

Illumine

10:30 AM SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023

WELCOME!

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*“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.*

PLYMOUTH UCC PURPOSE

Growing people of faith who participate in God’s work in the world.

PLYMOUTH UCC VISION

Plymouth Church UCC is a Christian Community open to the transforming Spirit of God.



Thank you for worshipping online with us today. Please like and send us a greeting on
Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



The church office will be closed during concerns about the coronavirus.

Check PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for updates.

All pastoral care will be via telephone or other electronic means.

If you have personal concerns, you may contact a minister or member of the Pastoral Care Team
via e-mails below, or call the pastoral care line, **206.639.7739**, checked daily.

KBrown@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

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For administrative needs, or other non-pastoral care questions, please email:

DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

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10:30 AM SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Worship with Plymouth Church UCC begins with meditation.

The quiet of this place is meant to encourage and deepen your own inner work.

Thank you for entering this place, this hour, by honoring the spirit of worship.

PRELUDE *A Gay Moment*
From *Thumbnail Sketches of A Day in the Life of a Washerwoman*
by Florence Price (1887-1953)

Joe Williams, Piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Donene Blair
by Rumi

One: I know you're tired but come, this is the way...

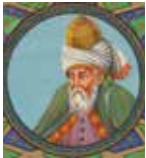
Many: The wound is the place where the light enters you.

One: In your light, I learn how to love.
In your beauty, how to make poems.

Many: The wound is the place where the light enters you.

One: You dance inside my chest where no one sees you,
but sometimes I do, and that sight becomes this art.

All: The wound is the place where the light enters you.



*Rumi was a
13th-century
Persian poet,
Islamic scholar
and Sufi mystic.*

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

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.

HYMN *The Summons*

Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?
Will you leave your self behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare,
will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?
Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?
Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION. June Hayakawa-Fung

One: You have given us a world of beauty,
and we have spoilt it.

**Many: A world to feed us,
and so many go hungry.**

One: A world of riches,
and we are unwilling to share.

**Many: A world to care for,
and we think only of ourselves.**

One: Forgive us, gracious God,
for those times your heart is saddened
by our selfishness.

**Many: For those times we have no thought
for others, no cares but ours.**

One: Enable us to see this world anew
as a gift from you,
to be shared and nurtured,
and those who live upon it
to be loved and held with care.

**All: May our confession clear our hearts to renew our
action and our faith.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE. Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

Love	your love persists,
Has its source in you,	finds cracks and inlets,
Creator God.	in hardened hearts,
Flows from you like an ocean,	flows inside and works a miracle.
into a world as unyielding	Who would think that water
as any shoreline cliff.	was more powerful than granite,
And like the ocean	love mightier
which batters,	than the hardest heart.
erodes,	
and wears away	Thank you, Creator God,
even the hardest stone	for the power of your love.

SHARING OF PEACE Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

Passing the Peace is one of the earliest liturgical practices in worship. This simple ritual provides us with an essential reminder that we who are as followers of the way of Jesus are to be peacemakers, striving to live peacefully with one another.

Those online are invited to put greetings in the chat on the website or on YouTube.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Dr. Brown

Leader: God draw near

**People: God draw near, draw near,
draw near and stay**

Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Emily Blaine-Davis, Sue Ellen Daniel (Friend of Barb Laski), John Daniels, Lauren Davis, Mark and JT Edwards, Susan Emerson (Mother of Kate Forrester), Diane Folkert & Family (Mother-in-law of Ara Lawrence), Megan French (niece of Sue Jones) & David Dixon & Family, Shirley K. Shelley, Mamadou Diakhate (Friend of Floyd Gossett), Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Montecino 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 Mike and Britt Stanley on the passing of Mike's dad, Bill Stanley on January 2.



A variety of faithful addresses for God (Creator, Mother, Holy One, Father)
are welcome at Plymouth UCC, including in the Lord's Prayer.



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 kingdom
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 OFFERINGDr. Brown

OFFERING MUSIC

Light is ReturningCharlie Murphy
Plymouth Singers

Light is returning
Even though this is the darkest hour
no one can hold back the dawn.
Let's keep it burning
let's keep the flame of the hope alive
Make safe our journey through the storm

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost
Amen! Amen! Amen!

PRAYER OF DEDICATIONRev. Blair

**Blessed are you, God of all creation;
through your goodness, we each have gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the building of your joyful kindom.
Amen**

CONTEMPORARY VOICE

The Lamps are Different, but the Light is the Same, by Rumi
So many garish lamps in the dying brain's lamp-show,
Forget about them.
Concentrate on the essence, concentrate on the Light.
In lucid bliss, calmly smoking off its own holy fire,
The Light streams towards you from all things,
All people, all possible permutations of good, evil, thought, passion.
The lamps are different,
but the Light is the same.

One matter, one energy, one Light, one Light-mind,
Endlessly emanating all things.
One turning and burning diamond,
One, one, one.
Ground yourself, strip yourself down,
To blind loving silence.
Stay there, until you see
You are gazing at the Light
With its own ageless eyes

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW Matthew 4:12-17
(Dr. Wilda Gafney Translation) read by Rev. Blair

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he went back to Galilee. Then he left Nazareth behind and settled in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the sea road, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people who sat in bleakness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the realm of the heavens has come near.”

Gafney, Wilda C. A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church (pp. 100-103). Church Publishing Incorporated. Kindle Edition.

ANTHEM

Draw The Circle Wide by Gordon Light and Mark Miller
Plymouth Singers, Joe Williams, Piano

MESSAGE Rev. Kevin Bechtold

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus Simon K. Marak

I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow;
though none go with me, I still will follow;
though none go with me, I still will follow;
no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me;
no turning back, no turning back.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Rev. Bechtold

POSTLUDE. Joe Williams



Believing that God's love transcends all human distinctions,
Plymouth welcomes people of all races and cultures,
of varied social and economic conditions
and regardless of sexual orientation.

We are open and affirming of all people,
and we call all people to the cost and joy of Christian discipleship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Budget Presentation Learn about the 2023 proposed budget ahead of the Annual Meeting at 7 pm on Zoom Tuesday, January 24. Link to the presentation in the “Announcements” section of “Sunday at Plymouth” on the news page at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Use usual passcode; contact DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org if you need the passcode.

Finding Meaning and Hope & Dying Well Workshop for those contemplating mortality and what a good death means. Led by palliative care chaplain Lorraine Leist. At Plymouth and online 9 am-2:30 pm, Saturday, February 4. Link to register in news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Contact JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org with questions or to volunteer.

Advocates Needed Mary’s Place is looking for Shelter Advocates to fill roles in support of sites across King County. Those interested in being an advocate are invited to our hiring event, 9 am-1 pm January 26 at Mary’s Place Family Center, 720 Blanchard Street. Visit MarysPlaceseattle.org for list of available positions and to apply.

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. See this week’s *Herald* or PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for some opportunities.

Put Faith in Action at Interfaith Advocacy Day in Olympia, 9 am-3 pm Thursday, February 9. Meet with legislators to bring our message of compassion and justice to elected leaders. Read more and find link to register in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Plan to Attend Plymouth’s 153rd Annual Meeting Sunday, January 29, 2023. The Annual Report will be reviewed, and your vote is needed to install new lay leadership for our church family. Celebrate 2022 and look ahead to 2023. Join in person or live online.

