Ellen Daniel (Friend of Barb Laski), Mykesha Davis (Daughter of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Mark & JT Edwards, Diane Folkert (Mother-in-law of Ara Lawrence), Sally Galliher (Cousin of Doug Stultz), Marni Good (Friend of Ricky Powell), Floyd Gossett, Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Lucian Guthrie, **El Harp (Friend of Bill & Marilyn Bumpas)**, Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Joanna Lemly and Family (Sister of Hayden McManus), Dr. Maxine Mimms, James McDowell (Cousin of Jerry Rice), Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Ian Nelson (Son of Diane Nelson), Paula Orrego, Mary Margaret Pruitt, Jose Robles and Family, Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), Irene Wall (Friend of Ruth Williamson), Charon Washington (Sister of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon)

Our hearts are with the family and friends of Rev. Tom Stiers, on the one-year anniversary of his passing.

bold=newly added. Names will remain on list for six weeks unless requested.



The Plymouth *Herald* is published every week. **Deadline is Monday, 10 am, for Wednesday publication.** Stay current with Plymouth happenings on our website. Join us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram! [f](#) [t](#) [i](#)



THIS CHRISTMAS



Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

In the midst of so much activity, it is easy to lose sight of the reason for the season. After multiple meetings and deadlines, I found myself struggling to enter the Christmas spirit. I felt as if I was crawling into the moment of Christmas, dragging my gifts through life's circumstances with the hope that with preparation, it would be enough.

The spirit of the holy doesn't seem to judge our state too harshly. Together, we gathered with all the anticipation we could muster, and God Immanuel met us with joy and hope reborn.

My heart bursts with gratitude for the many people who volunteered to light the Advent and Christ candle, to the choir who sung with power and love, and to every person who joined us in song, prayer, and thanksgiving! Between the two worship experiences and online congregation, hundreds of us celebrated together. And, there were cookies, thanks to Joanie Stultz!

Special gratitude to all who lead readings and prayers, and to the phenomenal musicians curated by our Director of Music and Arts, Joe Williams. I am grateful for the inclusive and dynamic worship that featured God's beloved ones of every sort. We were graced with lovely angels who floated in on "Angels We Have Heard On High" and we sang together the songs of the season. For the bottom of my heart, thank you, Joe, for a beautifully exquisite, invitational experience.

From "Scandalize My Name", beautifully performed by Ibidunni Ojikutu and Amy Van Mechelen; to "Give Love on Christmas Day" lead by Indigo Brown; to "I Wonder As I Wander", by Jon and Scott Palmason, and the choir singing "Christmas Time is Here" by Vince Guaraldi & Lee Mendelson, the beauty of the season flooded the room. Lighting the candles with you and knowing with confidence you carry the light with you blessed my heart. And, "Sleigh Ride" as played by the gifted organist Dr. Stephen Price sent us into realms of joy.

This Christmas didn't rely on perfect circumstances, or even our best attempts to get into the season. Every year, God is faithful. The Christ child is reborn, and so are we.

This Christmas is a mood that doesn't end simply because the day is over. It can abide in us as we continue with anticipation and excitement as to what more the spirit has in store for Plymouth Church.

May your life sing with the vibration of hope for days to come. Happy New Year to one and all. —Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown 🌍

STAR WORDS

For Epiphany, we share Star Words with you. They are meant to be guiding words for your year and an opportunity to reflect on who you are and shall be as we follow the star. My hope is that like the magi who followed the star to discover Jesus, we also seek the him, trusting the path will lead us to wholeness by way of our star.



Give your word time to bloom inside you.

You should receive your star word in the mail this week. Trust the word you receive to select you. It is natural to want to police which word you receive, however, give it time to bloom in its meaning for you.

If you do not receive your word in time for Epiphany, don't worry—it's on the way. If you do not receive one by mail, contact Toni Arthur (TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) to send you a word via email. 🌍

SOUND MEDICINE MEDITATION



Join Tory at 12:30 pm January 14

Tory Trujillo offers a deeply healing Sound Medicine Meditation. Tory will center the group with breath work and embodiment practices and will continue by playing Quartz Crystal Singing Bowls, A Mayan Ocean Drum, and improvising vocal toning to relax, heal, and to help anchor and amplify each participant's intentions.

Participants are encouraged to bring mats or pillows; some yoga mats and blankets will be available. Sessions last between 60 and 75 minutes. **Next session is January 14, 12:30 pm in Hildebrand Hall. Suggested Donation \$20.** 🌍



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CELEBRATE DR. KING'S MISSION



Join Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown January 15

Join Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown on the anniversary of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's birthday, to honor the past and the countless champions who came before, stood alongside, and have continued after King was taken from us — fighting for both our present and our future because “an injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

2024 marks forty-one years that the residents of Seattle and King County have and continue to honor the legacy and the mission of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a rally, march, internships, workshops, youth led programming and job fair. The first forty years were but the beginning. Seattle's annual MLK celebration aims to inspire this and future generations to live up to Dr. King's dream of achieving the Beloved Community.

- **Youth Event 2-4 pm January 14:** This event offers a platform for young leaders to exhibit their talents, connect with community leaders, and engage in meaningful discussions. Join us on January 14, 2024, at 2 pm at the McKinney Center for a cultivating experience with the community.
- **Workshops, January 9-15:** Workshops offered in-person and online. Come prepared to be engaged!
- **Rally and March, January 15:** Gather at Garfield High School (400 23rd Ave, Seattle 98122). Indoor Rally at 11 am, with Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown speaking. March at 12:30 pm. The march route will be shared publicly 1 week in advance.

