

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Worship Sunday, July 19, 2020

Lectionary text for Sunday, July 19: Romans 8:12-16, 22-27
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sue Maul, preaching

“Only if There are Angels in Your Head”

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

Check Out the Library Blog This week's entry is titled “In God We Trust.” Read new articles posted every Monday at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Click on the Library box on the homepage and then the link to the blog. —*Suzanne Sanderson*

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.

COVID-19 Community Resources Go to Seattle.Gov/Mayor/Covid-19 for information and links for programs and services that help residents impacted by COVID-19.

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.

 **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, 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), Michael Kaid, Libonati

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)

Our hearts are with Georgia Nelson and family on the one-year anniversary of Dave Nelson's passing.

We remember Isabel Egglin on the one-year anniversary of her passing.

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

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KEEP IN TOUCH WITH CARE TEAM



Your Plymouth Care Team is always here for you.

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 number is 206.622.4865 ext. 33. —*Rev. Kevin Bechtold, for the Plymouth Care Team* ✦

WE LOVE YOU, PLYMOUTH

Plymouth members and friends have donated over 120 masks for K.I.N.D. and provided links to other organizations who may also donate more masks. In addition, King County is again able to furnish some masks which they weren't able to do earlier. Huge thanks from K.I.N.D. and Plymouth's Immigration Ministry Team for your rapid and generous response to our urgent plea for masks. You helped us all be safer!

—*Plymouth Immigration Ministry Team* ✦



Your kindness makes a difference.

HEADS UP! NEXT-TO-LAST HERALD!

Next week's *Herald* will be the last before a brief summer break. There will be no formal *Herald* newsletter sent the weeks of July 27, August 3 and August 10. The next regular *Herald* will be sent again the week of August 17. In the meantime, visit PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for the latest in Plymouth news, and check your email for updates and important notices. ✦

CHANGING LIVES, CHANGING TIMES

Every summer N-Sid-Sen is filled with the sounds of music, dancing, splashing and laughter as folks from across the land enjoy this sacred ground. However it is only the birds we hear now, as we experience COVID-19. Our traditional groups are not able to be here safely. And we miss you all so much. Sharing stories around meals and campfires will not be happening, nor will we be welcoming folks home to the lake.



Photo courtesy of Nick CastroLang

“Can we, as individuals and faith communities that have experienced the magic of this sacred life-transforming place, step up with our gifts?”

We have opened the property daily for local first responders and their families to walk trails, picnic or just get outside.

We see this as an important way to acknowledge the work being done by folks in our local community. We also began a “Families at Camp” program allowing those living in the same house to rent a cabin for a much needed break. While this has been very popular, it does not begin to provide the income we need to allow N-Sid-Sen to be that Point of Inspiration for so many. We need a lot more funding to continue our mission.

We now anticipate a budget deficit of approximately \$215,000 this next fiscal year (June 2020-May 2021). The Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ has committed \$100,000 to support N-Sid-Sen in this time of need. That support comes with an invitation to those of us who hold this camp dear. Help us reach our goal of \$200,000! Currently we have already raised over \$145,000. Can we, as individuals and faith communities that have experienced the magic of this sacred life-transforming place, step up with our gifts? No one knows when we will return to ‘normal’ or what the new ‘normal’ might be, but we do know that this sacred space will remain. Our gifts will keep N-Sid-Sen open, ready to welcome you and continue to change lives.

Donations can be made through N-Sid-Sen.org, or by texting to 844.922.2085 (enter \$amount followed by a space, then #NSS), or by check sent to N-Sid-Sen Camp & Retreat Center, 36395 S Highway 97, Harrison, Idaho 83833. Thank you! ✦

WELCOME TO ALMQUIST PLACE



Bob and Marcia Almquist House offers housing and community for people who have experienced homelessness, along with live-in staff.

Bob and Marcia Almquist Place is now open! Almquist Place is our first building in the Chinatown-International District. We're so thankful to Friends of Little Saigon and Asian Counseling and Referral Service for everything they've done to welcome us into the neighborhood.

We're thrilled to give you a look inside this brand new building! Almquist Place has 102 apartments for people who've experienced homelessness, as well as three apartments for live-in staff. Plymouth apartments come fully furnished and supplied with everything residents need to get settled in, like bedding, cookware, and pantry staples. We're so thankful to Bank of America, Hines, and the Acker family for providing these welcome home baskets and food bags for new Almquist residents. We know how important it is for residents to celebrate and gather, so that Almquist Place truly feels like home. Once we're able to safely resume events, our Providence Community Room will fill up with chatter, food and laughter. Many Plymouth residents live with chronic health conditions. By providing on-site nursing at Almquist Place through our partnership with Neighborcare, we make it easier for residents to manage their health.

Almquist Place also means a new home for our incredible maintenance department. Their new shop will help them perform maintenance requests even more quickly and efficiently.

Last year, our community selected Louis Chinn and Huangmeng Yu's work "Returning Home" to welcome residents and visitors to Almquist Place. The wind-activated sculpture features a flock of paper cranes which spin in the wind. For artists Chinn and Yu, cranes "represent the search for home and belonging, and the extraordinary resilience of one's spirit to rise above adversity" due to their dangerous annual migration. The sculpture doubles as seating, and additional benches create a small plaza for residents to rest and get some fresh air.

