WELCOME!
PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“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.

Thank you for worshipping online with us today. Please like and send us a greeting on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The church office will be closed during concerns about the coronavirus.
The church building will be limited to use by Seattle Infant Development Center and essential activities until at least March 21, 2020.
Check PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for updates.

All pastoral care will be via telephone or other electronic means.
If you have personal concerns, you may contact a minister or member of the Pastoral Care Team via e-mails below, or call the pastoral voice mail (206.622.4865 *833), checked daily.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2020
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship with Plymouth Church UCC begins with meditation.
The quiet of this place is meant to encourage and deepen your own inner work.
Thank you for entering this place, this hour, by honoring the spirit of worship.

PLYMOUTH UCC PURPOSE
Growing people of faith who participate in God’s work in the world.

PLYMOUTH UCC VISION
Plymouth Church UCC is a Christian Community open to the transforming Spirit of God.

* Indicates you are invited to rise as you are able.

PRELUDE
Parables for Organ: 2. Siciliano (Parable of the Lost Sheep) . . . . Sandra Gay (b. 1943)
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP
(Genesis 12: 1-4a; John 3: 1-17)

One: We are in the presence of God. Leave the places you have known and walk with God. Leave behind thoughts of limitation and imagine.

Many: But we are secure where we are.

One: Ahh, but new ways of being in this world are possible for each of us.

Many: Can’t God bless us where we are, and as we are?

One: If you trust enough to move from the places you have known, and question the systems around us, you will be blessed. God is our light and our salvation.

Many: Lord, we open ourselves to you. Direct our paths and open our hearts and minds.

One: In this place, in every place, for this time, for all time.

All: Let us worship our God.
HYMN . . . . . . . O God Our Help in Ages Past . . . . ST. ANNE C.M.  
(Hymnal # 25)

1 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
2 Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
3 Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,
4 A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,

Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
   soon bears us all away;  
   We fly forgotten, as a dream  
   fades at the opening day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
   our hope for years to come,  
   Still be our God while troubles last,  
   and our eternal home!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

May we confess, as Jesus did in the wilderness. Gracious God forgive those things we have done which have caused you sadness, and those things we should have done that would have brought you joy. In both we have failed ourselves, and you. Bring us back to that place where our journey began, when we said that we would follow you.

(Please observe a moment of silence)

Let us confess together…
Holy One, who is able to make all things new, we are thankful for the gift of each day being an opportunity to do better, to be better. We ask forgiveness for wanting new life without being willing to die to old ways of being. Forgive us for doubting that new life, rebirth is possible. Midwife our spirits, that we may be born into a new state of consciousness; that we may be born from this chrysalis into what we shall be.

Assurance of Reconciliation

Even in our reluctance, even in our brokenness, God provides a path to wholeness and renewal. When we confess our shortcomings, God has mercy on us and is generous with forgiveness. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven....and that is good news.

Thanks be to God.

Welcome

Moment of Ministry . . . . . . . . Plymouth Healing Communities

Sharing Peace . . . . . . . . . . . . The peace of Christ be with you.

Prayers of the People

Riley Balcita, Matt Banks, Anna Colwell, Steve Davis, Pam Dorrance, Ellie Edelweiss, Blake & Jo Ann English (Relatives of Lucian Guthrie), Don Gwilym, Jackie Fouts (Mother-in-law of Al Wallace), Peter Gibbons (Brother of Eileen Gibbons), Lucian Guthrie, the Guthrie Family, Michael Kaid, Libonati Family, Maclay Family, Sharon Masse (Wife of Gary Magnuson), Jo Mitchell, Georgia Nelson, Taylor Patt, Joshua and Ezra (family of Glenda Carper), Dick, Jean and Alex Paul (Parents and Nephew of Beth Paul Russell), Jim Perry, Jose Robles, Mary Ryan, Rod Shutt, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Jim Tsuchiya (Brother-in-law of Bill Castello), Evelyn Wong

Our hearts are with Marcia and the Almquist family on the one-year anniversary of the passing of Bob Almquist.
A variety of faithful addresses for God (Creator, Mother, Holy One, Father) are welcome at Plymouth UCC, including in the Lord’s Prayer.

**Lord’s Prayer**

Holy One, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
On earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Invitation to Share**

Jesus felt tender compassion for the suffering people he met. He realized that many workers would be needed for a great harvest of mercy and love. This day you and I are called to this work of kin-dom building. This very day you and I are called to a sweet labor of generosity, healing, and peace. Let us bring our gifts, then, so that the ministry of this church will be a growing, vibrant witness to God’s love. Please give through text, our website, or mail in your gifts as we continue to be the church.

