



PLYMOUTH CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

10:30 AM ✨ SUNDAY, JULY 12, 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, JULY 12, 2020
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*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.*

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.

WELCOMERev. Donene Blair

PRELUDE

Medley: “God of Grace” and “The Solid Rock” setting by Lynette Maynard
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Piano

PRAYER OF INVOCATION.Rev. Kevin Bechtold

O God,
We gather together in Your presence with expectation,
hungry for an encounter with You,
eager to hear Your Word.
Open our eyes and ears to the presence of Your Holy Spirit.
May the seeds of Your Word scattered among us this morning
fall on fertile soil.
May they take root in our hearts and lives,
and produce an abundant harvest
of good words and deeds.
We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ,
our teacher and our Lord.
Amen.

SHARING PEACE The peace of Christ be with you.

HYMN *Great Is Your Faithfulness* FAITHFULNESS
Miriam Gnagy, Sari Breznau, Tim Keller, Michael Delos

1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,

with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.

You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.
to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

Refrain

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by
 morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed your
 hand has pro-vid-ed, Great is your faith-ful-ness, God, un-to me!

PRAYERS OF THE GATHERED Jennifer Castle

Riley Balcita, Matt Banks, Ernie Boyer, Glenda Carper, Anna Colwell, Steve Davis, Pam Dorrance, Rick Eberharter, 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*), Virginia Johnson, 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, Rod Shutt, Jim Stultz (*brother of Doug Stultz*), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Jim Tsuchiya (*Brother-in-law of Bill Castello*)



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.

Copyright © by J. Manny Santiago, 1999. From the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists. Used with permission.

CONTEMPORARY VOICE read by Michael Gordon



James Cone was an American theologian, best known for his advocacy of black liberation theology.

“There can be no forgiveness of sins without repentance, and no repentance without the gift of faith to struggle with and for the freedom of the oppressed. When whites undergo the true experience of conversion wherein they die to whiteness and are reborn anew in order to struggle against white oppression and for the liberation of the oppressed, there is a place for them in the black struggle of freedom. Here reconciliation becomes God’s gift of blackness through the oppressed of the land.”

—From *God of the Oppressed*, by James Cone

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

(New International Version translation) read by Rev. Bechtold

In Matthew’s gospel, both Jesus and the disciples “sow the seed” of God’s word by proclaiming the good news that “the kingdom of heaven is near.” Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

SPECIAL MUSIC *Ella’s Song* Bernice Johnson Reagon
Stephanie Anne Johnson

MESSAGE *Breaking the Silence* Dr. Elizabeth Gordon

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Dr. Gordon

POSTLUDE

Great is Your Faithfulness Setting by Lynette Maynard
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Piano

CLOSING Rev. Blair

Special thanks to guest preacher Dr. Elizabeth Gordon. Elizabeth Stanhope Gordon (PhD, JD, MDiv) has been a member of Plymouth Church United Church of Christ since 2017 and has served on the Church Council since 2018. She is a Member in Discernment and pursuing ordination in the area of chaplaincy in the UCC. She is currently a Chaplain Resident at the VA Medical Center on Beacon Hill. Dr. Gordon has also taught theology to undergraduates at Seattle University and is a former disability rights attorney. She and her husband, Michael Gordon, live in the South Delridge neighborhood of West Seattle.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Update from Your Care Team This July, as many of the staff take time off, we remain committed to maintaining availability of the pastoral care staff to handle any care concerns that might come our way. Members of the care team will be on call during various weeks of the month in case care needs arise. As always, we encourage you to call the pastoral care voicemail with any care concerns. The voicemail is checked at least once a day (usually in the morning). This is one of the best ways to make sure the care team is aware of a pastoral care concern. The phone number is 206.622.4865 ext. 33. —*Rev. Kevin Bechtold, for Care Team*

Continue to 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. Remember to bring your sign and mask.

Check out the Library Blog This week's entry is titled "Democracy and Plymouth Church." "Some of you may be pondering on the present day challenge to democracy. Around eighty years ago, this is how Plymouth Congregational Church faced the issue." Read new articles posted every Monday at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Click on the Library box on the homepage and then the link to the blog.

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.

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.