

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, December 3, 2023
Worship In the Sanctuary or Online

First Sunday of Advent

Walk the Labyrinth During Worship

Isaiah 12:1–5; Psalm 65:1–13;
Romans 1:7–8, 14–17; Mark 1:1–13
“Torn Apart”

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

11:30 am Congregational Conversation, Hildebrand Hall
The Plymouth Library is open before and after worship on Sundays.

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!



1217 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101-3199

Return Service Requested

ADVENT

by Kate Emerson Forrester

In the season of Advent, I watch

As shadows lengthen

As leaves go down in flames

As the earth becomes wet and dark

And moss and mushrooms come into bloom

I wait for Light to make an appearance

For decay to give rise to new sprouts

For death to deliver new being

For the rotation of the earth to bring the
morning sun into view

And the orbit of earth to tilt us back to
warmer months

I know that God's Universe is cyclical and ever-changing

That nothing in it lasts forever

Not the loss and devastation

Not the pain and suffering

Not even the little vessel I call “me”

Advent is the Beginning

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Afghan Family (Supported by
Plymouth), Michelle J. Bennett (Sister
of Dawn Bennett), Walter Bethel
(Friend of Karen Clark), Marilyn
Bumpas, 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), Marni Good (Friend of Ricky
Powell), Floyd Gossett, Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd
Gossett), Lucian Guthrie, Allie James (Friend of Dawn
Bennett), **RL (Friend of Karen Clark)**, Beta Utu Malae
(Sister of Robert Malae), Vance McDill, Barbara Miller
(Friend of Barb Laski), Dr. Maxine Mimms, **Ian Nelson**
(**Son of Diane Nelson**), Paula Orrego, Jose Robles and
Family, Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), Jaime
Rubio Sulficio, Charon Washington (Sister of Michael
Gordon), **Philomena Worme**



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

PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

Volume 62
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JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Let's talk this Sunday after worship.

Join us after worship
Sunday, December 3, for a
conversation with the Developer
Selection Committee (DSC).
The conversation will be both in
person in Hildebrand Hall and
online via Zoom. Please contact
Diane Jacobsen (djacobsen@plymouthchurchseattle.org) for
the Zoom link.

For the better part of a year the DSC here at Plymouth has
been charged with discerning a path for the future physical
presence of the church. I'm grateful to the committee for their
diligence and faithfulness in what has unsurprisingly proven
to be a difficult task. Our work accelerated recently when we
entered a new phase, which has only added to my admiration
of my fellow committee members stepping up to what are now
weekly meetings.

The congregation has been gracious and trusting by giving us
space to do our work. We want to repay this trust by being as
open as we can with the congregation, and I hope you'll join
us for our conversation on December 3.

—Matt Durland, Vice-Moderator, Congregational Council

WALK THE LABYRINTH THIS SUNDAY

We begin our journey into Advent
this Sunday, December 3, with a
contemplative worship service at
10:30 am. The labyrinth will be set
up in the back of the Sanctuary, and
you are invited to walk it during the
service. Please join this meaningful
spiritual practice.



Walk the Labyrinth during worship.

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

Gifts received Sunday December 24 will benefit The
Christmas Fund and Plymouth UCC Immigration Fund.
Please give as generously as you are able. We give thanks
for your faithful support. Read more in the news article at
PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

“REMEMBER & COMMIT” WORLD AIDS DAY SERVICE

Friday, December 1,
is World AIDS Day,
a time to remember
those we have lost to
this disease and honor
the many individuals
in our communities
who are living with
HIV. The theme for
this year is “Remember
and Commit.” Our keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown,
Plymouth Church Senior Pastor.

People of all faiths are encouraged to join us for the second
annual Interfaith World AIDS Day Service and remember the
power of God's love is still moving in our communities. Let's
celebrate together to support and empower those living with
HIV as well as those who are at risk for contracting HIV.

Interfaith World AIDS Day Service Friday, December 1
“Remember & Commit”

6 pm gather for light refreshment, 6:30 pm service
Liberation UCC, 832 32nd Ave. Seattle, 98122

In person and online

(Link to join online in news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

We look forward to seeing you at the World AIDS Day
Service and working together to move our families and our
communities out of a pandemic that has plagued us for decades.
The time to act and end HIV is NOW!

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

“Glow,” the 2023 UCC Advent
Devotional produced by the
Stillspeaking Writers Group and
contributors, guides us through the
days of Advent and Christmastide to
the celebration of Epiphany.

Plymouth has purchased a limited
number of pdf editions available
for download and print editions.

Contact Diane Jacobsen

(Djacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) to obtain your link
to the pdf edition or to request a print version.



WINTER CONCERT DECEMBER 10



After worship Dec. 10, in the Sanctuary.

On Sunday, December 10 at 12:30pm, Plymouth Church invites Oregon Koto-Kai to offer a unique winter concert with narration. Come learn the heartwarming story of “Tebukuro wo kai ni” 手袋を買いに (Buying Mittens) by Nankichi Nimi (1913-1943) accompanied by traditional Japanese koto music. The second half of the concert features familiar holiday selections innovatively arranged for koto ensemble. Suggested donation is \$20 per adult and \$2 per child. Don’t miss this very special performance. 🌐

CARING AT CHRISTMAS

The Community and Care Board continues a long tradition of delivering cheerful Christmas flowers to Plymouth folks who are isolated or have suffered a loss. We will make deliveries to Horizon House and other senior living facilities, and to some individuals on Sunday, December 17. If you can safely deliver flowers, please email June Hayakawa-Fung.

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, RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org, or include a note with your check to the church. You can also donate online on our “Giving” page. Thank you for helping to spread Christmas cheer through this Plymouth tradition. 🌐

2024 CALENDARS FOR INMATES



A small gesture makes a big difference.

