

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

Worship In Person or Live Online

10:30 am Sunday, December 4, 2022

Second Sunday of Advent
Sacrament of Communion

Isaiah 54:1-8
Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

11:45 am Council Presentation, Hildebrand Hall
(see article page 1)

SNOW ALERT!

Staff will monitor weather conditions and will decide by 6:30 am on Sunday whether the church building will be open. We will leave an announcement on the church voice mail (206.622.4865) and homepage of the church website. Messages will also be sent out via social media.

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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Aboard! Horizon House residents can ride the charter bus to Plymouth the first Sunday of every month. The bus will pick you up at Horizon House and bring you to Plymouth in time for the 10:30 am service and return you to Horizon House afterward. Contact June Hayakawa-Fung, JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org with questions.

Donate Calendars to Prison Ministry Inmates at Monroe Correction Complex appreciate calendars for the coming year. Leave calendars in the box at Plymouth. If you live at Horizon House, please put them in Sue Jones' cubby in the mailroom (#1S). If you can't make it to Plymouth, contact Christine Hanson (HansonChristineAnn@gmail.com, 509.679.7430) to arrange a pick up.

Did You Know... You can view past services on our website, PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Under the "Worship" tab, click "Recent Services." You can also view past services, musical performances and special events on our YouTube channel, Plymouth Church UCC.

Connect with Congregational Council Meet with representatives from Council online via Zoom, 7-8 pm the second Wednesday of each month. Email Diane: DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org, by 5 pm the day of the meeting for the Zoom link.



1217 Sixth Avenue, Seattle,
Washington 98101-3199




Return Service Requested

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Toni and Tiffany Arthur, Sue Ellen Daniel (Friend of Barb Laski), John Daniels, Mark and JT Edwards, Susan Emerson (Mother of Kate Forrester), Montecino Family, **Megan French** (niece of Sue Jones), **David Dixon and Family**, Nancy Parker, **Carrie Gossett** (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Jim Halfaker, **Mamadou** (Friend of Floyd Gossett), Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Darline Jones (Aunt of Karen Clark), Dawn Mason, Jose Robles and Family, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon)

Our hearts are with Pam Miles and family on the one-year anniversary of the passing of her husband, Don.

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

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!   



PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

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EXPLORATORY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE COMPLETES WORK



Plan now to join these important gatherings.

As you've probably gathered from the flurry of announcements from Council recently, the members of our faithful Exploratory Development

Committee (EDC) have concluded their two-year long process and are ready to share their recommendation with the Congregation.

The Plymouth congregants who served on this committee generously gave of their time, talents, and hearts to carry out the task we set before them back in 2020, which was "to provide recommendations (not limited to one) for the congregation with regard to the future of the current Plymouth Church Seattle Property." We owe them a deep debt of gratitude. I hope you will join me, the rest of Council, and members of the EDC for the following meetings and events to hear the recommendation, discuss it with one another in-depth, and finally in January, to vote on it.

All of the following events will be held in a hybrid fashion, to accommodate your preference to gather in person or online. Link to the first meeting is posted at the bottom of our Worship page. Links to subsequent meetings will be listed in this updated news article online. Meetings are passcode protected, using the usual Plymouth passcode; contact Diane Jacobsen if you need the code: DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

- **Sunday 12/4/22 Initial EDC Presentation** right after Worship in Hildebrand Hall and online: Council will host a presentation led by EDC co-chairs, Grace Lounsbury and Larry Fung, during which they will present the EDC's recommendation. There will be a brief Q&A time immediately after the presentation. Click link at the bottom of our website worship page. Contact Diane if you need the passcode.
- **Saturday 12/17/22 All-Church Retreat** from 9am to Noon in Hildebrand Hall and online: A half-day all-church Retreat hosted by Council will provide an opportunity for us to collaboratively consider the EDC's recommendation through small group discussions and large group report-outs.

- **Additional Discussion Opportunities Online** 12/19/22, 12/21/22, 12/28/22, and 1/4/23 via Zoom only: Council and EDC members will host four drop-in times for Plymouth community members to talk about what the EDC's recommendation evokes for them and to listen deeply to one another. These discussion opportunities will not function as Q&A times, however; any questions posed at these gatherings will be addressed before the Congregational vote in January.

