

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, March 26, 2023

Worship In Person or Online

Services Remain in Hildebrand Hall Until April 2

10 am Organ Music with LaDonna Bowers,
Sanctuary — All Welcome!

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Matthew 26:6–13

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

11:45 am Movies that Move
“Three Churches,” Hildebrand Hall

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.

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](#)



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PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

March 22, 2023

THE ESOTERICS AT PLYMOUTH



Plymouth is excited to welcome The Esoterics to perform *Villains & Heroes*, two new choral works by Los Angeles-based composer, Rex Isenberg. Please join

us 8 pm Saturday, March 25 at Plymouth UCC. (Additional performance 3 pm Sunday, March 26 at St John's Episcopal Church, 114 20th Avenue SE, Olympia.) Saturday's performance will also be livestreamed. Links to purchase tickets or access to livestream in news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

For his first piece, *If We Have Wisdom*, Isenberg sets the text of a letter written by George Washington to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1790. This letter holds much significance for many American Jews as a testament to their rights to religious freedom and self-determination — right from the very founding of this country.

In his second, more extensive work of the performance, *Messiahs False and True*, Isenberg explores the perennial predicament of the “messianic leader” in human history. Messianic figures have played an important role as our greatest heroes, others, our most hateful villains.

This work is composed for choir with accompaniment of organ (featuring **Wyatt Smith**), percussion (played by **James Doyle**), as well as a spoken narration (to be performed by the **Reverend Dr. Kelle Brown**). The spoken narration of Rex's piece consists of a collage of texts from various messianic leaders — including Obama, Caligula, Ghandi, Reagan, Douglass, Lincoln, Hamilton, Kennedy, Franklin, and Trump — as well as their admirers and critics. This narration is paired with biblical passages from Handel's *Messiah* that is sung by the choir in response to the narration.

Find links to ticket sales for in-person concert or for online access in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for. We are so excited to welcome Rex to the Pacific Northwest for these premieres. Please join us! ✨

LENTEN SPECIAL OFFERING

This year's Lenten Special Offering will be evenly divided between **One Great Hour of Sharing** and **Plymouth UCC Scholarships**.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ supporting disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

Plymouth UCC Scholarships support members and friends in financial hardship to take part in opportunities offered by and through Plymouth UCC, such as camps, retreats and other special programs. Half of our annual special offerings replenish the amount available to offer scholarships.

You can support this ministry by making a donation in the Sunday offering plate, through the post or online (Click the “Give” tab at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org, then click the green “Make a Gift” button and choose “Special Offering - Lent” from the drop-down menu). We give thanks for all you contribute to our community. ✨

WALK THE LABYRINTH



Come, take the journey, April 6 & 7.

Volunteers needed: please contact Rev. Donene Blair: DBlair@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

As we walk the Labyrinth, our physical and spiritual paths converge to become a pilgrimage. The labyrinth is a safe and intentional place for introspection, a place where we can dedicate focused time to our questions and prayers. ✨



IT'S TIME TO
SHARE

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Mardi (Waggoner) Abuza (Friend of Vicki Schoettle), Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Susan Carter (Mother of Heather Banks & Kathleen Bernard), Sue Ellen Daniel (Friend of Barb Laski), John Daniels, Mark and JT Edwards, Jose Robles and Family, Susan Emerson, Anna Florey, Diane Folkert & Family (Mother-in-law of Ara Lawrence), Montecino Family, Marni Good (Friend of Ricky Powell), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Irma Johnson (Friend of Toni Arthur), Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), Concetta Lewis (Sister of Jo-Ann Guthrie), Mamadou Diakhate (Friend of Floyd Gossett), Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Eric Minea (Cousin of Kristine Danzinger), Doug Ryan (Brother of Mary Ryan), Abby Scott (Friend of Anne Mohundro), Jaime Rubio Sulificio, Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon)

We grieve with Diane Jacobsen and family on the passing of her father, Thomas Graham.

Friends of Sara McKenzie are invited to attend her memorial service via Zoom, 9 am (PT) Saturday, April 1. Please email Jennifer Merrill, jen-zen@msn.com, to receive the link.

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

SEATTLE CONVERGENCE

NOURISHMENT FOR ANTI-RACISM AND
COLLECTIVE LIBERATION
APRIL 2023

This spring, you are invited to come, be nourished,
get connected, and skill up for the on-going work of liberation.



