

10:30 AM ✦ SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

BUILDING HOME

PLYM✦UTH
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:

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Worship with Plymouth Church UCC begins with meditation.
The quiet is meant to encourage and deepen your own inner work.
Thank you for entering this space, this hour, by honoring the spirit of worship.*

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 *Prière (Prayer)* Léon Boëllmann
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

CALL TO WORSHIP June Hayakawa-Fung
(inspired by Matthew 20:1-16)

Call all the laborers, O God,
Call your laborers who woke early,
Call your laborers who came late,
Call your laborers who feel wronged,
Call your laborers who feel overlooked,
Call your laborers who have no employment,
Call your laborers who can’t feed their children with this wage,
Call your laborers who know they are working in your fields,
Call your laborers who use their wage to increase your love,
Call all your laborers, O God,
Tell us to roll up our sleeves
For we know that we have work to do.
Let us find you in the work we share here and now,
in Christ’s presence we pray.

Amen.

HYMN *God of Grace and God of Glory* CWM RHONDDA

Jennylynn Vidas, Sari Breznau, Tim Keller, Michael Delos

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that
5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—
your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,
they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,
we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.
in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

SHARING PEACE The peace of Christ be with you.

PRAYERS OF THE GATHERED Dr. Elizabeth Gordon

Hear our cry, O Holy One,
let our mourning rend your ears.
The fears for which there are no words,
the loss for which there are no tears:
the ashes of our hopes, our lives
say all we can, and no more.

The flames engulf the innocent,
the smoke of our burnt offerings rise,
offerings of our pride that makes others
our self-saving sacrifice.

Have mercy on us, and those who mourn.
Give us grace in our weakness.

O Holy One, have mercy,
and let our anguish rend your heart.

How long will you hold us to the heat
of our sin, yet make others pay?

The greed we've burned the world with,
the hate that scorches our kin?

Forests and prairies go up in smoke,
black bodies fall in blood,
we pass the plague among us,
our selfishness unmasked.

How long will you give us such freedom
to harm, to shoot, to demonize,
to split ourselves from each other
and from our very life?

O Gracious God, the smoke of mystery
clouds our eyes;
and yet we see you here,
moving among those who help,
who give themselves to calm the flames,
to heal the sick, to defend the poor.
You who brought us through the Red Sea,
bring us through again.

You who defended the lives of slaves
rise, and act, for so you always do.

May our hope be your worship;

may our justice be your praise. — *Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes*



Rev. Steven Garnaas Holmes is a United Methodist pastor who has served churches for 37 years. He often leads retreats on prayer, poetry and renewing language about God.

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), Joyce Irving (mother of Rev. Louis Mitchell), Michael Kaid, Libonati Family, Sharon Masse (Wife of Gary Magnuson), Jackie Maxon (Mother of Rev. Steve Davis), Bob and Jo Mitchell, 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)

Our hearts are with the Gwilym/Tso family at the passing of Don Gwilym, member of Plymouth since 1968, on September 16.

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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MOMENT OF LOVE IN ACTION Michael Gordon

CONTEMPORARY VOICE read by Dr. Gordon

When apparent stability disintegrates,
 As it must—
 God is Change—
 People tend to give in
 To fear and depression,
 To need and greed.
 When no influence is strong enough
 To unify people



Octavia Butler was a science fiction writer, one of the best-known among the few African-American women in the field. In 1995, she became the first science fiction writer to receive the MacArthur Foundation “Genius” Grant.

They divide.
They struggle,
One against one,
Group against group,
For survival, position, power.
They remember old hates and generate new ones,
The create chaos and nurture it.
They kill and kill and kill,
Until they are exhausted and destroyed,
Until they are conquered by outside forces,
Or until one of them becomes
A leader
Most will follow,
Or a tyrant
Most fear.

“That’s all anybody can do right now. Live. Hold out. Survive. I don’t know whether good times are coming back again. But I know that won’t matter if we don’t survive these times.”
—Octavia Butler

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW Matthew 20:1-16
(The Message translation) read by Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

Jesus tells a parable about God’s generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

“God’s kingdom is like an estate manager who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. They agreed on a wage of a dollar a day, and went to work.

“Later, about nine o’clock, the manager saw some other workers hanging around the town square unemployed. He told them to go to work in his vineyard and he would pay them a fair wage. They went.

“He did the same thing at noon, and again at three o’clock. At five o’clock he went back and found still others standing around. He said, ‘Why are you standing around all day doing nothing?’

“They said, ‘Because no one hired us.’

“He told them to go to work in his vineyard.

“When the day’s work was over, the owner of the vineyard instructed his foreman, ‘Call the workers in and pay them their wages. Start with the last hired and go on to the first.’

“Those hired at five o’clock came up and were each given a dollar. When those who were hired first saw that, they assumed they would get far more. But they got the same, each of them one dollar. Taking the dollar, they groused angrily to the manager, ‘These last workers put in only one easy hour, and you just made them equal to us, who slaved all day under a scorching sun.’

“He replied to the one speaking for the rest, ‘Friend, I haven’t been unfair. We agreed on the wage of a dollar, didn’t we? So take it and go. I decided to give to the one who came last the same as you. Can’t I do what I want with my own money? Are you going to get stingy because I am generous?’

“Here it is again, the Great Reversal: many of the first ending up last, and the last first.”

SPECIAL MUSIC

On Eagle’s Wings (based on Psalm 91).Michael Joncas
Elizabeth Nestlerode, Soloist; Wanda Griffiths, Piano (Mother/Daughter duo)

MESSAGE

While She Was Sleeping: A Lament for Breonna Taylor Dr. Brown

CHARGE AND BENEDICTIONDr. Brown

POSTLUDE. *Sortie*. Douglas E. Wagner
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

CLOSING.Dr. Brown

**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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Beloved, Love in Action

“Do your little bit of good where you are. It’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.” – Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Love is a verb. Not simply a feeling or thought. Grounded in God’s love for us, we are called to act, to love. 1 John 4:11 puts it this way, “Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.” We take seemingly small actions to live out God’s love. Here’s the beautiful thing: together in community, we can change the world.