

Release, Receive, Return: Advent and Christmas at Plymouth

Receive: Wednesday, December 14, 5:30-6:00

Advent-themed music for harp with
John Carrington

Labyrinth from 3:00-5:15 and 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Return: Wednesday, December 21, 5:30-6:00

Meditative jazz for vibes, piano and bass with
Susan Pascal, Bill Anshell,
and Chuck Deardorf

Labyrinth from 3:00-9:00 p.m.

Longest Night (Winter Solstice)

Wednesday, December 21

3:00-9:00 p.m. Labyrinth Walk,
Hildebrand Hall

6:00-7:00 p.m. Light snacks available

7:00-8:00 p.m. Service of Remembrance,
in the Chapel

Sunday, December 18

11:00 a.m. Excerpts from Christmas portion of
the *Messiah* for choir and chamber orchestra

Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service
(no potluck this year)

9:30 p.m. Cookies and Fellowship

11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
Prelude music for brass and organ of Corelli,
Torelli and Gabrielli will begin at 10:30 p.m.

Service music includes
special carol arrangements
for choir and bells

Christmas Day Sunday, December 25

11:00 a.m. only Christmas Worship

An intimate service to celebrate the coming of
the Light into the world.

Musical Musings



It has become a tradition at Plymouth Church for the choir to sing a large choral work with chamber orchestra on the Sunday before Christmas. This Sunday, December 18, we are singing excerpts from the Christmas portion of the *Messiah* by G. F. Handel as part of worship at 11:00 a.m.

One of the most well-known and frequently performed choral works, the oratorio was first performed in Dublin on April 13, 1742 and received the London premiere a year later. The libretto is a scriptural text compiled by Charles Jennens from the King James Bible and the English Book of Common Prayer.

The structure of the *Messiah* follows the liturgical year. Part I, which we will be singing from, corresponds with Advent, Christmas, and the life of Jesus Christ; Part II with Lent, Easter, the Ascension, and Pentecost; and Part III with the end of the church year — end of time. Although the structure resembles that of a conventional baroque opera, it is not in dramatic form: there are no impersonations and no direct speech. Instead, the librettist's text is an extended reflection on Jesus Christ as Messiah.

Two movements are for instrumentalists only, and we will be playing both of them: The *Overture* at the beginning and the *Pifa* (a pastorella introducing the shepherds in Bethlehem) Soloists from the Plymouth Choir will be Jon Palmason, Linda Strandberg, Megan Drake, and Charles Robert Stephens. We are excited to share this glorious piece of music with you!

—Douglas Cleveland

Longest Night: Walk the Labyrinth

Wednesday, December 21, 3:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Hildebrand Hall



The Labyrinth is out, the candles are lit. Come, walk in the warmth and the light of this sacred space. Embrace the darkness as a time to remember, reflect, and rest. Receive what's there for you on your labyrinth walk and return from the center absorbing the peace of this quiet time. Add your light of gratitude for what is, what has been, what is coming.

We spread the glow of this season of Traveling Light by seeing past outer appearances, by seeing with our hearts instead of our eyes. We can look for the Christ Light in the world, in other faith traditions, in other countries, in those people different from us. When we expect to find it we will. Just as the light of a single candle parts the darkness of an entire room, so does our light shared through a smile, a thoughtful word, a moment of companionship brighten the world of another. Grow your light. Increase it each day from this darkest night. Do not wait for others, do it alone, person to person. Be the light that parts the darkness.

Return: Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. (John 20:21)

Come walk the Labyrinth. Walk in the Light.

**5:30-6:00 Meditative jazz for vibes, piano and bass
with Susan Pascal, Bill Anschell,
and Chuck Deardorf**

**6:00 p.m. Light snacks will be provided
in the Lounge**

**A service of Remembrance will be held
in the Chapel from 7:00-8:00 .pm.**

Through music, readings, Scripture and communion you are invited to remember the passing of a loved one during this holy season.

—Sharon Brown, Labyrinth Facilitator

Las Posadas

The Washington New Sanctuary Movement invites you to join our third annual Las Posadas, a journey of witness, on Saturday, December 17, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at St. James Cathedral (9th and Columbia) in Seattle and proceeding on foot to Seattle First Baptist Church (1111 Harvard Ave.), where there will be a short film, panel discussion, food and music.

Help Deliver Christmas Cheer

As you are making your holiday plans, remember to include the delivery of flowers to our members and friends who are not able to attend regularly. Pick up a flower and a card December 18. Deliveries may be made between Christmas and New Year's Day.

A Note About December Gifts

During December we receive many contributions, and we are very grateful for your generosity. In order to carry out your wishes, it is very important that you identify whether your check is a payment on the 2011 pledge, or the 2012 pledge. With your help we will credit your gifts to the correct year. Please be sure to use designated envelopes or indicate your intentions on the memo line of your check. Thank you for paying attention to these important details as we get caught up in the wonder of the holiday season.

