



PLYMOUTH CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

10:30 AM  SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 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

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

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2020
THIRTEENTH 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.

PRELUDE

Humbly We Adore You (Adoro te devote) Setting by Michael Larkin
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Piano

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown



SHARING PEACE The peace of Christ be with you.

HYMN *Our God is Blessing Me* . . Bishop Larry Trotter
performed by Evan Florey-Barnes, bass, Leo Neer, drums,
Rev. Kelle Brown vocals, Sari Breznau piano and vocals

Our God is blessing me right now, oh, right now
Our God is blessing me right now, oh, right now
God woke me up this morning
and God started me on my way
Our God is blessing me right now (repeat)

PRAYERS OF THE GATHEREDJennifer Castle

Riley Balcita, Matt Banks, Ernie Boyer, Bob Brennan, Pam Dorrance, Rick Eberharter, Phil Fredrickson, Jackie Fouts (Mother-in-law of Al Wallace), Keili Geller (Granddaughter of Nancy Geller), 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), Jackie Maxon (Mother of Steve Davis), Jo Mitchell, Robert Neer, Georgia Nelson, Dick, Jean and Alex Paul (Parents and Nephew of Beth Paul Russell), Tommy Rivers Puzey (friend of Karen Clark), Jose Robles, Rod Shutt, Rev. Dr. Warren Stewart (cousin of Karen Clark) and his wife Karen, Jim Stultz (brother of Doug Stultz), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Jordyn Woodke and David Flores (friends of Karen Clark)

 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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READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE Psalm 5

(The Message translation) read by Rev. Donene Blair

Listen, God! Please, pay attention!
Can you make sense of these ramblings,
my groans and cries?
God, I need your help.
Every morning
you'll hear me at it again.
Every morning
I lay out the pieces of my life
on your altar
and watch for fire to descend.

You don't socialize with Wicked,
 or invite Evil over as your houseguest.
 Hot-Air-Boaster collapses in front of you;
 you shake your head over Mischief-Maker.
 God destroys Lie-Speaker;
 Blood-Thirsty and Truth-Bender disgust you.
 And here I am, your invited guest—
 it's incredible!
 I enter your house; here I am,
 prostrate in your inner sanctum,
 Waiting for directions
 to get me safely through enemy lines.
 Every word they speak is a land mine;
 their lungs breathe out poison gas.
 Their throats are gaping graves,
 their tongues slick as mudslides.
 Pile on the guilt, God!
 Let their so-called wisdom wreck them.
 Kick them out! They've had their chance.
 But you'll welcome us with open arms
 when we run for cover to you.
 Let the party last all night!
 Stand guard over our celebration.
 You are famous, God, for welcoming God-seekers,
 for decking us out in delight.

CONTEMPORARY VOICE read by Julian Long



Audre Lorde was an American writer, feminist and civil rights activist known for confronting injustices.

I have come to believe over and over again that what is most important to me must be spoken, made verbal and shared, even at the risk of having it bruised or misunderstood... In becoming forcibly and essentially aware of my mortality... what I most regretted were my silences. Of what had I ever been afraid? ...My silences had not protected me. Your silence will not protect you.

What are the words you do not yet have? What do you need to say? What are the tyrannies you swallow day by day and attempt to make your own, until you will sicken and die of them, still in silence?

And of course, I am afraid, because the transformation of silence into language and action is an act of self-revelation, and that always seems fraught with danger. But my daughter, when I told her of our topic and my difficulty with it, said, “Tell them about how you’re never really a whole person if you remain silent, because there’s always that one little piece inside you that wants to be spoken out, and if you keep ignoring it, it gets madder and madder and hotter and hotter, and if you don’t speak it out one day it will just up and punch you in the mouth from the inside.”

In the cause of silence, each of us draws the face of her own fear — fear of contempt, of censure, or some judgment, or recognition, of challenge, of annihilation. But most of all, I think, we fear the visibility without which we cannot truly live... And that visibility which makes us most vulnerable is that which also is the source of our greatest strength. should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory.” —*Audre Lorde*

READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE Exodus 3:1-15

(The Message translation)

read by Rev. Kevin Bechtold

Moses experienced the call of God when God appeared in a bush that burned but was not consumed. When Moses expressed his unworthiness, God promised to be with him. When Moses objected that people would demand to know God’s name, God revealed the personal name Yahweh (I-AM-WHO-I-AM). Israel discovered God’s true identity when God took them out of Egypt.

Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. He led the flock to the west end of the wilderness and came to the mountain of God, Horeb. The angel of God appeared to him in flames of fire blazing out of the middle of a bush. He looked. The bush was blazing away but it didn’t burn up.