Chris Crass is a leading voice calling for and supporting white people to work for racial justice, and men to work for feminism.



Ayoka Turner is a trainer and organizer with over 25 years of experience working with communities to develop partnerships for social change.



Rev. Sekou is a noted theologian, musician, author, public intellectual, filmmaker, and community organizer.

Sat, April 15th
1-5pm
at University
Unitarian Church

PRAXIS: a workshop for religious/spiritual leaders to generate lessons, culture, and power for collective liberation with **Ayoka Turner and Chris Crass**
Join others with the commitment to ending structural inequality and supremacy systems, and strengthen our power for racial justice.

Sun, April 16th
4:30-7pm
at University
Unitarian Church

Anti-racist Parenting for Collective Liberation with Chris Crass
Learn about ways we can support our children in their social justice journey, as well as how our families can join with others as part of racial, gender, and economic justice movements for liberation.

Sat, April 22nd
1-4pm
at University
Congregational
UCC

CONVERGENCE: Heart and Soul Nourishment for Anti-racism and Collective Liberation with Chris Crass, Rev. Sekou, and Valley & Mountain Fellowship Ensemble
This gathering is open to all and is designed to encourage and uplift us. Expect music, sharing, learning, and connecting.



Register at
www.collective-liberation.org

Organized by University Congregational UCC and University Unitarian Church

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH: A PROCLAMATION



From the desk of President Joe Biden.

The following is an excerpt from a proclamation issued by President Joe Biden this month. Read the full proclamation in the news section of PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

During Women’s History Month, we celebrate the countless women who have fought tirelessly and courageously for equality, justice, and opportunity in our Nation. We also reaffirm our commitment to advancing rights and opportunities for women and girls in the United States and around the world. We are mindful that we are building on the legacy of both recognized trailblazers and unsung heroines who have guided the course of American history and continue to shape its future.

The full participation of women is a foundational tenet of democracy. Women — often women of color — have been on the frontlines, fighting for and securing equal rights and opportunity throughout our country’s history as abolitionists, civil rights leaders, suffragists, and labor activists. Women continue to lead as advocates for reproductive rights, champions of racial justice, and LGBTQI+ equality. Throughout history, these women have opened the doors of opportunity for subsequent generations of dreamers and doers...

But despite significant progress, women and girls continue to face systemic barriers to full and equal participation in our economy and society. Last year, the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, stripping away a constitutional right from the American people and the ability of millions of women to make decisions about their own bodies, putting their health and lives at risk. Disparities persist in economic security, health care, and caregiving responsibilities, especially for women and girls of color. Those who perform critical work, including those who care for our children and our families, are too often overlooked, underpaid, and undervalued.

This month, as we continue our work to advance gender equity and equality, let us celebrate the contributions of women throughout our history and honor the stories that have too often gone untold. Let us recognize that fundamental freedoms are interconnected: when opportunities for women are withheld, we all suffer; and when women’s lives are improved, we all gain. Let us strive to create a Nation where every woman and girl knows that her possibilities know no bounds in America. ✦

SPREAD EASTER JOY



Thank you for caring. (Painting by Fiona)

Each Easter, Plymouth encourages folks to visit and deliver a cheerful flower to those members who are isolated and who have suffered a loss. Please be a part of this important tradition and look for the cards and take a plant on Easter Sunday. You can support this ministry by making a donation in the name of loved ones. Names of donors and those honored will be listed in the *Herald*. Please email names of those to be honored to Robert Turner at RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org, or include a note with your check to the church. You can also donate online (Click the “Give” tab at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org, then click the green “Make a Gift” button and choose “Flower Fund” from the drop-down menu). Thank you for caring. ✦

YOU’RE INVITED

Please join us for The Church Council of Greater Seattle’s Annual Assembly Tuesday, March 28 6-7:30 pm. We will meet online again this year via Zoom, and we encourage you to join us from wherever you may be — all are welcome!



Our theme this year is “Bridge to Flourishing.” We will celebrate our work with congregations through the Faith Land Initiative, fostering deep discernment toward transformational stewardship of land, and will recognize the reach of our walking alongside immigrant communities through our Accompaniment Program. We invite all to participate. Please read more and find link to RSVP at TheChurchCouncil.org.

Church Council of Greater Seattle is one of 5 non-profit organizations earmarked in Plymouth UCC 2023 budget to receive Continuing Mission Support, pushing 2 decades. ✦

ALL ABOARD!