**Ways to Give** You can contribute to the mission and ministries of Plymouth UCC anytime, anywhere! Go to PlymouthChurchSeattle.org and click on the “Give” box, or text to give: Simply text the amount you’d like to give (i.e. 10.00) to Plymouth UCC’s mobile giving number (206.208.1442), hit send. Questions? Contact Diane in the church office (206.622.4865).

**Lenten Stories: Stewardship and Faith**

*Tad Anderson:* After 30 plus years of membership, you start to feel like part of the furniture. Maybe that’s why I’ve been on half-time sabbatical these last few months, worshipping twice a month at other churches. I’ve listened in on the pregnant silence at University Friends, sung and swayed with the praise music at Quest Church, hung out with a courageous congregation at Trinity Episcopal that hosts a homeless services facility, and relaxed into the joyful camaraderie of Our Redeemers Lutheran. It’s cool to see that good things are happening on Sunday mornings all over my part of town. Those Lutherans, in particular, seem so comfortable in their songs and rituals. It may just be an outsider’s imagination, but my sense is that Lutherans do well at balancing the ying and yang of group vs individual needs. The worship structure is a given that individuals accept, creating an easy group confidence that allows individuals of all kinds to be nurtured and celebrated.
At Plymouth, it’s a little different. Worship here, in my experience, is more experimental, more challenging, more exploratory… and more often criticized. How “Congregational” that feels and, truth be told, I wouldn’t have it any other way. Behind it all, even the criticism, is a deep commitment to each other and to seeing what good and beautiful things we can do together. I love the way my restless spirit is welcomed, guided, and feels right at home here at Plymouth. 

**Jamie Shilling:** I have been a part of Soul Choir since its beginnings when it was just a twinkle in Jon Palmason’s eyes and when our director, Sari Breznau was known mostly for her music inspired by and with the women of the Church of Mary Magdalene. Soul Choir is more about communicating music than the actual making of it. The making of that music is more a spiritual practice of showing up in the song and sharing the message of the song through our whole beings to you who are listening.

Worship at Plymouth makes me peel away my indifference and opens me to myself: to the possibility of who I might dare to become as a part of this Beloved Community. I love how worship at Plymouth now embraces such a diversity of musical expression. I love that Kelle can step into Soul Choir rehearsal and we can lift our voices to surround her strong, powerful song. This is the kind of worship that “lights fires against the midnight of indifference and throws bridges of care across canyons of loneliness.”

Bruce and I have been on a journey of faith with you all for almost 40 years! That faith has sustained us through some often risky and necessarily inventive ways of making Home. Church is a little like that: we show up; we don’t know what we may be called to do or even what our family will look like. We don’t know what our future church will look like, but it’s Home: a place that we can travel from with hope and with God’s Grace.

So listen church family as I sing this to you: “We are going, heaven knows where we are going, but we know within. And we will get there, heaven knows how we will get there, but we know we will.”

**Offering Music** “. . . . . . Fear Thou Not . . . . . . . . Mårten Jansson
Vocalise Women’s Ensemble

**Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heav’nly hosts,

**Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

May these gifts indicate our gratitude for our many blessings. May the spiritual nourishment we receive today strengthen us for continued service. Amen.
The Greatest Command (revised inclusive lyrics)

Love one another, for love is of God.
Those who love are born of God;
And know God.
Those who do not love, do not know God,
For God is love, God is love.
Love bears all things,
Believes all things,
Love hopes all things,
Endures all things.
God is love, God is love, God is love.
God is love, God is love, God is love.
God is love, God is love, God is love,
God is love, God is love, God is love.
Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
With all your soul, all your strength,
All your mind.
Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
For God is love, God is love, God is love.

Reading from the Gospel of John

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.”

Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

“What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?”

Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can’t explain how people are born of the Spirit.”
“How are these things possible?” Nicodemus asked.

Jesus replied, “You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don’t understand these things? I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won’t believe our testimony. But if you don’t believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the son of humankind has come down from heaven. And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the son of humankind must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.”

“For this is how God loved the world: God gave God’s human born son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

**MESSAGE . . . . . . . . Why Love Wins! . . . . . . . Rev. Steven Davis**

(Service continues next page)

In response to the spread of the COVID-19 disease, we are following the recommendations of King County Public Health Department. Plymouth Church Seattle is promoting and implementing social distancing, which has been proven to reduce and arrest the spread of viral illness. As a church, our median age is over 60, and our congregation is composed of vulnerable groups. We believe this abundance of caution is compassionate and gives us the opportunity to be community while promoting safety.