Sunday 1/8/23: Congregational Meeting right after Worship in Hildebrand Hall and online: Council will host a Congregational Meeting so that we may vote on the EDC's recommendation. There will be time to address final questions and for discussion ahead of the vote.

In addition to the above Q&A and discussion opportunities, an email address for questions related to EDC's presentation/recommendation will be activated after the 12/4/22 presentation: Development_Questions@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

Council leadership will route questions appropriately; questions will be addressed at the 12/17 all-church retreat. Questions received after the retreat will be addressed and shared before the final Congregational vote in January.

I realize that we are asking a lot of everyone with this intensive schedule of events and that the timing is challenging because Advent and Christmas are upon us. While we considered delaying this process until after the New Year, we decided not to wait for the following reasons:

- Council wants to honor the EDC's efforts by acting on their recommendation quickly.
- Plymouth's 2023 budget will be heavily influenced by the Congregation's vote on the EDC's recommendation and we do not want the budgeting process to be unduly delayed.
- This year's Council would very much like to have the church's path forward regarding redevelopment known before the new Council takes over in late January, 2023.

In closing, I am moved to share that I am humbled and excited by the task before us. We have an opportunity to listen deeply to one another and to the Spirit as we prayerfully and lovingly write Plymouth's next chapter together. My deepest hope is that whatever the outcome of the Congregational vote on the EDC's recommendation, this discovery process leads our church community to a stronger place such that we are able to clearly see how best to continue our faithful work in the world.

Peace and love, *Tracy Simpson, Moderator, Plymouth Church Council* ✨

SINCE I BEEN DOWN:
FILM AND DISCUSSION DECEMBER 10



Join in person or online.

Join us 2 pm at Plymouth December 10 for a film screening of *Since I Been Down*, followed by panel discussion at 4:30 pm. This award-winning film tackles the issues of incarcerated youth, creating community, and defining justice within an unjust system. Panelists include the filmmaker, Gilda Sheppard, Ginny Parham (*founder of Families Shoulder to Shoulder*), Kimonti Carter (*former president of the Black Prisoners Caucus, freed after 25 years of incarceration*), and Willie Nobles (*longtime member of the Black Prisoners Caucus, freed after 25 years of incarceration*).

This event will be hybrid in-person and virtual to engage with members of our communities near and far.

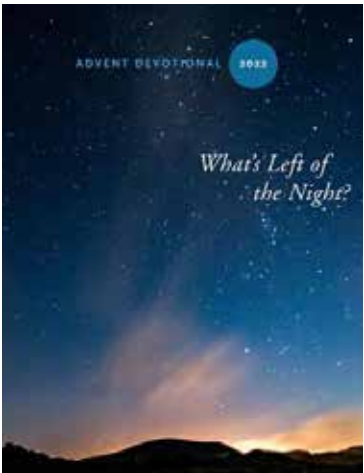
- **In person:** film will be shown at 2 pm, followed by a break (coffee, tea, snacks will be provided); panel discussion will start at 4:30 pm.
- **Virtual:** ticket holders will be provided with a secure link to watch the film on their own time prior to the event. They will be given a link to participate in the livestream of the panel discussion at 4:30 pm.

This fundraiser will benefit the Washington Poor People’s Campaign and Families Shoulder to Shoulder. All tickets are “pay as you’re able.” Links to tickets in news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. ✨

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

The 2022 Advent Devotional responds to a yearning for a new day with the reminder that people need night’s renewal for rest, for imagination, even for growth. *What’s Left of the Night?* asks two questions at once: How much longer must we wait, and how much longer can we dream?

Plymouth has purchased a limited number of print editions of the devotional, along with the pdf edition available for download. To get a print copy, please see June Hayakawa-Fung on Sunday. To have a print edition mailed to you, please contact Diane Jacobsen: DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Contact Diane as well to obtain your link to the pdf edition. ✨



SHARE THE SPIRIT

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 are arranging to make deliveries to Horizon House and other senior living facilities, and to some individuals on Sunday, December 18. If you can safely deliver flowers, please email June Hayakawa-Fung.