We'd like to recognize all at Plymouth who worked on Bob & Marcia Almquist Place. This building wouldn't be possible without the support of so many in our community. —Plymouth Housing (Read more and get involved at PlymouthHousing.org)



"Returning Home," sculpture by Louis Chinn and Huangmeng Yu (photo courtesy of Weinstein AU Architects and Urban Developers)

MODERATOR SUE MAUL DELIVERS MESSAGE THIS SUNDAY



Hear from Sue this Sunday.

Sue Maul will deliver her message, "Only if There are Angels in Your Head," during 10:30 am online worship. Sue has been a member of Plymouth Church for 25 years and is a lay leader currently serving as Moderator of Plymouth's Church Council. Sue has been a teacher for most of her career and a school administrator for the last five. Sue loves this church, not solely for the church home it's been, but for the faithful life it has and continues to foster. Links to the service at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Jennifer Castle, Director of Faith Formation and Pastoral Intern, preaches July 26 and Rev. Kevin Bechtold, Minister for Children and Families, preaches August 2.

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KEEP STANDING 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.



Stand up and speak out!

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.

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

NOW IS THE TIME TO SERVE

Jesuit Volunteer EnCorps, a program of JVC Northwest, facilitates rewarding opportunities for service, community and spiritual formation for adults 50 and better who are committed to social and ecological justice. We are offering new ways for our members (JVEs) to serve from home during this time of increased need for those who live on the margins. JVEs meet monthly online or in-person, creating spiritual community while staying safe. JV Encorps is an inclusive and welcoming community. Priority application deadline: **August 31**. Opening retreat in September. For more information visit: JvenCorps.org.



A STATEMENT AND A CALL

In solidarity with those protesting the murder of George Floyd and for the dismantling of anti-Blackness (inspired by a statement and call from the leadership of University Congregational UCC)



Plymouth Church United Church of Christ emphatically declares, "Black lives matter." To do so is our moral prerogative and our call to stand with the least and the last as a manifestation of our faith in God in Jesus Christ.

Institutionalized and systemic racism, and more specifically anti-Blackness, has been a debilitating lived reality

for our siblings in the United States for centuries. Though many believed the scourge of anti-Blackness was vanquished and a state in which we were beyond, the death of George Floyd, has become an inflection point to illustrate clearly that our nation and the communities within have not understood the cost and impact to human lives, the centuries of oppression that have led to economic, physical, and mental toll. We have not done the work of truth-telling, listening and responding to the most impacted so that the necessary work of reconciliation is possible. Only after such work can a movement of healing and transformation begin.

In these last months, the cacophony of systemic racism and its cost in human lives has been on full display. While the global pandemic due to the coronavirus rages on, so too has the pandemic of anti-Blackness. We bear witness with our siblings in Christ who are Black, Brown, and Indigenous, to the suffering and death they experience at the hands of police, in prisons, in medical institutions, at our border, and disproportionately from coronavirus. These interconnected injustices are born from systemic racism and supremacist culture, and the lack of understanding as to how the convergence of systems has created sustained oppression.

George Floyd's murder is but one on the list that lengthens continually and will do so until we face the truth: Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Nina Pop, Iyanna Dior, and local siblings such as Charleena Lyles, Manuel Ellis and Che Taylor.

We resist silence in the face of God and in response to the crisis before us. Therefore, we will speak for justice and stand in solidarity with African American community as those in covenant with our church and others withstand injustice after injustice. We will honor the call to protest and rise up against institutions, policies and systems that cause harm as voices cry, "I can't breathe." Therefore, as people of faith, we proclaim that together, we stand with those who are undoing anti-Black racism and white supremacy culture.

We have witnessed elected officials of our city, our state, and our nation call for a response of domination, furthering the

deadly impact toward those who are crying out for justice. Therefore, we call on the elected officials to disavow violent retribution, to listen to community organizers and leaders' demands, and to partner with protesters to enact lasting and meaningful change.

We have witnessed police weaponize tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets, and other escalation responses against nonviolent protestors, including journalists, bystanders, and our clergy colleagues. We have also watched decisions that appear influenced by racial bias to not respond in such ways. Therefore, we call for a de-escalation of police response, and a commitment from policing groups to disavow acts of provocation and violence while engaging in community policing that re-prioritizes funding toward a more holistic and comprehensive expression.

In the face of death and human impact, we have witnessed concern for property that diverts attention from humans who are suffering from systemic racism and the lives that have been lost because of it. Therefore, we call for a continued focus of attention and a commitment of resources to dismantle deadly racism and supremacist culture.

This is the moment that becomes a movement. This is the inflection point in our history that can change things for the better in our church, our city, our nation and our world. We are the ones for which we have been waiting. There can be the moral turning for which we long in the world if we but answer the call of Micah: to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

Therefore, we will not be silent, and we commit ourselves anew to this ongoing work.

- Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, Lead Pastor
- Rev. Steve Davis, Executive Minister
- Rev. Kevin Bechtold, Minister for Children and Families
- Rev. Donene Blair, Minister of Community Care
- Jennifer Castle, Director of Faith Formation and Pastoral Intern
- Toni Arthur, Office Receptionist
- Sari Breznau, Soul Choir Director
- Anna Colwell, Youth Forum Coordinator/Social Media Coordinator
- Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Director of Music and Organist
- June Hayakawa-Fung, Faith Community Nurse
- Diane Jacobsen, Executive Assistant
- Jenny Kaiton, Faith Formation Program Coordinator
- Suzanne Sanderson, Librarian
- J. Oliver Stellfox, Sound Technician
- Robert Turner, Herald Editor