

Becoming!

RECOVERING

10:30 AM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 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

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10:30 AM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*When you enter Plymouth Church UCC,
may you feel the peace, intimacy, belonging,
acceptance and refuge of Sanctuary.*

PRELUDE

Registro (Preludio) from Suite Venezolana Antonio Lauro
Abe Landa, guitar

PRAYER OF INVOCATION.Bev DeCook
A Prayer for Refugees, adapted from JustMatters

God of our Wandering Ancestors,
Long have we known
that your heart is with the refugee:
That you were born into time
In a family of refugees
Fleeing violence in their homeland,
Who then gathered up their hungry child
And fled into alien country.
Their cry, your cry, resounds through ages:
“Will you let me in?”
Give us hearts that break open
When our brothers and sisters turn to us with the same cry.
Then surely all these things will follow:
Ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices.
Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of threat.
Tongues will not be silenced but will instead advocate.
And hands will reach out –
working for peace in their homeland,
working for justice in the lands where they seek safe haven.
Lord, protect all refugees in their travels.
May the find a friend in me
And so make me worthy this morning
Of the refuge we have found in you as you meet us here.
Amen.

HYMN *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*, vss. 1,2,3 CHEREPONI

Refrain Unison

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

Last time, end

1 Knelt at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their
2 Neigh-bors are rich and poor, var - ied in col - or and
3 These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should

feet, Je - su, you act - ed as ser - vant to them.
race, neigh-bors are near and far a - way.
love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.

to Refrain

WELCOME.Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown & Rev. Kevin Bechtold

Happy birthday to you;

Anniversary, too!

We are so excited to share them with you.

May God bless and keep you in all that you do.

Happy birthday! (And anniversary!)

Happy birthday! (And anniversary!)

Happy birthday to you!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION.Rev. Donene Blair

Creator, we build barriers in our hearts and make judgements that keep us from seeing others for who they are, the potential they have, and talents they have been given. You taught us to give witness to your love for all people. May we be accepting of those who want to be our neighbors. May we rejoice in their talents and accept new life-perspectives from them.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE.Rev. Blair

The Creator God who is present in all of humankind helps us to pour out God's love and compassion to all of our siblings knowing that there is enough to be shared and that we are called to build bigger tables instead of bigger walls. Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE. **"Peace be with you"**

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



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE.Dr. Brown & Rev. Bechtold

Dr. Brown: God of abundance, You have ordained that creation yields fruit, and that the earth will put forth plenty. You have promised a banquet in your presence for all those who seek you. And yet, so many in the world are hungry. So many suffer under the weight of poverty, made greater now by the burden of illness. In this time of struggle and uncertainty Lord, hear our prayer.

Rev. Bechtold: Guide us to share what we have in faith. Forgive us when we cling to what you have given us; when we believe in the world's story of scarcity more than your promise of plenty. Forgive us when we fail our neighbors, building up treasures for ourselves when we should be caring for the most vulnerable in our midst.

Dr. Brown: Call us from our places of fear, Holy One, as we place our trust in you, and in the gospel truth that you are in all things: alive and moving in the world even now. As we pray, we lift up the collected prayers for refugees the world over.

Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Michelle J. Bennett (Sister of Dawn Bennett), Merryn Bentley (Granddaughter of Al & Judy Bentley), 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), Mark & JT Edwards, JoAnn English (Relative of Lucian Guthrie), Marni Good (Friend of Ricky Powell), Floyd Gossett, Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Lucian Guthrie, Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), The Keith Family (Friends of Mari Mitchell and Alex), Concetta Lewis (Sister of Jo-Ann Guthrie), Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Paula Orrego, Jim Oswald (Friend of Bing Tso), Anna Partch (Friend of Sari Breznau), Joshua Robinson (Grandson of Patricia Valentine), Jose Robles and Family, Rachel Sebastian (Friend of Jeanette Hagen), Kyna Shilling, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon), Bob Woodruff, Pluma Wright (Friend of Glenda Carper), Judy Young (Friend of Glenda Carper)

 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 OFFERING Rev. Blair

The gifts of the offering remind us that we live in a world of abundance. They remind us that when we have plenty it is right to share. Through these gifts the body of Christ sustains the work of the church in this world.

