

 PLYMOUTH CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



10:30 AM  SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020

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.*

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.



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 is closed for all activities until further notice.

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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For administrative needs, or other non-pastoral care questions, please email:

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SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER/YOUTH SUNDAY

*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.*

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Bechtold

PRELUDE

Gymnopédie No. 1 Erik Satie
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Matt Durland

We worship the God who inhabits our world
and indwells our lives.

We need not look up to find God,
we need only to look around:

 within ourselves,
 beyond ourselves,
 into the eyes of another.

We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God,
we need only listen to the music of life,

 the words of children,
 the questions of the curious,
 the rhythm of a heartbeat.

Let us now worship together the God who inhabits our world
and who indwells our lives.

HYMN *This Little Light of Mine* . . . African-American Spiritual

1. This lit - tle light of mine I'm gon - na let it
 2. Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it
 3. Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon - na let it

Oh

shine, This lit - tle light of mine
 shine, Ev - 'ry - where I go,
 shine, Je - sus gave it to me,

Oh

I'm gon - na let it shine; This lit - tle light of
 I'm gon - na let it shine; Ev - 'ry - where I
 I'm gon - na let it shine; Je - sus gave it to

Oh

mine I'm gon - na let it shine, Let it
 go, I'm gon - na let it shine, Let it
 me, I'm gon - na let it shine, Let it

Oh

shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 shine, let it shine, let it shine.

PRAYERS OF THE GATHERED Jennifer Kaiton

Riley Balcita, Matt Banks, Ernie Boyer, Anna Colwell, Steve Davis, Pam Dorrance, Ellie Edelweiss, Blake & Jo Ann English (Relatives of Lucian Guthrie), Phil Fredrickson, Jackie Fouts (Mother-in-law of Al Wallace), Peter Gibbons (Brother of Eileen Gibbons), Lucian Guthrie, the Guthrie Family, Don Gwilym, Michael Kaid, Libonati Family, Maclay Family, Sharon Masse (Wife of Gary Magnuson), The family of Greg Mimnaugh (Uncle of Mike Pierson), 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), Jose Robles, Mary Ryan, Rod Shutt, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Jim Tsuchiya (Brother-in-law of Bill Castello)

We grieve with Kelle and Indigo Brown and family on the loss of their grandmother and great-grandmother Dorothy (Big) Price. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in memory of Dorothy “Big” Price.

Our hearts are with Becky Colwell and family on the loss of Becky’s mother Helen Boyer.

We are with Mike and Britt Stanley on the loss of his mother Antoinette Stanley.

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

**Our Parent, who is among us, blessed be your Creation.
 May your loving presence be a reality here on earth.
 May we become more interested in building your kin-dom here and now than in waiting for it to come down from above.
 Let us share our bread with those who hunger.
 Let us learn to forgive as well as to receive forgiveness.
 Help us through the time of temptation, delivering us from all evil.
 For ours are the eternal blessings that you pour upon the earth. Amen.**

SHARING PEACE Anna Colwell

The peace of Christ be with you.

CONTEMPORARY VOICE read by Rev. Donene Blair

Seeking and Finding by Joyce Rupp, from her book, *May I Have This Dance?*



Sister Joyce Rupp is an author and retreat and conference speaker. She is the co-director of The Institute of Compassionate Presence, a member of the Servite Order, and a volunteer for Hospice.

I search for God, elusive, hidden God,
I long to dwell in the heart of Mystery.
I search for my true self, more of who I already am,
knowing there's so much yet to be discovered.
I search for love, the unconditional love
that enfolds me and asks to be shared.
I search for vision in the shadows of my soul,
impatiently awaiting the moment of lighting.
I search for a quiet heart amid life's harried schedule;
my soul cries out, yearning for solitude.
I search for compassion in a world gone deaf
to the cries of the hurting, and the pleas of the powerless.
I search for Home,
always for Home,
unaware, of course,
that I am already there.

READING FROM CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Acts 17:22-31

read by Jennifer Castle

(NRSV translation) In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to the Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He delivers the message that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, God who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is God served by human hands, as though God needed anything, since God gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor God made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and God allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for God and find God — though indeed God is not far from each one of us.

For ‘In God we live and move and have our being;’ as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are God’s offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now God commands all people everywhere to repent, because God has fixed a day on which God will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom God has appointed, and of this God has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

MESSAGE Sam Neer

ANTHEM. *We Are Not Alone* Pepper Choplin
performed by Soul Choir, directed by Sari Breznau,
soloists Jenny Kaiton and Jon Palmason

MESSAGE Beata Landes

SONG OF COMMITMENT. *Lean on Me* Bill Withers
arr. and adapted by Adam Anders, Tim Davis and Roger Emerson;
Sari Breznau, Michael Delos, Miriam Gnagy, Tim Keller,
Emily Kurlinski, and Jennylynn Vidas

CHARGE AND BENEDECTION Ms. Landes

POSTLUDE *Prelude to the Dance* David Lanz
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Piano

CLOSING MESSAGE Rev. Bechtold



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Stewardship Commitments of pledges and estimates of giving continue to come in by mail to the church office, as well as online. Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting our ever-changing ministry in these days of great transformation being Church in pandemic life! Your continued support is making a difference in our outreach, in sharing support and encouragement, and in being a stand for justice and advocacy. If you have not yet done so, please mail in your pledge card, or fill out the online pledge card information and we will contact you to set up automatic payments and/or verify your intentions for 2020. We are happy to assist you as you help bring life and hope to so many longing for and in need of community.

Faith Action Spring Summits FAN holds Regional Spring Summits around Washington State where advocates gather to talk about how our legislative agenda fared during the past session and strategize for the rest of the year on issues they care about most. This is a time to raise ideas for next year's legislative session too. Together, we look for new ways to be more effective at creating lasting change. The 2020 Spring Summits will be held online this year. The Puget Sound summit begins 3 pm June 7. RSVP at FanWa.org.

Check Out the Library Blog This week's blog entry features Plymouth authors and history books. Read the blog at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Click on the Library box on the homepage and then the link to the blog. A new article is posted every Monday.

Help Welcome New Residents Plymouth Housing is working to help residents of the newly opened 105-unit Bob and Marcia Almquist Place successfully transition into their home, through welcome baskets that include essential items like blankets, pots, pans, and toiletries. In order to assemble the welcome baskets safely, Plymouth Housing has created an Amazon wish list where donors can go online and purchase the items, which then get shipped directly to their offices. Please visit news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for direct link to the wish list. Thank you for your faithful support.

**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.**