Learn more and register at SeattleMLKCoalition.org. Questions? Contact MLKseattle@gmail.com.

PUT FAITH IN ACTION

Faith Action Network's Interfaith Advocacy Day, 9 am-3 pm February 8 in Olympia, brings the voices of compassion and justice to our elected leaders. Meeting with your legislators on this day is putting your faith into action.

Visit FanWa.org to register. Registration deadline is January 29. We are limited to 200 participants and encourage you to sign up early. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, there is no cost to participate. We're excited to have you be FAN in the halls of power on this great day!



JANUARY IS SLAVERY & HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

President Barack Obama increased awareness by declaring January National Slavery and Human Trafficking Month in 2010. The month brings together law enforcement and organizations across the nation striving to eliminate human trafficking. Join the effort to raise awareness and prevent human trafficking.



According to the International Labor Organization, approximately 40 million human trafficking victims exist worldwide. Through a variety of tactics, including violence and threats, traffickers force their victims into labor or commercial sex. Every victim is forced against their will to comply. Human trafficking impacts all races, every class, religion, and gender. It even spans every ability. As a result, the issue belongs to every community in the country.

Despite the bleak picture human trafficking paints, there are ways to take action.

- **Knowledge** – Learn how it happens. Visit DHS.gov/blue-campaign to find out what human trafficking looks like.
- **Get involved** – If you suspect human trafficking report it. In the U.S. call 1.866.347.2423. You can also volunteer through organizations committed to eliminating human trafficking. Contact local, state, and regional service organizations to volunteer time, services, or a donation.
- **Get help** – If you need help, call 1.888.373.7888. Visit DHS.gov/blue-campaign to learn more.

ENGENDERING SPIRIT

Dr. Sherry Warren, UCC Minister for Women's and Gender Justice, looked around and saw a need for more discussion around faith and gender: gender roles, reproductive justice and women's role in the church. So she went to work putting together an educational video series addressing these issues.

Warren, who is part of the Gender & Sexuality Justice Ministries Team, has launched “Engendering Spirit.” Anyone can join in and view the series for free by registering using the link in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Once registered you'll be notified when a new episode drops.



SUPPORT OUR PANTRIES

The former sign boards outside our building are now small pantries for the community, filled with food, hand warmers and other items. The pantries provide an outward display of compassion and solidarity with those experiencing homelessness or are under-resourced. You are invited to support this ministry! Feel free to add bottled water, protein bars, or even notes that remind the reader that they are beloved. —Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown



A simple gesture can mean so much.

SPIRIT OF THE SALMON PEOPLE



Watch the documentary online.

“Spirit of the Salmon People: The Muckleshoot Story” is a documentary produced by KOMO News in partnership with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, telling their story of survival and perseverance and what they are doing now to ensure their culture stands the test of time. The documentary explores the tribe's unique

connection to their relatives of the sea and what they are doing to keep the salmon population thriving for everyone. Use the link in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org to watch, or go to the KOMO News YouTube channel.

JOIN 154TH ANNUAL MEETING

Plan to attend Plymouth's 154th Annual Meeting Sunday, January 28, 2024. The Annual Report will be reviewed, and your vote is needed to install new lay leadership and approve the 2024 budget for our church family. Celebrate 2023 and look ahead to 2024. This meeting will take place in person and live online.



After worship January 28.

WHO TO GO TO FOR WHAT

We now have a “Who To Go To For What” guide as well as an Organizational Chart that shows all of the Clergy and Staff. Find the link to the guide on the “Meet our Staff” page under the “About” tab at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org (in the blue banner, under “Meet Our Amazing Team.”) The guide includes contact information and particulars about workweek schedules.

OUR FAITH, OUR VOTE

As the presidential election year gets under way, the UCC will launch the 2024 Our Faith Our Vote Campaign. It offers resources for congregations and individuals throughout the year to encourage voter registration and empowerment.

Politics is often taken to be a dirty word, but political processes are simply the way communities organize their common life. For people of faith, public policy is never merely politics. It is a way of living out the commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is fitting for local congregations and church structures across the country to develop nonpartisan programs to help the faith community reflect upon the political order. We are in the midst of ongoing climate and environmental justice crises. And with the moral weight of millions, it is incumbent on every person to take action. Around the world, countless activists, academics, religious leaders, and ordinary people are fighting to help ensure a livable and just world. We need to elect climate justice leaders. On election day, we have the chance to decide whether those in power will kick the can down the road or lead the way for climate justice. As people of faith, we must vote our values.

Understand your rights as an individual and as a part of a faith community, check your registration status, and find concrete tools to advocate for the issues you care about. It is important to be informed on the issues at stake and to ensure that each person's voice is heard and their sacred right to vote is protected.

Read more at UCC.org/Our-Faith-Our-Vote.

BE THE CHURCH

Covenant giving includes your time and using your gifts. There are many tasks that you can do. Training provided if needed. Here are a few volunteer opportunities. Contact Toni Arthur, TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org, to get started:

- Participate in money counting after worship
- Prepare communion or food for coffee hour
- Become a greeter on Sundays and special events
- Answer phones 2 days a week from 10 am-2 pm
- Join the Companion Ministry



Share your time and talent!