*To set up a one time or recurring donation to Plymouth Church
click on the “Give” link on PlymouthChurchSeattle.org or
CashApp your donation to \$PlymouthUCCSeattle.
We give thanks for your generosity.*

OFFERING MUSIC

Gracias a la Vida Violeta Parra

Tory Trujillo, voice; Abe Landa, guitar

Gracias a la vida que me ha dado tanto
Me dio dos luceros que cuando los abro
Perfecto distingo lo negro del blanco
Y en el alto cielo su fondo estrellado
Y en las multitudes el hombre que yo amo

Gracias a la vida que me ha dado tanto
Me ha dado el oído que en todo su ancho
Graba noche y días
Grillos y canarios, martillos, turbinas
Ladridos, chubascos
Y la voz tan tierna de mi bien amado

Gracias a la vida que me ha dado tanto
 Me ha dado el sonido y el abecedario
 Con el las palabras que pienso y declaro
 Madre, amigo, hermano y luz alumbrando
 La ruta del alma del que estoy amando
 Gracias a la vida que me ha dado tanto
 Me ha dado la marcha de mis pies cansados
 Con ellos anduve ciudades y charcos
 Playas y desiertos, montañas y llanos
 Y la casa tuya, tu calle y tu patio
 Gracias a la vida que me ha dado tanto
 Me dio el corazón que agita su marco
 Cuando miro el fruto del cerebro humano
 Cuando miro el bueno tan lejos del malo
 Cuando miro el fondo de tus ojos claros
 Gracias a la vida que me ha dado tanto
 Me ha dado la risa y me ha dado el llanto
 Así yo distingo dicha de quebranto
 Los dos materiales que forman mi canto
 Y el canto de ustedes que es el mismo canto
 Y el canto de todos que es mi propio canto
 Gracias a la vida

DOXOLOGY

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Rev. Blair

**Great God, please receive our gifts for the glory of
 your name and the blessing of your people. May we
 be dedicated stewards of your abundance and use
 these gifts for the benefit of your kindom. Amen.**

CONTEMPORARY VOICEread by Anne Kiemle

Let Them Not Say, by Jane Hirshfield

Let them not say: we did not see it.

We saw.

Let them not say: we did not hear it.

We heard.

Let them not say: they did not taste it.

We ate, we trembled.

Let them not say: it was not spoke, not written.

we spoke,

we witnessed with voices and hands.

Let them not say: they did nothing.

We did not-enough.

Let them say, as they must say something:

A kerosene beauty.

It burned.

Let them say we warmed ourselves by it,

read by its light, praised,

and it burned.



*Jane Hirshfield
is an American
poet, essayist, and
translator, known
as ‘one of American
poetry’s central
spokespersons for the
biosphere.’*

READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-10, 33-34
(NRSV Translation) read by Kathy Rood

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to all the community of Israelites, and you shall say to them: ‘You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am Holy.’”

And when you reap your land’s harvest, you shall not finish off the edge of your field, nor pick up the gleanings of your harvest. And your vineyard you shall not pluck bear, nor pick up the fallen fruit of your vineyard. For the poor and for the sojourner you shall leave them. I am the Lord your God.

And should a sojourner sojourn with you, you shall not wrong [them]. Like the native among you shall be the sojourner who sojourns with you, and you shall love [them] like yourself, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

ANTHEM. *Sound Meditation* Tory Trujillo

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY PANEL DISCUSSION

HYMN *Love in the Middle/I Love you, Lord* (medley)

Tory Trujillo, voice

Love in the Middle, by Ruthie Foster

Keep your mind stayed on freed
Keep your eyes on the prize
Keep your arms open to receive
All of life's blessings

Keep your heart always singing
So your light shines through
Keep your love in the middle
Of everything you do

Give all your love to glory
Lay every burden down down down
Judge not your brothers
They're doing their best just like you

Give thanks when you're happy
And when you're feeling blue
Keep your love in the middle
Of everything you do

When I heard my mother sing these words
From the other side
I knew love knows no distance
Oh, the River Jordan's deep and wide
I can't hear my mother singing watching over me
From the other side

And I know that love makes no difference
To the River Jordan's deep and wide
Keep your feet on the high road
Don't let the world wear your soul thin
Keep your hands ready to reach out
To help a friend

