

10:30 AM ✦ SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

BUILDING HOME

PLYMOUTH
United Church of Christ

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:

SDavis@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST/HOMECOMING SUNDAY

PRELUDE

Trio on "Let All Things Now Living" David Cherwien
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

This Sunday we share together Holy Communion in our online interactive worship. Before the time of the service you will want to prepare some bread, a slice or a small loaf of any kind of bread and juice of some sort. Let it be something you alone or you with others in your house may break and share. Remember this is a meal of grace, so whatever "bread" or "juice" you choose will more than suffice.

Set these elements in the sacred place where you experience worship electronically with our faith community. You are invited to light a candle or place a flower or plant or something meaningful into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup. Thank you for your preparation.

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Elizabeth Gordon

*Hear now the call to worship, based on the call written by Katherine Hawker for
Evangelical United Church of Christ.*

There is water on every side,
And with every step, we are most sure it is closing in.
There is water on every side, and danger before and behind us.
The sea of apathy surrounds
enticing us with self-promotion,
luring us with greed.
The sea of apathy surrounds
bloated with decay
the remains of injustice and idolatry.
The sea of apathy surrounds.
Yet, our task this day
is to cross the sea.
Our task today
is to say "no" to the stench,
"no" to the agreement to stay where we are.
Let us acknowledge the crisis and the work.
Our task, if we chose it
is to say "yes" to life and faith.
Say yes.
Let us cross the sea together so that
we might build home in the Spirit.

HYMN *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* **ST. ANNE**

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad-ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,

Our shel - ter from the storm-y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

O God, our help in a-ges past,
our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while trou-bles last,
and our e-ter-nal home!

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS IN COVENANT **Dr. Brown**
Dr. Gilda Sheppard and Rev. Louis Mitchell

SHARING PEACE The peace of Christ be with you.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome at our table to share the bread and the cup, whether you are a believer, a seeker, a skeptic, doubter or somewhere in between.

INVITATION. Rev. Donene Blair, Rev. Steven Davis,
Dr. Gordon



CONSECRATION Rev. Mitchell

COMMUNION PRAYER Jennifer 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 Rev. Steve Davis), Jo Mitchell, Georgia Nelson, Gregg Pantale (Friend of Robert Turner), 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)

We grieve with Doug James and family on the death of his mother, Virginia Thomson, on August 28, 2020.

Our hearts are with Cory Maclay and family on the one-year anniversary of the death of her mom, Jo Kimball.

 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

**Holy One, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION Rev. Kevin Bechtold

COMMUNION HYMN *Let Us Break Bread Together*
Sari Breznau

1. Let us break bread together on our knees
Let us break bread together on our knees
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.
2. Let us drink wine together on our knees
Let us drink wine together on our knees
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

Prayer of ThanksgivingDr. Brown

**Loving God, we thank you
that you feed us in this generous feast of grace,
uniting us with Jesus Christ,
and giving us a foretaste of the Beloved Community
made possible by in you.**

**Send us out in the Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory,
for the sake of world, whom you adore. Amen.**

MOMENT OF LOVE IN ACTION Sue Maul

CONTEMPORARY VOICE read by Jamie Shilling

Blessing for Coming Home to an Empty House, by Jan Richardson

I know
how every time you return,
you call out
in greeting
to the one
who is not there;
how you lift your voice
not in habit
but in honor
of the absence
so fierce
it has become
its own force.

I know
how the hollow
of the house
echoes in your chest,
how the emptiness
you enter
matches the ache
you carry with you
always.

I know
there are days
when the only thing

more brave than leaving
this house
is coming back to it.

So on those days,
may there be a door
in the emptiness
through which a welcome
waits for you.

On those days,
may you be surprised
by the grace
that gathers itself
within this space.

On those days,
may the delight
that made a home here
find its way to you again,
not merely in memory
but in hope,

so that every word
ever spoken in kindness
circles back to meet you;

so that you may hear
what still sings to you
within these walls;

so that you may know
the love
that dreams with you here
when finally
you give yourself
to rest—

the love
that rises with you,
stubborn like the dawn
that never fails
to come.



