

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Worship Sunday, July 5, 2020

Lectionary text for Sunday, July 5: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Dr. Matthew V. Johnson, Sr., preaching

No formal online coffee hour in July

Virtual Worship Only!

Find links to video stream and worship bulletin and participate online at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

The church building will be closed for all activities until further notice.

Check PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for updates.

All pastoral care will be via telephone or e-mail.

If you have personal concerns, you may contact a minister or member of the Pastoral Care Team by calling the pastoral voice mail, 206.622.4865 *833, checked daily.

Staff e-mail addresses are listed under the "About" tab at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Click on "Ministers and Staff."

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 UCC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anti-racism Resources A list of resources has been compiled, intended to serve white people and parents to deepen anti-racism work. If you haven't engaged in anti-racism work in the past, start now. View list at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Call to Action On March 3 in Tacoma, Manny Ellis died while being arrested by Tacoma Police. We are in a complex and volatile time and the investigation into the death needs to be credible and transparent. State law gives the Governor authority to ask the State AG to do a criminal investigation and this is the time to use that extraordinary step. Call the Governor's office to urge action: 360.902.4111.

Shop with Smile and Save AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) offers a simple and automatic way to support Plymouth every time you shop, at no cost to you. Enjoy the same prices and selection as Amazon.com, with the bonus that AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of purchase price to Plymouth UCC! Visit Smile.Amazon.com and simply select **Plymouth Congregational Church of Seattle** to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping.

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).

 **PLYMOUTH CHURCH**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1217 Sixth Avenue, Seattle,
Washington 98101-3199

Return Service Requested

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...



Riley Balcita, Matt Banks, Ernie Boyer, Glenda Carper, 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, Joyce Irving (mother of Rev. Louis Mitchell),

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)



The Plymouth *Herald* is published every week. **Deadline is Monday, 10 am, for Wednesday publication.** Stay current with Plymouth happenings on our website. Join us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram! 

PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

Volume 58
Number 44

July 1, 2020

TO MY SIBLINGS IN FAITH:



Moderator Sue Maul

At the annual meeting in January, I shared "Oppression is persistent in blatant and pernicious ways." I asked, "At Plymouth, how can we commit ourselves and actively work towards creating or recreating, diligently feeding and maintaining, a Multicultural Celebratory and Sustaining Culture as opposed to a white supremacy culture or a heteronormative culture or any other oppressive culture." I stated, "As a community, I think we are being asked to increase our capacity [for justice] as well as increasing our capacity to follow, to be political, to vision from a place of abundance, and on and on." Little did I know that we all would soon be confronting a world-wide pandemic and a national reckoning prompted by the killings of George Floyd and so many other Black siblings!

While maintaining social distancing, since January Plymouth's leadership has carried on through Zoom meetings, emails and phone calls. The Council has met three times via Zoom. Here is a recap of some of what we've been working on.

Equitable Leadership and Recognizing Institutional Racism

The Council is in the midst of a probing discussion of how racism permeates all parts of American society, including Plymouth Church. For our own leadership development we have moved from a once a year leadership retreat to on-going professional development on white supremacy culture and equitable leadership working with Fleur Larsen Facilitation. With God's help, we hope to emerge from these discussions and this work better able to recognize and mitigate oppressive structural practices and ways of being, better equipped to achieve the community of faith to which we are called.

Support of the Pacific NW Conference

A special all-church meeting was held via Zoom on June 21. The congregation approved the Council's action in authorizing the transfer of \$300,000 to the Pacific NW Conference for the support of churches struggling with the effects of the pandemic. We are grateful for the widespread support that was expressed for this action.

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown and Rev. Steven Davis

Through a five-person sub-committee led by the Moderators, the Council has been involved in redefining and improving the "collaborative ministry" model that Plymouth adopted four years ago. This work is still in progress. The Council formed an HR committee to support this work and the work of right-sizing and supporting the staff.

I will write again next week with more of what we've been working on.