Keep your heart always singing
So your light shines through
And keep your love in the middle
Of everything you do
Got to keep your keep love in the middle
Of everything you do

I Love You, Lord, by Laurie Klein

I love You, Lord
And I lift my voice
To worship You
Oh, my soul, rejoice
Take joy, my Kin
In what You hear
Let it be a sweet, sweet sound
In Your ear

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Bev. DeCook

Life is short and we have too little time to gladden the hearts
of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love and
make haste to be kind, and may the blessing of the Creator,
the Sustainer, and the Redeemer be with you now and
always. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Indigo* Yiruma 이두마
Joe Williams, piano

REVIVAL FOR RACIAL RECONCILIATION



This fall a coalition of congregations and partners are hosting a 4-night revival, with each night beginning at 7 pm. Our theme is “*Reclaiming the Welfare of the City: A Revival for Racial Reconciliation*,” based on Jeremiah 29. Revival includes vibrant music, powerful preaching, creative expression, and multi-racial community building.

- **October 3** at Mount Zion Baptist Church, Rev. Yolanda Norton preaching.
- **October 4** at Quest Church in Ballard, theatrical presentation, *Story of An Off Brand Band*.
- **October 5** at Plymouth UCC, Rev. Steve Jerbi preaching.
- **October 6** at University Congregational UCC, Rev. Joe Kim preaching.

Details and RSVPs in news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sound Medicine Meditation Tory Trujillo offers a deeply healing Sound Medicine Meditation, also called a sound bath. Join us in Hildebrand Hall 12:30 pm **today**. Suggested Donation \$20.

We Care The Community and Care Board continues our Plymouth tradition of sending “We Care Packages” to graduated high school seniors. Please bring cards, notes, and small items (snacks, tea or coffee, gift cards, etc.) to the church by October 14.

Join Prison Visitations Consider joining biweekly visits to the Monroe Prison. We visit every other Friday, getting together in Monroe first, then meeting with inmates in the prison from 1–3 pm. This is a serious, meaningful justice commitment. Contact Christine Hanson, HansonChristineAnn@gmail.com, or 509-679-7430.

Disrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline Join an online event October 29 to discuss ways for communities to unite and break down the oppressive systems that lead to youth incarceration. Read more and register in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Licks of Fire Join us as we end medical debt for the most impacted in the Pacific Northwest, the South, and in places where the crisis of medical debt looms. Read how you can get involved in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Meet the Artist After worship on October 1, all are invited to meet painter Laurie Davenport. Her solo exhibition, on display at Plymouth Church from Oct 1–Nov 19, aims to humanize individuals experiencing homelessness.

Plymouth Knitting Group invites all knitters, experienced or beginners, to our monthly gatherings. We supply yarn, needles and instructors. While enjoying conversation we craft prayer shawls for those needing comfort, and other items for charities. Interested? Call or email Betty Behmke (bpbehmke@gmail.com; 206-236-0172) or Andrea Snyder (asnyder9625@gmail.com; 206-769-5973).

Study with Friends All are welcome to online Bible study via Zoom every Wednesday, from 9–10:30 am, led by Rev. Kevin Bechtold. We focus on scripture texts for the coming Sunday’s worship. Biblical knowledge is not necessary for joining! Contact Kevin at KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Undoing Institutionalized Racism Workshops are designed to educate, challenge and empower people to “undo” the racist structures that hinder effective social change. Next workshop is October 4–6. Plymouth scholarships available. Schedule and link to register at PinwSeattle.org.

Bring Clothing and Shoes Plymouth is a proud sponsor of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound. You can help by dropping off gently used clothing and shoes of any size at the church in the grey bin by the elevator on the 1st floor. Contact Toni Arthur, TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org with questions.



SEPTEMBER IS SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

What People Think Suicide Prevention is

Crisis Intervention
The National Suicide Prevention Hotline
(1-800-273-8255)

What Suicide Prevention Actually is

Food security
Affordable housing
Gatekeeper training
Peer norm activities
Affordable healthcare
Housing stabilization policies
Community engagement activities
Destigmatizing mental illnesses
Strengthening household financial security
Increasing accessibility for mental health care
Parenting skills and family relationship programs
Family acceptance of individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+

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.