



PLYMOUTH CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

10:30 AM ✦ SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 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.

KBrown@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

DBlair@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

JHayakawafung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

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

SDavis@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST/HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR 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.*

WELCOMERev. Dr. Kelle Brown

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, DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Through the end of June, gifts earmarked *Pentecost Special Offering* will be divided evenly between Strengthen the Church and Plymouth UCC Scholarship Fund. Thank you.

PRELUDE *Meditation on “Simple Gifts”* Michael Larkin
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Piano

OPENING PRAYERAnna Colwell

Gracious God,
Although we remain physically apart from one another,
We gather together in the spirit of your love.
We gather together in the spirit of justice, of accountability, and of reconciliation.
We gather together knowing that the power of your Spirit flows through all of us,
for it knows no walls or borders.
We gather knowing that amidst these layered times of trouble,
The gift of life you have given us is still worthy of celebration.
We worship you with the hope that your love may live within us and through us.
We ask that you guide us to follow the path of love you have laid before us.
Guide us to be the Church.
Guide us to internalize the good news shared today,
So that we may come to know justice and know peace.
In the name of our Lord dear God,
Amen

SHARING PEACE Ms. Colwell

HYMN *God of Abraham and Sarah* HOLY MANNA

Jennylynn Vidas, Sari Breznau, Tim Keller, Michael Delos

Words by James Gertmenian, 1986 (alt.)

1. God of A - bra - ham and Sa - rah, God of Mo - ses, Mir - iam's Guide;
2. God, who danc - es in cre - a - tion, spin - ning stars a - bove our heads;
3. God who loves the poor in spir - it, God who com - forts those who mourn;
4. In our lives from birth to dy - ing, depth of sor - row, height of joy;



God of Da - vid and the proph - ets, God in Je - sus glo - ri - fied;
God whose face is scribed in mu - sic, by whose hand the earth is fed:
Balm for wounds, the friend of sin - ners, tak - ing the side of earth's for - lorn:
Prais - ing God in ev - ery sea - son, let ev - ery key our hearts em - ploy.

Up from the dust you raise a peo - ple, breathe in the breath of life, of soul;
Up from the ground you raise the moun - tains, raise our spir - its, lift our eyes;
Up from the depths you raise your peo - ple, giv - ing them cour - age for the day;
Praise is the heal - ing, praise, the glo - ry, praise is the fin - al mys - ter - y;

Down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias make them whole!
Down through the years your peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias flood the skies!
Down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias light their way!
Down through the years let peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias set them free!

PRAYERS OF THE GATHERED Rev. Kevin Bechtold

Riley Balcita, Matt Banks, Ernie Boyer, Anna Colwell, Steve Davis, Pam Dorrance, Ellie Edelweiss, Mark Edwards, Phil Fredrickson, Jackie Fouts (Mother-in-law of Al Wallace), Peter Gibbons (Brother of Eileen Gibbons), Don Gwilym, Michael Kaid, Libonati Family, Maclay Family, Sharon Masse (Wife of Gary Magnuson), Jo Mitchell, Georgia Nelson, Dick, Jean and Alex Paul (Parents and Nephew of Beth Paul Russell), Jose Robles, Mary Ryan, Rod Shutt, Jim Stultz (brother of Doug Stultz), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Jim Tsuchiya (Brother-in-law of Bill Castello)
We grieve with Carol Lamb and family on the passing of George Lamb.
Our hearts are with Layne, Leigh, Lorie and families on the loss of their father Richard Anderson.

 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.**

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HONORING OUR SENIORS Ms. Colwell and Rev. Bechtold
Jonah Lehto, Sam Neer, Beata Landes

SHARING THROUGH DANCE

God Has Done Great Things for Me Jessy Dixon
Keon Price, recorded by Sari Breznau

CONTEMPORARY VOICE read by Don Bell

“Last, but not least, there is a need for audacious hope. And it’s not optimism. I’m in no way an optimist. I’ve been black in America too long. No ground for optimism here, given the progress and regress and three steps forward and four steps backward. Optimism is a notion that there’s sufficient evidence that would allow us to infer that if we keep doing what we’re doing, things will get better. I don’t believe that. I’m a prisoner of hope, that’s something else. Cutting against the grain, against the evidence. William James said it so well in that grand and masterful essay of his of 1879 called “The Sentiment of Rationality,” where he talked about faith being the courage to act when doubt is warranted. And that’s what I’m talking about.” —*Cornel West*



Cornel West is an American philosopher, political activist, social critic, author, and public intellectual.

READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE Genesis 18:1-15

read by Mae Bell

(NRSV translation) One emphasis of this text is Abraham’s hospitality to the three visitors who appear at his tent. Another emphasis is the promise that Sarah will bear a son — a promise so far-fetched that it caused laughter, laughter that brings the issue of faith into clear focus.

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh;” for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

MESSAGE *Bitter Laughter*. Jennifer Castle

HYMN *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry.* . . . BORNING CRY
Sari Breznau

Unison D7 G D G D G D

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
2 When you found the won - der of the Word, I was
3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too
4 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

G D G D7 G D

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the
old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you
there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you

G D G C D7 G

were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.
liv - ing God, to whom you now be - long.
through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold. *St. 4, end*

G/B C G

I was there when you were but a child, with a
Should you find some-one to share your time and you
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you

Am D G G/B C

faith to suit you well; I'll be there in case you
join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

G A7 D *to beginning*

wan - der off and find where de - mons dwell.
vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION.Ms. Castle

POSTLUDE

God of Abraham and Sarah (Tune: HOLY MANNA) . . Setting by Mark Patterson
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Piano

CLOSING. Dr. Brown



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Called Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 21, following the morning worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss a proposed financial gift to the Pacific Northwest Conference from the Plymouth Endowment, as well as bylaw update language to authorize functional processes in times of emergency. Please look for an additional email giving further information and explanation, as well as in the next edition of the *Herald*.

The Mass Poor People’s Assembly & Moral March on Washington is going digital! On June 20, we will hold the largest digital and social media gathering of poor and low-wealth people, moral and religious leaders, advocates, and people of conscience in this nation’s history. Get involved at PoorPeoplesCampaign.org.

Summer Solstice E-Bash 8 pm Saturday, June 20. Plymouth Church Seattle UCC and Orion Entertainment present The Summer Solstice E-Bash 2020. Log on to celebrate the longest day of the year with a live DJ, virtual photo booth, live chat room, and real-time song requests. Event website link will be available the week of the event. —*Anna Colwell*

Anti-Racist Giving Webinar Free Zoom workshop on June 23 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Use the link in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org to RSVP.

**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.**