

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, December 8, 2024

Worship in the Sanctuary or Online

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 41:4–5, 8–10, 17–20; Psalm 27:4–5, 7–10, 13–14;
1 Peter 3:13–17; Luke 1:26–38

Rev. Demontrice Bigham

9 am Choir Rehearsal, Hildebrand Hall

11:30 am Coffee Hour, Lounge

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

Find links to video stream and worship bulletin and participate online at **PlymouthChurchSeattle.org**.

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.*

BLESSINGS AND FAREWELL



Rev. Donene Blair

Greetings from California! Some of you are wondering about my departure from Plymouth and why it happened so quickly. I'm sorry about that and wanted to explain. I have been thinking about a move to be near my daughter and family for quite a long time. In October I spent a few frustrating days in search

of senior housing in the Sacramento area (very expensive!). When I found an affordable place, I needed to take it right away. I also wanted to make the drive south before winter set in. I crossed the Siskiyou Pass one day ahead of the big storm. So this is why I left Plymouth so suddenly. I will always be grateful for the seven years I served as Minister of Community Care with a wonderful care team and staff. It has been a joy and blessing to watch Plymouth change and grow into a beautiful diverse congregation serving downtown Seattle. I will pray for you, as I hope you'll pray for me during this time of transition. Blessings and farewell.

—Rev. Donene Blair

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Afghan Family (Siblings of Plymouth), **Toni Arthur**, Ahmed Black (Nephew of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Wendy Carpenter (Friend of Jocelyn Coit-Durland), Diane Folkert (Mother and Mother-in-Law of Alex & Ara Lawrence), Elvis Gordon (Brother of Michael and Elizabeth Gordon), Floyd Gossett, Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Kay Heekin (Mother-in-Law of Kate Forrester), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Julie (Friend of Karen Clark), Concetta Lewis (Sister of Jo-Ann Guthrie), William Chapman Nyaho, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Gevan Woodke (Friend of Karen Clark), Shaniece (Friend of Karen Clark)

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

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.



PO Box 21368
Seattle, Washington 98111

Return Service Requested

PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

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ORDER PLYMOUTH CALENDARS NOW



Each calendar is \$25, and will make great gifts.

Dearest Plymouth, A few weeks ago, you posed for pictures for our 2025 calendar featuring families of choice. In just a few days, they will be available! Purchasing the calendars in advance would be helpful so that we have a sense of how many to create. Each calendar is \$25, and will make great Christmas gifts. Pre-order your calendar today using the link on the home page of our website: PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. —Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

HELP PACK FOOD BOXES DEC. 18

We need volunteers to pack Christmas food boxes of fresh produce and poultry for those living in Seattle's food deserts. Noon–2 pm Wednesday, December 18 in Hildebrand Hall. Please contact June Hayakawa-Fung (JHayakawafung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) if you can help. We welcome you to contribute financially by mailing a check or contributing on our giving page at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Choose “Christmas Food Boxes” from the fund menu.



Prepare boxes at Plymouth December 18.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT PLYMOUTH



Service at 6:30 pm Tuesday, Dec. 24

Christmas will be here soon! Join Plymouth in celebration Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, in the Sanctuary and live online at 6:30 pm. Service features beloved congregational carols, stirring anthems, moving Scripture and contemporary readings, and sharing of the light. Invite friends and family!

MUSIC FOR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Join Puget Brass 7–9 pm Saturday, December 7, at Plymouth UCC for a program of brass and organ music supporting a good cause. Selections include seasonal favorites like *Joy to the World* and *Silent Night* and features Gigout's *Grand Choeur Dialogue* with organist Nicholas Abbott.



Admission is free. Contributions in the form of cash or check, non-perishable food items, and toiletries will be directly provided to serving our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with you. Please address questions to info@pugetbrass.org.

Puget Brass is pleased to partner with Plymouth Church's Immigration Ministry. Plymouth has a long history of commitment to justice and to working in cooperation with other faith communities. The Plymouth Immigration Ministry Team works within the church and in the community to welcome immigrants and refugees through direct services, education, advocacy, financial support and building relationships.

PATHWAY TO FREEDOM

Families Shoulder to Shoulder invites you to a screening of the short film *Pathway to Freedom*, highlighting Willie Nobles and his journey to freedom after spending 25 years in prison when he was sentenced to 96 years at the age of 18.

At Plymouth, 5–7 pm Sunday, December 8. The film will be followed by a panel discussion on justice activism. Pizza, salad and refreshments will be served. Donations accepted to help further the mission of Families Shoulder to Shoulder. Please bring friends for this special and engaging event. Kindly RSVP to ciara@familiesshouldertoshoulder.org.



DECEMBER IS UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH



Celebrate and defend human rights.

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 reason: it is the Universal Month for Human Rights.

It’s important to understand how the Month for Human Rights started. It 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.

The very first article of this declaration makes it clear what the purpose is. It states: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”

The rest of the document lists out what these rights are. It emphasizes how important it is to work towards protecting freedom for all in order to keep peace.

There is a lot of turmoil in the world. Open up any newspaper or look on any Facebook or Twitter feed and see the many challenges our planet is constantly facing.

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.

Take the time to learn about another culture that is different from yours — perhaps a culture that makes you nervous or uneasy. Research their history or perhaps make a new friend that is a member of that culture. You’ll start to see quickly how similar all people really are. You’ll start to see just how important it is that everyone be treated with dignity and respect.

