

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, June 1, 2025

Worship in the Sanctuary or Online

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Luke 13:18–30

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

9 am Choir Rehearsal, Hildebrand Hall

11:30 am Coffee Hour, Lounge/Patio

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.

Members and Visitors in the church building can access Plymouth Guest wi-fi network using password: peaceonearth.

The Plymouth *Herald* is published every week. Deadline is **Monday, 10 am**, for Wednesday publication.

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.



PO Box 21368
Seattle, Washington 98111

Return Service Requested

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

All who live in fear of expedited removal, detention, or deportation., Ahmed Black (Nephew of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Wendy Carpenter (Friend of Jocelyn Coit-Durland), Lin Davis (Wife of Mo Longworth), JT Edwards, Diane Folkert (Mother and Mother-in-Law of Alex & Ara Lawrence), Louis Ford (Friend of Karen Clark), Eleanor Fordyce, Elvis Gordon (Brother of Michael and Elizabeth Gordon), Artrice Gordon (Brother of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Floyd Gossett, Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Julie (Friend of Karen Clark), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Robert Malae, Don Mayer, William Chapman Nyaho, Richard Paul (Dad of Beth Paul-Russell), Colleen Rood (Aunt of Kathy Rood), Dale and Jinny Sewell, Shaniece (Friend of Karen Clark), Patricia Valentine, Gevan Woodke (Friend of Karen Clark)

bold=newly added. Names will remain on list for 6 weeks unless requested.



PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

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UCC: LOUD AND PROUD



June is a time to celebrate the diversity of God's LGBTQ+ children. Throughout Pride Month, the United Church of Christ acknowledges the ongoing struggle for human rights and dignity — especially within Christian spaces — while uplifting a community shaped by love and joy through a wide variety of identities and expressions.

In recent years, the annual observation has taken on particular significance to leaders and activists, due to the high number of anti-LGBTQ+ bills that have been proposed and passed in many states.

“This year, queer siblings will defy the empire's threats and celebrate louder,” says Rachael Ward, UCC minister of Gender and Sexuality Justice. “This year, love must be louder than the hatred and disembodiment attempts of those in deep fear of God's abundant and vibrant creation.”

They went to say, “As siblings in Christ, I believe we have a moral obligation to ensure the body of Christ is visible to all. I'm proud to be a trans, nonbinary person of faith every day of my life. And I know all too well the deep divide we face from institutions attempting to disembody our personhood. By marching together, worshipping together, and offering resources and care to those most along the margins within our LGBTQ+ community, we are committing to the gospel of love OUT LOUD. We are being the people of faith God invites us to be through justice, love, mercy and humility in real time.”

Ward pointed to the many legislative attacks across the country — especially on trans youth — as evidence of the immediate need for taking action and speaking up this Pride Month.

“Legislative bodies attempting to disembody God's *Imago Dei* imprinted upon queer bodies. And when one part of the body cries out, we all cry. But are we crying loud enough? Are we loving loud enough in action?” For Ward, the bottom line is telling the stories of queer joy and resilience this Pride.

The UCC National Setting is taking that call to love out loud seriously. Read more at [UCC.org](https://ucc.org).

MARCH WITH PLYMOUTH

Plymouth UCC is again joining the Pacific Northwest Conference for the Seattle Pride Parade on Sunday June 29. Bring signs and friends for a day of celebrating and supporting our LGBTQ+ siblings.

Worship on June 29 will begin at 10 am to leave time to assemble for the parade. Be prepared for traffic delays that Sunday: the parade route will close 4th Ave between Pike St and Denny Way.

We welcome all who want to march in solidarity and celebration. This is our opportunity to commemorate the past, celebrate and defend wins for equality, and encourage one another for the work yet to come.

More info on the parade at SeattlePride.org.



Help represent Plymouth Sunday, June 29.

AMERICAN MOSAIC



12 pm Sunday, June 8, in Hildebrand Hall

American Mosaic, our diversity, equity, and inclusion workshop series concludes at 12 pm Sunday, June 8, in Hildebrand Hall, led by Dr. Mark Smutny. All are welcome—whether you've attended previous sessions or are joining for the first time. Come ready to share your voice and ideas. Invite your friends and community members.

In this final session, we'll:

- Reflect on key learnings from previous workshops.
- Brainstorm innovative ways to make Plymouth Church more inclusive, welcoming, and culturally competent.
- Engage in a dynamic exercise that challenges assumptions and sparks transformation.

Gain new insights and practical tools to build respect, inclusion and belonging. We look forward to being with you Sunday, June 8 — let's build a stronger, more inclusive Plymouth Church together.

STOP CALLING IT CHRISTIAN



Read more at [UCC.org](https://ucc.org).

United Church of Christ’s General Minister and President, the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson says it is time to start talking about Christian nationalism as “extremism.”

“We have to stop referring to it as Christian,” she said, explaining that the movement does not “rest in the tenets of the Christian faith,” reminding us of Jesus’ second commandment to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Thompson noted how the use of Christian symbolism in nationalism is problematic as it is leading many people to believe that what is being said and done is in the name of God. “But let me just say this is not all Christians in the United States. There are still many who are leaning into the prophetic witness that is evident in scripture. We are seeing people speaking out against the treatment of immigrants and standing up for gender minorities. There are people advocating for human rights.”

“We have to believe that the courage that we need is given to us by the presence of God and the power of the Holy Spirit.”

With the U.S. Christian landscape being one that is not monolithic — there are conservative and progressive believers — Thompson shared how it was time for the country to define what “Christian” is, and stressed the need to “speak out around the misinformation and disinformation that is aligned with Christianity.”