Yours in Christ, *Sue Maul* ✨

STAND FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Come to Plymouth and join others standing for racial justice. We as a majority white Christian church created and have benefited from systemic institutional racism, and we must be part of changing it. Come when you can, stay for any length of time you want. Social distancing and mask-wearing protocols will be observed.

Ruth Williamson has been coordinating and scheduling this effort. Contact her (206.313.5931) for parking and other logistics. Ruth shares:

"A woman walking by Plymouth said to us one day 'I hope you're in this for the long haul!' So pace yourself. If everyone comes once a week, or once every two weeks, we'll have people out front the majority of every week day. More people can be energizing, but a single person makes a statement of commitment and constancy. There's been interest in weekends, so I've added Saturday and Sunday to the schedule. Just know that the building is not staffed or accessible on weekends. It seems like Fridays are often big event days, so if people want to shoot for a bigger group on Fridays I think that would be great."

Help keep a Plymouth presence on the streets! See photos of folks bearing witness at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Under the "Connect" tab, click on "Albums." ✨



Help keep a Plymouth presence on the streets.

RAISING ANTI-RACIST WHITE CHILDREN, PART 2



I have been continuing in my anti-racist work by taking a three-part webinar series called "Raising Anti-Racist White Children" put on by the Center for the Study of White American Culture. In my second article on raising

anti-racist white children, I share more ways we can address white identity and the antidotes to counteract it. —Jennifer Palmason Kaiton, Faith Formation Coordinator

Notes from the webinar

"Raising Anti-Racist White Children," put on by the Center for the Study of White American Culture

What is white identity or white culture? Sharon Martinas from 'The Culture Of White Supremacy' says "Culture is a way of life. Culture is passed on from generation to generation through institutions, groups, interpersonal and individual behavior." It's the message that white is superior, that white is the best. It's a message said to us through all areas of our life: media, institutions, parents, teachers, history, society etc. Which means it's something we were bred into and need to learn how to come to terms with and awaken to, so we can work to undo it. Here are some ways we can engage with each other and our children:

- Encourage race conversations with family members who are around or helping raise our children as they grow up. This will help create universal anti-racist messaging.
- Talk about current segregation and how we can integrate ourselves in a healthy way. Many white people live in towns that are mostly white or have very little integration with people of color. Without gentrifying black communities, how can we mingle and share culture in a healthy way? Our children must be exposed to diverse cultures and people from all backgrounds to be well rounded anti-racists.
- Nurture anti-racist identities in children and a positive white identity. We want them to feel good about themselves with a healthy power inside. Speak of whiteness and white culture — explaining how it dominates and subjugates other cultures in our society. White people (in general) have been stripped of their culture, disconnected from ancestry, and that creates a deep seeded fear inside us that can show up as shame. That shame creates emptiness which forces us to appropriate other cultures and leaves a hollowness in our kids.

Antidotes to toxic white identity:

- Take on an anti-racist identity.
- Name whiteness; point out in a space if only white people are present, talk about how diverse your child's school is or isn't.
- Reclaim your roots and your heritage. Connect back to who we really are before our ancestors immigrated here.
- Take on the dual consciousness of handling and holding the history or racism (we inherited) and the identity of an anti-racist.
- Identify and be clear inside with blame vs. responsibility for the change needed going forward.
- Support concrete steps for racial justice and equity. Take action.
- Lift up anti-racist white role models.
- De-universalize white European culture or de-centralize our white culture/whiteness. ✨

FACE MASKS STILL NEEDED

The Immigration Ministry team requests your immediate help in providing washable cloth face masks for these kids who are represented by K.I.N.D. (Kids in Need of Defense).



Help vulnerable migrant children stay healthy.

Ideally, each kid would have 2 masks, allowing for one to be washed and dried while the other is being worn, but even one mask per kid would allow them to meet health guidelines in public places. The masks can be any style that meets the CDC guidelines. Since most of the kids are teenagers, the adult size face mask is best.

