

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

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

Second Sunday of Advent

Walk the Labyrinth During Worship

Genesis 16:7–13; Psalm 48:1–3, 9–14;

Romans 10:9–13; Mark 1:14–28

“Naming God”

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

11:30 am Coffee Hour, Lounge

12:30 pm Winter Concert, Sanctuary

The Plymouth Library is open before and after worship on Sundays.

HEALTH NOTICE

With COVID, RSV and flu cases spiking in King County, singers and performers at Plymouth will wear masks. Plymouth maintains a “mask optional but encouraged” policy for all others in the building.

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.

It's an unwed woman who carries God.

It's the pagans from the East who recognize God.

It's the workers in the field who hear from God.

It's the marginalized neighborhood who welcomes God.

It's God who chooses the lowly and the broken to rise.

Christmas is here.
Let hope in.

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! [f](#) [t](#) [i](#)



1217 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101-3199

Return Service Requested

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 & Elizabeth Gordon), Philomena Worme

Our hearts are with Carol Ottenberg on the passing of her husband, Simon on November 1.

We are with Karen Clark on the one-year anniversary of the passing of her Aunt Darline Jones

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PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

December 6, 2023

WINTER CONCERT DECEMBER 10



After worship Dec. 10, in the Sanctuary.

This Sunday, December 10 at 12:30 pm, 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. 🌍

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

Gifts received Sunday December 24 will benefit The Christmas Fund and Plymouth UCC Immigration Fund. This offering is one of four special offerings throughout the church year to support national and local ministries within our denomination. Gifts earmarked Christmas Special Offering will be divided evenly between The Christmas Fund and Plymouth UCC Immigration Fund, designated specifically to support Welcome Circle's on-going efforts in settling the Afghan family.



The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund
“Grace upon Grace.” John 1:16

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. United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. Your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you! 🌍

MESSY, BEAUTIFUL HEART ON THE FLOOR

So often the experience of being in community with you all for worship is simultaneously heartrending and heartwarming – it breaks me open and it heals me, it challenges me and it validates me, over and over and over again.

Being in community with you all during worship today was this sort of both/and experience and for this, I'm grateful to everyone present in the Sanctuary and in our wider, broken open circle.

I'm also grateful for the way God – or in my way of understanding the universe, Love – made itself visible on the sanctuary floor in the shape of a messy, beautiful heart shadow. I'm still someone who hungers for miracles and who needs tangible signs, so it's lovely when the universe humors me in this.

I noticed this messy heart shadow during the part of worship when Tory Trujillo was sharing *Silent Night* with us after providing her powerful, loving witness of what is happening today in Jesus's homeland of Palestine.

It stayed through Kael Sherrard's heartrending and heartwarming reading of Warsan Shire's *Home* for our contemporary voice. It was made possible because Cory Maclay decided to walk the labyrinth and left her shoes just so under her chair such that the shadow cast made a messy, beautiful heart there on the floor.

The option to walk the labyrinth was made possible by a loving series of out-of-the-box decisions and a lot of loving hands (and backs) that laid out the canvas.

So many elements came together to create this unexpected, ephemeral messy, beautiful heart that I feel moved to share it with you all as we hold one another in this tender, uncertain time.

May peace and love be yours to hold and to share, Tracy Simpson 🌍

CHRISTMAS EVE AT PLYMOUTH

Christmas will be here soon! Join Plymouth in celebration Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, at 10:30 am and 5:30 pm. Services feature beloved congregational carols, stirring anthems, moving Scripture and contemporary readings and sharing of the light. Invite friends and family! 🌍

HUMAN RIGHTS: CLOSE TO HOME



December is Universal Human Rights Month, and December 10 is Universal Human Rights Day. On December 10, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations announced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), 30 rights and freedoms that belong to all of us.

Eleanor Roosevelt was heavily involved in championing civil rights and social activism. On the tenth anniversary of the UDHR, Eleanor gave a speech at the United Nations called ‘Where Do Human Rights Begin?’ Part of her speech has become famous for capturing the reason why human rights are for every one of us, in all parts of our daily lives:

“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighbourhood they live in; the school or college they attend; the factory, farm, or office where they work. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.”

2024 CALENDARS FOR INMATES

We continue to collect calendars for the coming new year to bring to the Monroe Correctional Complex. If you get free calendars in the mail, please drop them off at church on Sundays in the box in the Lounge. If you can't make it to church, call or email Christine Hanson (509-679-7430). Thank you for this simple act which brings so much joy to our incarcerated friends!



A small gesture makes a big difference.

WALK THE LABYRINTH DEC. 10



Take the journey into Advent.

The labyrinth will be set up in the back of the Sanctuary during 10:30 am worship on this Sunday, December 10, and you are invited to walk it during the service. This will be a very meaningful spiritual practice as we continue our Advent journey together. Please join us.

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 on Sunday, December 17. 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, RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org, or include a note with your check to the church. You can also donate online on our “Giving” page. Thank you.

A WORD ABOUT YEAR-END GIVING



You are Plymouth Church UCC.

Your year-end gifts sustain our ministries. 2023 contributions must be postmarked or delivered to the church by December 30, 2023. Email DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for help with any of these giving options.

Your faithful giving makes possible our vital work in our community and the world around us — thank you!

Online Giving through Simple Church Click on the MAKE A GIFT box at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Choose to deduct from your bank account or credit/debit card. Be sure to donate on or before December 31.

Text to Give to 206-208-1442 and enter a dollar amount.

Cash App Our Cash App ID is \$PlymouthUCCSeattle.

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

REMEMBER IN DECEMBER

December is Universal Human Rights Month

- 12/7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 12/7-12/15 – Hanukkah
- 12/10 – Human Rights Day
- 12/12 – International Children’s Day
- 12/24 – Christmas Eve
- 12/25 – Christmas Day
- 12/26-1/1 – Kwanzaa
- 12/31 – Watch Night/New Year’s Eve

HELP PACK FOOD BOXES DEC. 22

This year we will again create Christmas boxes of fresh produce and poultry for those living in food deserts in the greater Seattle area. We need volunteers to pack boxes at Plymouth, Noon–2 pm Friday, December 22. Please contact June Hayakawa-Fung (JHayakawafung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) if you can help.



Pack boxes or make a donation — your help is appreciated!

We welcome you to contribute financially by mailing a check or contributing online: on our “Giving” page, choose “Christmas Food Boxes” from the fund menu. Food boxes will be available for those in the Plymouth community as well. If you or someone you know would benefit from a food box, please email June. Thank you for supporting this ministry of Plymouth, led by the Community and Care Board.

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.

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.

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.



THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who joined Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown last Thursday to prepare the building for Advent. Robert Malae, Cory Maclay, Christine Hanson, Al Bentley, Adele Reynolds, June Hayakawa-Fung and Rev. Donene Blair worked together to create sacred space for our Advent journey. Special thanks to our faithful building crew, Rogie Eclipse, Cameron Florey, Gener Rillo and Josue Hernandez Aparicio, who work tirelessly behind the scenes year-round to make everything run smoothly for worship and all our events.



Thanks to all who help enhance our worship space..



SHINE WARM A LITTLE LONGER

Come to Plymouth 7:30 pm Saturday, December 16 to hear Choral Arts Northwest perform Morten Lauridsen’s enchanting *Mid-Winter Songs*, evoking hope and possibility for renewal with a cyclic setting of Robert Graves’ poetry. Additional repertoire includes a variety of solstice and winter-themed settings to warm winter’s long nights with celebration, and community. Visit ChoralArtsNW.org for tickets.



Concert at Plymouth 7:30 pm December 16