Ride the bus on Palm Sunday and Easter.

Horizon House residents can ride the charter bus to Plymouth **Palm Sunday (April 2) and Easter (April 9)**. The bus will pick you up at Horizon House and bring you to Plymouth for the 10:30 am service and return you afterward. ✦

SPECIAL EVENTS AT GENERAL SYNOD



Two leading voices addressing racial justice in the U.S. will be special guests of the United Church of Christ during this summer’s General Synod, June 30-July 4 in Indianapolis. Ibram X. Kendi, author of *How to Be an Antiracist* and *Stamped from the Beginning* will speak at Friday’s fundraising dinner

supporting the UCC’s Join the Movement campaign.

Bryan Stevenson — attorney, activist and author of *Just Mercy* will deliver this year’s Valerie Russell Lecture. A third Justice and Local Church Ministries special event will be a town hall gathering to bring together a panel of leading experts around reproductive justice.

Read more about special guests and events and find links to register at UCC.org. Early registration is recommended. ✦

FROM HIS HEART’S DEEP CORE

Seattle Opera presents *From his Heart’s Deep Core: The Music of Richard Thompson and others, Inspired by the Life and Writing of Paul Laurence Dunbar*, 7:30 pm Tuesday, April 4, Tagney Jones Hall at the Opera Center. General Public: \$45, Subscribers: \$40.



Elliana Lewis, Martin Bakari, Joe Williams

Seattle Opera favorites Martin Bakari (*The Marriage of Figaro*) and Ellaina Lewis (*Blue*) team up with Tacoma pianist Joe Williams (last here with tenor Joshua Stewart in 2022) for a special night of opera, classical art song, and jazz. The program will feature music from Richard Thompson and other composers, including settings of Paul Laurence Dunbar’s poetry, which has resonated with and inspired artists for generations across many musical genres. Tickets and more info at SeattleOpera.org. ✦

SHARE WITH SENIORS

Pike Market Senior Center, located in the heart of Pike Place Market, is looking for willing folks to share their passions through facilitating workshops, lectures and skill sharing. We are developing opportunities to expand the minds, and increase socialization opportunities of our members and need your help. All of our programming is offered without cost to members. We can tailor volunteer commitments that work for you. We serve a diverse and vibrant slice of the downtown community. Contact Zoe Freeman: Zoe@pmsc-dtfb.org. Learn about Pike Market Senior Center at Pmsc-fb.org. ✦

ANOTHER UCC FIRST

The United Church of Christ is poised to make a historic choice. After a year-long process, the UCC Board voted March 4 to nominate Associate General Minister, the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, for General Minister and President.



Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer and Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson

If elected by the General Synod this summer, Thompson would be the first woman — and the first woman of African descent — to lead the denomination.

“We sought a leader who will champion the UCC’s mission and values both within the church and externally; embody an adaptive, resilient leader who can guide the UCC through rapidly changing times; and provide a foundation for the church’s future stability and growth,” said the Rev. Emma Brewer-Wallin, chair of the Search Committee that recommended Thompson. “And the Search Committee is clear that we have found such a leader in Rev. Thompson.”

Thompson’s vision for the future of the UCC embodies the values at the heart of her work: religious multiplicity and diversity, justice for marginalized communities world-wide and broader affirmation of spiritual practices beyond mainline Christianity.

“My hope is that we, the UCC, will begin to live more fully into what it means to be a church that proclaims to be God-centered and Spirit-filled,” Thompson said. “It’s not just about the head, but also about the heart. How do we become mission-minded? How do we show up? How do we be present for communities that are on the margins — not just here, but globally?”

Thompson highlighted the importance of spiritual diversity in the denomination moving forward.

“I see the UCC as a place that will continue to welcome those who will come,” she said. “As a community, we are theologically diverse and will continue to be so. We hold the tensions of beliefs, theologies, race, gender identification and much more. Can we make room for adding depth to our understanding of who we are as a spiritual people? I envision the UCC widening the welcome to the table and opening wider the doors of the church.”

This focus on broadening the denomination’s understanding of inclusivity proved key to Thompson’s nomination. Amid the decline of church membership, Brewer-Wallin pointed to the significance of Thompson’s deep understanding of religious multiplicity for the future of the church. “She describes this as needing to ‘expand the table,’ making space for a fuller spectrum of people coming into the church,” Brewer-Wallin said.

Read more at UCC.org. ✦