— Wendy Blight, Church Business Administrator

Sunday, December 18, 2011

Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Return

Christmas Flower Delivery

Services at 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Brigitta Remole, preaching

9:50 a.m. Sunday School Gathering, Lounge

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Littlest Pageant, Chapel

10:00 a.m. Plymouth Forum, *Brigitta Remole*,
Hildebrand Hall

12:15 p.m. Fellowship Hour, Lounge

Sunday Parking Request

Parking can be difficult if you aren't an adult or spry. We have limited disabled parking spots in the Plymouth garage, and the IBM garage requires moving up ramps and through doors that are not easily managed. As a hospitable act toward those of us with small children or those who use walkers or wheelchairs, would we, the able-bodied and flexible, please park in the IBM garage and leave the Plymouth garage for those who could use extra ease in getting here on Sunday mornings? Your efforts to help us all feel welcome here would be greatly appreciated! —*New Member Board*

Bring Cookies for Christmas Eve

Join with family and friends for Christmas cheer. Share your favorite Christmas cookies and candy at the Christmas Eve Fellowship Hour in the Lounge at 9:30 p.m. Bring several dozen either this Sunday, or on Christmas Eve, clearly marked "Christmas Eve."
— *Fellowship & Recreation Board*

Share the Gift of Flowers

On Sunday, December 18, Christmas poinsettias will be delivered to members and friends who might benefit from receiving these flowers. Support this ministry and honor your loved ones by sending your contribution to the church office marked, "Christmas Flowers." Names will be listed in the *Herald*.



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Enclosed, please find

\$ _____ for Christmas flowers as a memorial to, or in honor of:

as a contribution from:

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How Much is Enough ...?

We are surrounded by the pressure to achieve, to acquire, to do ... *more!* The people of our country are rising up again, voices raised against consumption and an unjust aggregation of wealth never before seen in our society. Spiritually, as Christians, the challenge is to remain whole, to believe the promise of the Good News. And personally we ask: "Am I keeping up? Will I be OK? I'm doing the best I can, but is it enough?" **The Plymouth Men's Retreat, March 2-4. The Plymouth Men's Silent Retreat March 1:** Put them on your calendar. Our leader is past Plymouth member, Old Testament scholar and economic guru Darel Grothaus. This is one you are not gonna want to miss!

—*Tom Colwell*

Speaking Christian: Reclaiming Christian Language

Marcus Borg, internationally known biblical and Jesus scholar will give a series of lectures on "*Speaking Christian: Reclaiming Christian Language*" on Friday, February 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at University Congregational United Church of Christ. Cost for the lecture is \$15. On Saturday, February 11, 2012 ,9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Dr. Borg will give a series of three lectures: "Speaking of Christian Yearning: Salvation, Kingdom of Heaven, Eternal Life. This World or Next?"; "Speaking of Christian Values: Mercy and Righteousness? Or Compassion and Justice?" and "Speaking of Good Friday and Easter: What is the Gospel?"

Advance tickets are \$50 for the Friday and Saturday lecture series. Marcus Borg will also be at University Congregational United Church of Christ on Sunday, February 12, 2012 for the 9:00 a.m. Adult Education hour, speaking on "Lent: What's It All About?" and preaching at 10 am during the worship service. Marcus Borg is Canon Theologian at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Oregon and was the Hundere Chair of Religion and Culture in the Philosophy Department at Oregon State University until his retirement in 2007. He is the author of nineteen books, including *Jesus: A New Vision* (1987) and best seller *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* (1997).

For tickets or information, contact University Congregational United Church of Christ, (206) 524-6255, ext. 3447 or lectureseries@universityucc.org Registration forms are available at: www.universityucc.org or at the church office at 4515 16th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98105-4201. Tickets are also available at Brown Paper Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/211853.

Plymouth Forum

The Reverend Brigitta Remole



The Plymouth Forum this Sunday, December 18, welcomes Brigitta Remole, who joined Plymouth in September 2011 as our Senior Minister.

After serving congregations in Connecticut, Brigitta's move to the Northwest was like returning "home." Although she grew up overseas as the daughter of an American diplomat, living in such countries as Malawi, Uganda, Mali, Martinique, Congo, Germany, her grandparents were in the timber business in Klickitat Washington and were on the forefront of implementing sustainable practices back in the 1930s. She joins a sister who lives in Lynnwood WA and parents who live in Randle WA, 26 miles from the base camp of Mt. Rainer.

Brigitta has two daughters, Erin and Kristin. Erin is a junior at Hartwick College in New York and is studying nursing. Kristin will finish her senior year of high school early and move to the Northwest at the end of the fall. Brigitta also lives with a menagerie of rescued pets — one dog and four cats (yes 4!).

Brigitta holds an undergraduate degree from Carleton College, a Masters of Divinity from Yale University, and a Masters in clinical social work from New York University.

Please join us in Hildebrand Hall at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 18.

Position Open

Plymouth Church is looking for a part-time Parish Visitor. The Parish Visitor is an extension of the pastoral care ministry of Plymouth Church, visiting members and friends of the church who are confined to their homes, providing Christian friendship and emotional support for their spiritual journey. A full position description is on our website: www.plymouthseattle.org.

Snow Camp is Coming!

Mark February 18-20 on your calendar for a great weekend in the snow at Camp Koinonia. Details will be coming in January. Plan now to attend, and keep watching the Herald for sign-up dates.