Moses said, “What’s going on here? I can’t believe this! Amazing! Why doesn’t the bush burn up?” God saw that he had stopped to look. God called to him from out of the bush, “Moses! Moses!” He said, “Yes? I’m right here!”

God said, “Don’t come any closer. Remove your sandals from your feet. You’re standing on holy ground.”

Then he said, “I am the God of your parents: The God of Abraham and Sarah, the God of Isaac and Rebecca, the God of Jacob and Rachel.”

Moses hid his face, afraid to look at God.

God said, “I’ve taken a good, long look at the affliction of my people in Egypt. I’ve heard their cries for deliverance from their slave masters; I know all about their pain. And now I have come down to help them, pry them loose from the grip of Egypt, get them out of that country and bring them to a good land with wide-open spaces, a land lush with milk and honey, the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite.

“The Israelite cry for help has come to me, and I’ve seen for myself how cruelly they’re being treated by the Egyptians. It’s time for you to go back: I’m sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the People of Israel, out of Egypt.”

Moses answered God, “But why me? What makes you think that I could ever go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?”

“I’ll be with you,” God said. “And this will be the proof that I am the one who sent you: When you have brought my people out of Egypt, you will worship God right here at this very mountain.”

Then Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the People of Israel and I tell them, ‘The God of your parents sent me to you’; and they ask me, ‘What is God’s name?’ What do I tell them?”

God said to Moses, “I-AM-WHO-I-AM. Tell the People of Israel, ‘I-AM sent me to you.’”

God continued with Moses: “This is what you’re to say to the Israelites: ‘God, the God of your parents, the God of Abraham and Sarah, the God of Isaac and Rebecca, and the God of Jacob and Rachel sent me to you.’ This has always been my name, and this is how I always will be known.”

ANTHEM. *Mama’s Calling Me* Reggie Garrett



We are happy to welcome Seattle’s own Reggie Garrett, who will be sharing his gifts in today’s worship. Reggie Garrett has been performing throughout the U.S. and Canada for a number of years. Reggie performs mostly original songs mixed with pop covers and more traditional style folk ballads. He is the purveyor of a unique urban strain of (mostly) acoustic music incorporating a number of diverse influences, including: Folk, Latin rhythms, Blues, Gospel, Celtic, Rock, Jazz and more. The result is a musical blend that has excited and touched audiences throughout the U.S. and Canada. The original song Reggie will be

performing today, “Mama’s Calling Me” was written in response to the police killings of young black men. The song is written from the perspective of one of the victims, hearing his mother calling him, knowing that he will never go home.

MESSAGE *With Our Own Eyes* Dr. Brown

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Dr. Brown

POSTLUDE. *Sonata* Gottfried Reiche

Brass Quartet performed by

Jeff Walker, Sari Breznau, Kyle Erickson, and Evan Dorner

CLOSING. Dr. Brown

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Courage My Soul a virtual choir presentation, with Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, of *The Storm is Passing Over* by Charles Albert Tindley. Gospel tune by Donald Vails. Arranged by Kent Stevenson. View at <http://bit.ly/CourageMySoul>.

Sharing Faces of Peace We are collecting videos of Plymouth members “Passing the peace” to be used in our online worship services! If you would like to make a short video snippet to be included, email Sari at saribreznau@gmail.com and she will walk you through how to contribute. It’s simple, quick, and we’d love to see more Plymouth faces!

Our Faith, Our Vote “Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!” —*Isaiah 58:1*
Plymouth United Church of Christ is joining the UCC’s Our Faith Our Vote campaign to register voters, educate ourselves on important issues at stake in the election and encourage voter participation. Since we are not able to do in person registration at church the Our Faith Our Vote committee will call each church member to make sure their voter registration is up to date. Our vote is important! If you would like to volunteer to be a member of the Our Faith Our Vote committee, contact Christine Hanson at 509.679.7430 or email her at HansonChristineAnn@gmail.com. Learn more at UCC.org/OurFaithOurVote. —*Christine Hanson*

Continue to Stand for Racial Justice Come to Plymouth and join others standing for racial justice. 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. .

Stay Connected In this time of physical distancing, Plymouth invites you to connect with others for various activities throughout the week. See list and links at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Seeking Those Who Serve Plymouth involves congregants in the leadership of the church through various groups. Currently there are openings on the Congregational Council, Community & Care Board, and the Community Service and Social Action Board, as well as the Finance, Investment and HR Committees. Each of these will have openings next February as well. Stay tuned to hear more from your Nominating Committee during coffee hours after worship in the month of August. We hope to talk to many of you! —*Ruth Williamson*

**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.**