Worship next Sunday, March 15, will be virtual again. There will be no large meetings, and program staff will be working remotely. In addition, our bulletins and Herald newsletters will be available in PDF and in picture form so that our congregation can follow along during worship with ease, and be connected. Furthermore, our pastoral and care team will be in touch regularly for encouragement and fellowship.

All pastoral care will be via telephone or other electronic means. Each of us must care for one another during this time by checking in on those of advanced age, disabled, or immune-compromised by telephone or written correspondence. Be willing to run errands for those unable to go out during this time while taking care to not pass on infection.

In the meantime, despite the anxiety of this virus and responding as best we can, 2 Timothy reminds us that “…God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, of love and a sound mind.” Together, we do not have to be afraid, for we have the tools to do our best to land us all on the other side of this with health and grace. Thank you for your patience and support as we lead our church through this time. Let us pray for those who are impacted and for those who have died from COVID-19, and may God be with us all as we watch things unfold.

—Blessings, **Rev. Dr. Kelle J. Brown**
1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-cieve;
4 Fin-ish then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;

Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;
Suc-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;

Je-sus, you are all com-pass-ion; pure, un-bond-ed love im-part.
Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;
You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,
Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place;

Vis- it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.
End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.
Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.
Charge and Benediction

Postlude
Prelude and Fugue in D Minor, Op. 16, No. 3 Clara Wieck Schumann (1819-1896)
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organist

The postlude is an act of worship intended to send us out into the world to be witnesses to God’s love and truth.
You are welcome to stay for the postlude or leave quietly as it begins.
This is a holy time. Occasionally the service will run longer than an hour.
When you feel the need, you are welcome to leave the Sanctuary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Womxn’s March Cancelled The march, scheduled for today, is cancelled because of concerns related to the spread of the novel corona virus. Stay in touch and participate online at SeattleWomxnMarchingForward.org.

Plymouth Healing Communities will celebrate the upcoming completion of work on Eng House with a grand opening, date to be announced. (March 22 date will be rescheduled). All are welcome. There will be a short program, with opportunities to tour the house before and after the program. More information at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

The Called Congregational Vote scheduled for Sunday, March 15, will be rescheduled. Check PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for updates.

Racists Anonymous Group Postponed Plymouth UCC is hosting an experimental 12-step group for people who want to recover from internalized racial superiority. Check PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for updates and for the next meeting time.

Call for Moral Revival scheduled for Friday, March 20, is cancelled because of concerns related to the spread of the corona virus. Stay in touch at PoorPeoplesCampaign.org.

Undoing Racism Debrief Join the debrief and networking session scheduled for everyone who attended the Undoing Institutionalized Racism (UIR) Workshop, 6 to 8 pm Monday, April 6, at Plymouth UCC. Free parking in the Plymouth garage after 5 pm on a first-come, first-served basis. If you have children we encourage you to bring them. We will engage them in activities connected to our collective discussion.

Rev. Dr Kelle Brown delivers the keynote address at the 52nd Anniversary of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Assassination Day of Remembrance 5:30 pm, Saturday, April 4, 5:30 pm, Mount Zion Baptist Church, 1634 Rev. Dr. S. McKinney Ave. Seattle, (19th and Madison)
March is Women’s History Month so we are featuring music by women composers. **Clara Wieck Schumann** (1819–1896) was one of the most famous keyboard virtuosos of the nineteenth century. Despite being a composer herself, she dedicated much of her career to promoting and performing her husband Robert’s compositions. As a composer she is remembered primarily for her keyboard compositions. Her *Prelude and Fugue in D Minor* (1845), originally written for piano, was adapted for organ by scholar/musician Joachim Dorfmüller in 1988.

Save the Date for these two upcoming organ concerts by international artists.

**Friday, April 3, 7:30 pm** British conductor, organist and pianist Wayne Marshall will be back in town playing Gerschwin with the Seattle Symphony. While in Seattle he will present a concert at Plymouth on the Fisk Opus 140. His program will include music by Marcel Dupré, César Franck, and George Baker and will conclude with an improvisation.

**Wednesday, April 8, 7:30 pm** Loriane Llorca of Paris plays music by Widor, Franck, Vierne, and Fauré. A rising star in the international organ world, she has studied with Olivier Latry and Michel Bouvard among others. Invite a friend!

Believing that God’s love transcends all human distinctions, Plymouth welcomes people of all races and cultures, of varied social and economic conditions and regardless of sexual orientation. We are open and affirming of all people, and we call all people to the cost and joy of Christian discipleship.