Help spread Christmas cheer.

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, or include a note with your check to the church. You can also donate online and list names on the form (link to form in news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Thank you for helping continue this tradition. ✨

HEALING BOTH SIDES OF HARM



Online panel discussion December 11

Sunday, December 11. Register and learn more at: bit.ly/HealingBothSidesOfHarm.

The principles of restorative justice invite a fundamental shift in the way we think about and do justice. Rooted in various indigenous philosophies (i.e., First Nations people of the Yukon, the Maori in New Zealand, and many more), restorative justice emphasizes community safety, survivor needs, accountability by the person who has harmed, and healing for all. In the non-indigenous Western world, restorative justice is merely 30 years old, and evolved as a response to failures in the criminal justice system. Restorative practices are currently being applied to address conflict in families, schools, communities, and workplaces, and in the justice system. ✨

LOOKING AHEAD

The Community and Care Board will assemble Christmas food boxes of fresh produce and poultry on Saturday, December 17. You can contribute financially by using the “Give” tab at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org and choosing “Christmas Boxes” from the drop-down fund menu. ✨

CELEBRATE SUZANNE AND WANDA THANK YOU!

Join us after worship on Sunday December 11 during coffee hour time for a time of recognition and celebration of the contributions of Suzanne Sanderson and Wanda Griffiths to the life and faith of Plymouth. Suzanne has been the Church Librarian for 16 years, supporting the active ministry of the written word led by the Library Committee, and curating books for the congregation to check out and use in discussion groups and book clubs as well as individual reading.



Suzanne Sanderson



Wanda Griffiths

Wanda has been the Music Director and Organist for 11 years, leading vocal groups and bell choir in rehearsals and Sunday worship, preparing and playing the organ for Sunday worship, working collaboratively with church leadership, ministering to congregants through music, and organizing concerts and other music events held at Plymouth.

The church will have individual “mail boxes” out in the narthex on Dec 4, Dec 11, and Dec 18 for your cards and notes to Suzanne, Wanda and also to former minister Jennifer Castle in case you missed her farewell celebration. These boxes are to collect both personal messages and any financial contribution you may wish to make to each person. More details are forthcoming in an email to the congregation. ✨

BEHOLD THE STAR



Behold the Star is the third concert in the New American Composers series of Seattle Pro Musica, featuring the works of composer Shruthi Rajasekar. This concert also explores holiday themes, with some classic choral pieces such as *Gaudete* and *Here is the Little Door*.

- Saturday, December 10, 3 pm or 7:30 pm: In person at Bastyr University Chapel, Seattle; pre-concert conversations at 2:30 pm and 7 pm.
- Saturday, December 17, 3 pm: In person at Seattle First Baptist Church, Seattle, and streaming live online for free (donations accepted); pre-concert conversation at 2:30 pm.

Tickets and more information at SeattleProMusica.org. ✨

Thanks to all who joined Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown and Stephen Smith last Saturday to prepare the building for Advent. The Hayakawa-Fung Family, the Stultz Family, Rev. Donene Blair, Christine Hanson, Ingrid Homlund and Kathy Rood spent the afternoon together to create sacred space for our Advent journey. Special thanks to our faithful building crew, Rogie Eclipse, Cameron Florey and Gener Rillo, who work tirelessly behind the scenes year-round to make everything run smoothly for worship and all our events. ✨



Dr. Brown adds her touch to Advent wreath. Photos courtesy of Rev. Donene Blair.



REMEMBER IN DECEMBER

December is Universal Human Rights Month

Dates to Note:

- 12/1 – World AIDS Day
- 12/7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 12/10 – Human Rights Day
- 12/12 – International Children’s Day
- 12/19 – Hanukkah begins
- 12/24 – Christmas Eve
- 12/25 – Christmas Day
- 12/26-1/1 – Kwanzaa
- 12/26 – Hanukkah ends
- 12/31 – Watch Night/New Year’s Eve ✨