*Jan Richardson is
an artist, writer,
and ordained
minister in the
United Methodist
Church.*

READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE Exodus 14:13-31

(The Message translation)

read by Rev. Bechtold

Having decided to let the Israelites go from Egypt, Pharaoh had second thoughts and sent his army after them. Though the passage through the Red Sea became a sign of salvation for the people of Israel, Pharaoh's forces drowned. As a result, the Israelites believed in God and God's servant Moses.

Moses spoke to the people: "Don't be afraid. Stand firm and watch GOD do God's work of salvation for you today. Take a good look at the Egyptians today for you're never going to see them again.

GOD will fight the battle for you.

And you? You keep your mouths shut!"

GOD said to Moses: "Why cry out to me? Speak to the Israelites. Order them to get moving. Hold your staff high and stretch your hand out over the sea: Split the sea! The Israelites will walk through the sea on dry ground. "Meanwhile I'll make sure the Egyptians keep up their stubborn chase—I'll use Pharaoh and his entire army, his chariots and horsemen, to put my Glory on display so that the Egyptians will realize that I am GOD."

The angel of God that had been leading the camp of Israel now shifted and got behind them. And the Pillar of Cloud that had been in front also shifted to the rear. The Cloud was now between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel. The Cloud enshrouded one camp in darkness and flooded the other with light. The two camps didn't come near each other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and GOD, with a terrific east wind all night long, made the sea go back. He made the sea dry ground. The seawaters split.

The Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground with the waters a wall to the right and to the left. The Egyptians came after them in full pursuit, every horse and chariot and driver of Pharaoh racing into the middle of the sea. It was now the morning watch. GOD looked down from the Pillar of Fire and Cloud on the Egyptian army and threw them into a panic. He clogged the wheels of their chariots; they were stuck in the mud.

The Egyptians said, "Run from Israel! GOD is fighting on their side and against Egypt!"

GOD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea and the waters will come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots, over their horsemen."

Moses stretched his hand out over the sea: As the day broke and the Egyptians were running, the sea returned to its place as before. GOD dumped the Egyptians in the middle of the sea. The waters returned, drowning the chariots and riders of Pharaoh's army that had chased after Israel into the sea. Not one of them survived.

But the Israelites walked right through the middle of the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall to the right and to the left. GOD delivered Israel that day from the oppression of the Egyptians. And Israel looked at the Egyptian dead, washed up on the shore of the sea, and realized the tremendous power that GOD brought against the Egyptians. The people were in reverent awe before GOD and trusted in GOD and God's servant Moses.

ANTHEM

Courage My Soul, a virtual choir presentation of

The Storm is Passing Over by Charles Albert Tindley

Gospel tune by Donald Vails , Arranged by Kent Stevenson

Additional lyrics and timpani part by Frederick N. West

Performed by the Seattle Peace Chorus and friends, along with the Courage Ensemble
Presented in loving memory of the late, great civil rights leader, Congressman John Lewis

Featuring: Soloist, Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown; Pianist, Kent Stevenson;

Timpanist, Emmy Ulmer

MESSAGE *Be A Witness* Dr. Brown

BENEDICTION Dr. Brown

POSTLUDE. *Toccata*. David Hegarty
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

CLOSING. Dr. 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.

**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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check It Out! You can now check books out of Plymouth Library and have them mailed to your home! The depth of our selection of books on religious topics is much greater than what you may find in a public library. We also have many current, in-demand titles of literary fiction and books on social justice topics, which may be available without a lengthy wait. Read how at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Coming Soon: *Plymouth Reads* The rumor is true! Something new is coming to Plymouth. It involves books and risk and change. And it starts October 1. Stay tuned!

An Easy Way to Donate If you would like to donate your used vehicle (includes car, motorcycle, boat, plane or RV), avoid the hassle of a private sale and benefit Plymouth UCC in the process, go to Careasy.org, or call CARS at 1.855.500.RIDE and they will do the rest.

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.

Read the Library Blog This week’s blog entry is titled, *Building a Home*. “This autumn, Plymouth’s theme for worship is ‘Building Home.’ I don’t know what the message will be, but what that topic says to me is that home is where the heart is. Yes, that sounds trite, but home is the people, the experiences, the love. A Church can still be a Church without a building as so many Churches have found during this time of physical distancing.” Read more at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

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