To purchase masks to donate, there are many stores online. Any style in adult size is fine. Here are 4 local companies currently offering masks from \$5-10 each: SwaddleDesigns.com; SplashFabric.com; SnugAsAMug.com; Etsy.com. For other prices and styles made locally see SeattleRefined.com. Live links for all these sites at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Choose the drop off location that is easiest for you: downtown to Mary Margaret Pruitt at Horizon House; Janet Gwilym's house on Beacon Hill, or Ruth Williamson in Shoreline. Their contact information can be found in Simple Church.

K.I.N.D. social service coordinators and legal staff are doing all they can to support these kids who are already traumatized by our immigration system and the horrors they escaped from in their home countries. Let's do our best to show them that Plymouth cares about them too. Thank you. ✨

YOUTH EVENT A SUCCESS!



Youth Forum Coordinator Anna Colwell thanks you for your continued support.

We are pleased to report the Summer Solstice E-Bash 2020 youth event was great! Approximately 40 youth attended from around the NW UCC Conference and Lambert House, further developing our relationships with those we are in community with. Orion Entertainment was incredible at facilitating the event with inclusivity and encouragement of fun. All guests felt welcome to request their songs and share in the party! We appreciate your church support and we look forward to possibly working with Orion Entertainment again. —Anna Colwell ✨

CHECK OUT THE LIBRARY BLOG

This week's entry is titled "The African American Experience: Books from Plymouth Library"

"What I have included in this article is an updated and expanded booklist that covers history, biography, fiction and more — all arranged topically. These are all books that are in Plymouth Library. For now, you can use the list for suggestions of books you can get as e-books from the public library or purchase online."



New articles posted every Monday.

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. ✨

ONLINE DISCUSSIONS WITH REV. DR. KELLE BROWN

Watch recent videos of discussions with Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown on some of the pressing issues of the day.

- *Seattle Demonstrates* What have the recent demonstrations in Seattle accomplished? Black voices are being heard, for one thing. There are strong political winds that have shifted significantly. **View recent discussion with Dr. Brown at PostAlley.org.**
- *Exit Strategies from the Pandemic* Hear thoughts on the issue from the Daughters of Abraham, Rev. Dr. Kelle J Brown, Aneelah Afzali and Rabbi Yohanna Kinberg, an interfaith group of female faith leaders. **View the video at PathsToUnderstanding.org/challenge/. ✨**

WELCOME, DR. MATTHEW JOHNSON

This Sunday Dr. Matthew V. Johnson, Sr., delivers the Message at 10:30 am online worship. Pastor, preacher, scholar, writer, lecturer, administrator, and servant of God, Dr. Johnson has been in the ministry for over thirty years. A widely respected author, Dr. Johnson's books include, *The Tragic Vision of African American Religion, The Cicada's Song: A Novel, The Passion of the Lord: African American Reflections, and Onesimus Our Brother: Reading Race, Religion, and Slavery in Philemon.* Additionally, two of his articles *The Middle Passage, Trauma and the Tragic Re-imagining of African American Theology* and *The Poverty of Prosperity Theology and the Spiritual Impoverishment of the Church*, have been published in *The Journal of Pastoral Psychology*. Dr. Johnson is the Senior Pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. ✨



Hear Dr. Johnson this Sunday, 10:30 am.

STAYING CONNECTED

Sunday coffee hour and weekday online gatherings are on hiatus in the month of July. This is a chance to practice sabbath, for rest and renewal. You are encouraged to continue to connect on your own through phone or social media and be a source of encouragement and companionship. You may also want to subscribe to the UCC Daily Devotional. Sign up at UCC.org/Daily_Devotional. ✨



You are encouraged to take time for sabbath.

REJOICE, GIVE THANKS & ADVOCATE



We celebrate with the more than 800,000 "Dreamers" (DACA recipients brought to the US as children) as the US Supreme Court ruled that the Trump Administration cannot end the DACA program based on its current case.

It's important to remember that this is temporary good news. The Administration has other avenues to end DACA and will continue other actions that hurt immigrants and refugees. Please join our Immigration Ministry Team in continuing advocacy at the local and national level for justice. —Plymouth Immigration Ministry ✨