Read more and find resources at DignityAndRespect.org.

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

All gifts received Sunday, December 22, will be divided evenly between **The UCC Christmas Fund** and **Plymouth UCC Scholarship Fund**. **The Christmas Fund** has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

Your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. **Plymouth UCC Scholarship Fund** remains supported by half of the proceeds from this year’s Christmas Special Offering. These funds are dedicated to assisting members and friends facing financial challenges, enabling them to participate in opportunities provided by Plymouth UCC.

Thank you for your generous and faithful support of these vital ministries.

A WORD ABOUT YEAR-END GIVING



We give thanks for your faithful support.

As we near the end of 2024, Plymouth UCC invites you to consider a year-end donation to help sustain vital ministries. Your generosity enables our vital work in the community and beyond to continue. Here are ways you can donate:

- **By mail:** All contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2024. Remember to use our new mailing address — PO Box 21368 Seattle, WA 98111.
- **Website:** Visit our website www.plymouthchurchseattle.org and click the “Give” tab before December 31, 2024.
- **Cash App:** Download the Cash App and follow the instructions to set up giving directly from your bank account. Our Cash App ID is \$PlymouthUCCSeattle. Send donations by December 31, 2024

For assistance with giving options, or to discuss stock donations, please email Diane Jacobsen (DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Your support truly does make a difference — thank you for sustaining our shared mission.



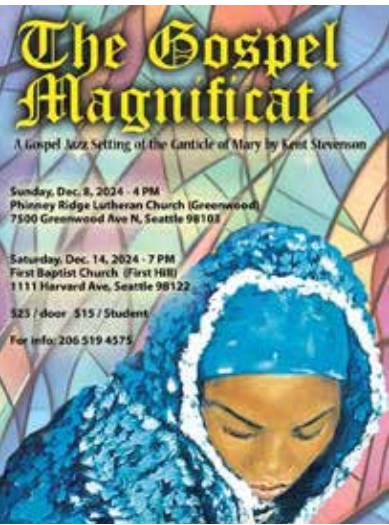
BLUE CHRISTMAS

Come to Plymouth at 4 pm on the longest night, Saturday, December 21, for a concert to benefit those struggling through the holidays. Featuring Nelda Swiggett, Clif Swiggett and Michael Glynn, with guest vocalist Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown. You’ll be tapping your toes when you hear this lively trio with its big, warm sound — featuring Nelda Swiggett (piano/vocals), Clif Swiggett (trombone/percussion), and Michael Glynn (acoustic bass). Their Blue Christmas Concert will feature holiday favorites and other soulful selections that reflect the season’s spirit of giving, gratefulness, and reflection. Invite a friend or two for a special evening of music in the Sanctuary.



Concert 4 pm December 21 at Plymouth.

THE GOSPEL MAGNIFICAT



This season, you are invited to a contemporary celebration: *The Gospel Magnificat: A Gospel/Jazz Setting of the Canticle of Mary*. In addition to the gospel and jazz elements, the music embraces a palette to include the spirituals, blues, Middle Eastern themes and Brazilian rhythms. Also featured are guest vocalists and musicians, and a concert choir with voices from six faith traditions, as well as voices from The City Cantabile Choir and The African American Cultural Ensemble.

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- 4 pm Sunday, December 8 at Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church (75th & Greenwood Ave N, Seattle)
- 7 pm Saturday, December 14 at First Baptist (1111 Harvard Ave, Seattle).

\$25 at the door (\$15 students), More info: 206-519-4575.

PLEASE NOTE

On Sunday, December 29, we will have online worship only. The building will be closed to give staff and clergy an opportunity to spend time with loved ones. You can access the worship service on Plymouth’s web site or on Plymouth’s YouTube channel at 10:30 am, December 29.

OPPOSING CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

Christian Nationalism is a political ideology advancing the myth that the United States was established as a Christian nation and should continue as such. This belief system intertwines faith with political identity and is deeply rooted in ideologies that run counter to the life and teachings of Jesus. It is crucial for concerned Christians to provide a strong and clear counter-narrative, emphasizing that genuine Christianity is centered on loving God and neighbor, values that often stand in stark contrast to those promoted by Christian Nationalism.



Stand up, speak out, share the Good News!

“THIS is Christianity” seeks to reclaim the narrative with stories of God’s love and light in action, shared by Christians from diverse backgrounds and communities. “THIS is Christianity” is a video-driven social media initiative designed to combat the rise of Christian Nationalism by showcasing the true essence of Christianity: love, compassion, and inclusion. The campaign encourages Christians to share personal stories of encountering God’s love and light in the world.

You can participate by submitting a short video that shares your personal story of experiencing God’s love and light. Your video may be featured on our campaign website and social media channels. Visit ThisIsChristianity.org for guidelines and to learn how to submit your message.

Help spread the word and encourage friends and family to counter the growing threat of Christian Nationalism.

SHARE THE SPIRIT



Spread the joy of the season.

Continue our tradition of delivering cheerful Christmas flowers to Plymouth folks who are isolated or have suffered a loss. Please come to church on December 15 and 22, pick up a card(s) and plant(s) to deliver at any time that is convenient.

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. Choose “Flower Fund” from the fund menu. Thank you for keeping our community connected with care.