Each year we collect calendars for the coming new year to bring to the Monroe Correctional Complex. If you receive free calendars in the mail, please donate them. Ask your neighbors to see if they might wish to donate theirs.

Drop them off at church on Sundays in the box in the Lounge.

If you live at Horizon House, please put them in Sue Jones’ cubby in the mailroom (#1S). If you can’t make it to church, we’ll try to collect them. Call or email Christine Hanson (509-679-7430). Thank you for this simple act which brings so much joy to our incarcerated friends! 🌐

WOMANIST MIDRASH WITH THE REV. DR. WIL GAFNEY

The Wisdom School at St. Mark’s welcomes womanist biblical scholar and renowned author of *A Women’s Lectionary for the Whole Church*, The Rev. Wil Gafney, Ph.D. to lead a seminar on Womanist Midrash, exploring the complexity of scripture and importance of translation as she interprets the Hebrew Biblical tradition of women prophets and leaders.



9 am Saturday, December 2, Bloedel Hall

Plan now to attend Saturday, December 2, 9 am–12 pm, in person in Bloedel Hall and online via Zoom. Registration required for either option. Visit SaintMarks.org/Learn/Wisdom-School or see the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org to register.

Fee: \$65 (for both online and in-person participants). Partial scholarships available. Includes a light lunch and snacks for those participating in person.

Note: Dr. Gafney will also offer a guest sermon at St. Mark’s on Sunday, December 3, at 9 and 11 am. 🌐

BRIGHTEN THE SEASON

The season of festive treats is here, which means it’s time for Plymouth Housing’s annual cookie drive! You can help make the holidays special for members of our community who have experienced homelessness by donating homemade or store-bought cookies. Our goal this year is to receive 7,000 cookies so that we can provide each of our nearly 1,200 residents with a gift bag of cheerful baked goods.



Bring cookies or help pack for delivery

Sign up to donate cookies no later than Thursday, December 7, using the link at PlymouthHousing.org. Plan to drop off your cookies at our office Monday, December 11, between 8 am and 5:30 pm, at Plymouth Housing, 2117 Third Ave., Seattle, 98121.

We also need cookie packers. If you can help sort and pack cookies on Tuesday, December 12, please contact Kaley Oschmann (KOschmann@PlymouthHousing.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. 🌐

A WORD ABOUT YEAR-END GIVING

We count on your year-end contributions to sustain our ministries. Please remember all 2023 contributions must be postmarked or delivered to the church by December 30, 2023. Below are listed several options for how to give. Email DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for assistance with any of these giving options. Your gifts sustain vital ministries to our community and the world around us — thank you!



Your support is vital.

Online Giving through Simple Church Click on the MAKE A GIFT box at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Choose to deduct directly from your bank account or credit/debit card to make a one-time offering, or schedule recurring offerings. Be sure to donate on or before December 31.

Text to Give Simply text to 206-208-1442 and enter a dollar amount. You will receive prompts to complete the transaction. Once set up, you will be able to text offerings with one step.

Cash App Download the Cash App mobile app and follow the instructions to set up giving directly from your bank account. Our Cash App ID is \$PlymouthUCCSeattle. Questions? DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

CHECK BY MAIL Mail your offerings to the church: Plymouth Church, UCC / 1217 6th Ave / Seattle WA 98101 🌐

988: HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS



You are not alone: dial 988 for help.

The holiday season is a time of year where many are vulnerable to additional stress, anxieties, feeling overwhelmed, loneliness and feelings of sadness. We may turn to coping mechanisms that are harmful to us and others. Some are triggered this time of year as they navigate personal histories of trauma and unresolved grief.

It is a stressful time for pastors, too, who are only human and also experience depression, anxiety and feelings of despair. Congregations can be mindful by offering grace and respect for boundaries around days off and vacation time for pastors.

It is important to be present with loved ones, to listen attentively and let them know you care. If you or someone you know is struggling, dial **988** to connect with trained mental health professionals. The Lifeline is available for everyone. Get help for yourself, or be the vital difference for a loved one. 🌐

DECEMBER IS UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH

For some cultures, December marks the season for holidays. Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Milad un Nabi are just a few of the celebrations that American citizens will commemorate this



month — not to mention the closing of the calendar year. But December is also observed for another, lesser known reason: it is the Universal Month for Human Rights.

The Month for Human Rights began in 1948, when the United Nations wrote up a document called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This happened after the Second World War, because the U.N. wanted to prevent the atrocities that had occurred. They created the document as a way to properly define what human rights would be protected universally and clearly lists what these rights are. It emphasizes how important it is to work towards protecting freedom for all in order to keep peace.

How can you observe the Universal Month for Human Rights? One of the most important things you can do throughout the course of this month — and beyond — is to find common ground with the people around you. We must remember that all human beings were born into the same world we were and that, despite our differences, we must learn to function here together. Human Rights Month is about acknowledging that people of different races, religions, cultures, and beliefs are still just that: people. We must be careful of differentiating ourselves from others so much that we forget this.

Read more at DignityAndRespect.org. 🌐

AGE AND ABILITY DISCOUNTS

The City of Seattle online Discount Directory provides an opportunity for retail, service, arts, entertainment, tourism, and other organizations in the greater Seattle area to provide special discounts for older people and/or adults with disabilities, building their customer base and, at the same time, building a more age-friendly community.



Don't miss out!

Businesses and organizations define “older adults” and “adults with disabilities” in different ways. If in doubt, contact them directly to inquire. See current discounts offered and how to obtain them at Seattle.gov/AgeFriendly/Programs/Discounts. 🌐