“For too long we have ignored the untruths that are present around Christianity. It is not enough for us to ignore it and think it will go away,” said Thompson. “It’s okay to name these ideologies what they are. They do not speak to the tenets of our faith. We must be able to say that they are lies,” she continued. “If we are not willing to do that, we become part of the problem.”

In the blurring of lines between Christianity and patriotism, Thompson sees an opportunity for congregations to step up awareness through education. “Whether it is with our confirmation classes or in our communities, do the education that is necessary to speak to why this theology is not sound. We cannot be afraid at this particular time. We have to believe that the courage that we need is given to us by the presence of God and the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Read more at [UCC.org](https://ucc.org).

NO KINGS

A coalition of pro-democracy partner organizations announced the No Kings Nationwide Day of Defiance on Flag Day (June 14). The actions are set to take place during Donald Trump’s military parade in Washington, D.C., on June 14. Instead of allowing this military parade to be the center of gravity, activists will make action everywhere else the story of America that day.

Alongside local organizers, partners, and leaders from across the pro-democracy and pro-worker movements, activists across the country will come together for marches, rallies, and demonstrations to reject corrupt, authoritarian politics in the United States. Check events near you at Mobilize.us/NoKings.

A core principle behind all No Kings events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values and to act lawfully at these events. Weapons of any kind, including those legally permitted, should not be brought to events. Read more at NoKings.org.

HANDS OFF!



As Congress considers devastating cuts to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Faith Action Network is grateful for the ways you have already taken action to advocate for these crucial programs. As people of faith and conscience, we embrace a spirit of abundance — we believe that we have more than enough resources to provide food and healthcare for all people and that we are called to hold our leaders accountable for the common good. We need to advocate for a moral budget, and invite you to join in urging your legislators to vote against any cuts to these vital, life-saving programs. Read more and get involved at FANWA.org.

REV. BECHTOLD ON SABBATICAL

Rev. Kevin Bechtold is on sabbatical until September 1. He is excited for the time away and looks forward to returning in the fall refreshed for the life and work of the church. He is grateful for this opportunity, knowing that revitalization is important for clergy and the continued vitality of Plymouth Church.



PRIDE IN THE PARK

Seattle Pride in the Park, produced by Seattle Pride, will kick off Seattle’s 51st annual Pride Month celebration on Saturday, June 7 at Volunteer Park on Capitol Hill.

This free event features a performances, food trucks, local nonprofit booths, queer vendors, and more. There’s also plenty of family-friendly fare, including a teen space designed and hosted by youth in collaboration with Seattle’s LGBTQ Center and Seattle Pride. ADA accommodations available. See SeattlePride.org.



Pride in the Park June 7 at Volunteer Park.

EXPLORE FILIPINO CULTURE



May 31-June 1 at Seattle Center

The Filipino Cultural Heritage Society of Washington proudly presents *Pagdiriwang* (the Filipino word for festival), commemorating the anniversary of Philippine Independence, May 31-June 1. Held at the Seattle Center since 1987, the event has grown into the largest festival of Filipino arts and culture in the region.

Join friends and family for this free festival to learn more about Filipino history and culture, enjoy great food and dynamic performances, and celebrate the beauty and strength of our diverse community. Read more at FestalPagdiriwang.com.

FROM HIROSHIMA TO HOPE

Join the annual lantern-floating ceremony at Green Lake at 6-9 pm Wednesday, August 6. This year’s gathering and marks the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The evening includes a program of music, poetry and speakers, culminating in a candle-lit lantern-floating ceremony on the lake, sending messages of peace and hope.



Wednesday, August 6 at Green Lake

Pre-program activities begin at 6 pm, just south of the Seattle Public Theater (aka Bathhouse Theater), on Green Lake’s NW shore. Family program with music, poetry and speakers begins at 7 pm and the lantern ceremony begins at 8:15 pm. Plan now to attend, and keep reading the *Herald* and our website news for updates on program details.

HELP WITH HEALING

Plymouth Healing Communities welcomes your donations of new and gently-used household items for new residents moving in to their new apartments. Many are coming out of homelessness with few items and could use a warm welcome. Please join us in welcoming them with new or gently used household items to make them feel at home.



Bring new or gently used items on Sundays.

The drive has been extended to June 10. Leave items in the bin on Sundays, or reach out to PHC Program Manager Dakota Nixon (dnixon@plyhc.org; 206-707-2801) for different drop-off times, multiple-item pick-ups, or questions.

For a full list of most requested items, please see the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org or visit Plymouth Healing Communities at Plyhc.org. Thank you!

Notes for Donors:

- Thank you for donating items that are clean, functional, and have lots of life left.
- We appreciate gently used items — they don’t have to be brand-new, but they should be in good working order and free from any major wear or damage.
- We are currently unable to accept large furniture or appliances (e.g., couches, refrigerators, microwaves) due to size and transport limitations.

PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING

Throughout the month of June, gifts marked Pentecost Special Offering will be divided evenly between **Strengthen the Church** and **Alain Locke Initiative**.

Strengthen the Church reflects the shared commitment of people to cooperatively build up the UCC. Funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.

Half of the special offering will help the **Alain Locke Initiative**, committed to empowering young Black queer men in the Seattle area through mentorship and holistic support, inspiring these young men to live authentically and achieve their fullest potential. Read more at AlainLockeInitiative.org. Together we can answer the Spirit’s call to be united in Christ for a just world for all.

