

 PLYMOUTH CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



10:30 AM  SUNDAY, MAY 24, 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 24, 2020
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*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. Dr. Kelle Brown

PRELUDE

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling. Michael Burkhardt
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Char Burch, Keith Mills, Edith Guffey

CALL TO WORSHIP David Popham, Franz Rigert
Written by Lynn Bujnak (scripture references: John 14:18a, II Cor. 5:7, Isaiah 43:5 NRSV)

One: When we feel isolated and alone, O God, your word
comes to us:

Many: I will not leave you orphaned.

One: When we face an uncertain future, the Bible
reminds us:

Many: We walk by faith, not by sight.

One: When we are scared and anxious, we hear your whisper,

Many: Be not afraid, for I am with you.

One: We come to this time of worship remembering the
promises of our God, strengthened in hope and
saturated with holy Love.

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

TIME ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN written by Diane Weible

PASTORAL PRAYER written by David Long-Higgins

An Easter Prayer for When the Flower Fades

Holy Love,
Like the beautiful blossom
Of the lily,
The joy of Easter
Seems to fadeSo quickly.

Its brilliance buried
By the withering words
Of a daily digest of
News and noise
That seems
Not to care
That you have
Reordered the world.

The wonder of
A world made new
Seems crushed by
The urgency which
Viruses and vitriol
Would voice as
The daily ritual
Of remembrance.

How easy,
O Holy One,
To re-enter the tombs
Of our own making
And those rooms
Fashioned by our fear
And our fatigue.

So grant us the gift
Of noticing
That which lies
Just beyond
The fading flower
Of every yesterday.

Refashion our focus
On Your surging strength,
Your promised power,
Yearning to takeCenter stage
In our lives.

Like the unopened bud
That awaits the beckoning
Power of the sun,
Open our hearts
To your Holy Spirit
Already around
And within us,
That we may be
Readied, renewed and
Blossomed into the beauty
For which you have created us
In Christ, all along.

Yes, Holy One,
Renew us
And your whole creation.
That we may be signs
Of your resurrection love
In word and work
Throughout the world.

Let it be so,
Let it be so.
Amen.



SPECIAL MUSIC *Christ has Broken Down the Wall*
Plymouth Soul Choir

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY written by Ginny Brown Daniel

Like God’s love, our generosity cannot be contained by the Coronavirus. Instead our generosity is abundant during this pandemic because of who and whose we are.

As the United Church of Christ, we have always advocated with the most vulnerable to ensure they are supported, nourished, and empowered to live into God’s creation. When you give during the pandemic, your Church, Conference, and broader UCC are able to advocate for the health and equity of the most vulnerable affected by COVID-19.

We invite you to give generously by writing a check, using auto billpay, or online giving. We invite you to give to your Church, Our Church’s Wider Mission, and a person or business serving others during this pandemic. When you give, post why you give to your Church during this pandemic at #WhyIGiveUCC so that we can share with each other!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Creator God, In you we live and move and have our being. So, take our monetary gifts and bless each church to serve the most vulnerable during the coronavirus pandemic that we may truly become a *Just World for All.*

READING FROM CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Acts 17:22-31

(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.”

SPECIAL MUSIC *I Believe*

Composed by Mark Miller and edited by Jeff Shook

Chancel Choir, Christ Church, Summit NJ

Minister of Music: Mark Miller

“I believe in the sun even when it’s not shining. I believe in love even when I don’t feel it.
I believe in God even when God is silent.”

—*Anonymous, found scratched into a wall at Auschwitz concentration camp*

MESSAGE

Things Change. God Doesn’t written by Marilyn Kendrix

BENEDICTION written by John Dorhauer

Friends, as we gather as ONE BODY to worship in diverse places and spaces, may God bless you and keep you; may God’s face shine upon you and be gracious to you; and give you peace.

Siblings in Christ Jesus our Lord, We are ONE BODY, united across time and space, walking in the calling, anointing and power of the Holy Spirit. We are ONE BODY, sharing our hopes and dreams for the kin-dom of

God being salt and light in these days. And as ONE BODY we depart this virtual space united in love, united in hope and united in our commitment to serve God, to serve our communities and to serve the world.

Go, therefore, having received the blessing of the living God, the risen Christ, and the abiding, brooding Holy Spirit. Because you are blessed, become a blessing as you proclaim the love of God in word and deed to all the ends of the Earth.

POSTLUDE *Toccata in 7* John Rutter
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Piano



WE CONTINUE TO HOLD IN PRAYER...

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)

Our hearts are with Connie Sandstrom and family on the loss of her father, Ken Bell.

NEXT SUNDAY IS PENTECOST

Through the end of June, gifts earmarked *Pentecost Special Offering* will be divided evenly between **Strengthen the Church** and **Plymouth UCC Scholarship Fund**. This offering is one of four special offerings throughout the church year to support national and local ministries within our denomination. As called by General Synod, 50 percent of our offering to **Strengthen the Church** stays in the Pacific Northwest Conference UCC, and 50 percent is sent to the national work of strengthening the church universal: through grants towards new church starts, inspiring youth and young adults into leadership, and equipping pastors for ministry in the 21st century. The remaining 50% will go in the **Plymouth UCC Scholarship Fund** to enable members and friends in financial hardship to take part in opportunities offered by and through Plymouth UCC.

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.

Take a Stand Against Racism The intolerable racist and xenophobic attacks on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders at all levels of society and from all levels of government officials has continued, but needs to end now. Please join with the National Officers of the UCC signing onto a letter denouncing false information that leads to xenophobia and racist actions taken around the country. So far we have nearly 600 signatories, but are hoping to get to 1,000 UCC Signatories, and need your help to spread the word. (See news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for link to letter.)

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 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.

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.