

## SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am **Worship Sunday, November 8, 2020**

*Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost*

Lectionary Text for November 8: Matthew 25:1-13

*"Trimmed and Burning"*

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown Preaching

11:30 am Online Coffee Hour

*Honoring Rev. Steven Davis*

### Virtual Worship Only!

Find links to video stream and worship bulletin and participate online at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

The church building will be closed for all activities until further notice.

Check [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://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](http://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.*



## 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.



 **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, Mamie Holland Bruce, Ken Carter, Pam Dorrance, Rick Eberharter, Carmen Ramsey Ellington, (friend of Karen Clark), Phil Fredrickson, Jackie Fouts (Mother-in-law of Al Wallace), Keili Geller (Granddaughter of Nancy Geller), Peter Gibbons (Brother of Eileen Gibbons), Sharon, Floyd, and Carrie Gossett, Robert Hardy (Friend of Karen Clark), Reg Hearn (Brother of Melony Joyce), Joyce Irving (mother of Rev. Louis Mitchell), Virginia Johnson, Michael Kaid, Libonati Family, Dorothy Mann, Sharon Masse (Wife of Gary Magnuson), John Mooney (Brother of Carol Mooney), Georgia Nelson, Dick, Jean and Alex Paul (Parents and Nephew of Beth Paul Russell), Tommy Rivers Puzey (Friend of Karen Clark), Jose Robles, Jim Stultz (Brother of Doug Stultz), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Mildred Whitehurst (Grandmother of Toni Arthur), Samantha Williams

(bold = newly added)

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

Volume 59  
Number 9

November 4, 2020

## LOVE IN ACTION



*Matt Durland shares his reflections.*

I've always been humbled by the sense of community I feel at Plymouth. I'm writing this on a Monday evening and in just the last 48 hours the connections to Plymouth reach a point where they are hard to count. Saturday evening, I helped drop off some curry for a meal train, set up for a Plymouth family in need. Later that night I celebrated Halloween as 2020 allowed: with five people in my bubble. Three of us know each other through Plymouth and count Youth Forum (YF), N-Sid-Sen, and the Plymouth children's choir among our many connections. After the service on Sunday afternoon I helped lead the weekly YF virtual gathering with two dear friends. All three of us were there in part because we want to maintain the safe space that we enjoyed as members of YF.

These ties have been a blessing, joining so many of the joys in my life. Music might be the best example, with children's choir, song circles, N-Sid-Sen talent shows and vespers, Coffee Houses, Chancel Choir, and Soul Choir all helping shape my love of music. I've always needed a little encouragement, a bit of extra confidence when it comes to performing, and I've always had that at Plymouth. It's a special thing to be a part of a community you trust enough to express yourself. I am forever grateful.

Plymouth, when it's boiled all the way down, has always been about the congregation. More than a place or an institution, it's the people and their connections through Plymouth that define the church. At Plymouth, I can feel the building and maintaining of a sacred space, the growing and fostering of relationships. And by inviting one another into this community, I can think of no better way to put love into action. —*Matt Durland* ✨

## SHARE YOUR STORY

As part of our year-round Stewardship campaign, we invite you to share your story of the impact of Plymouth as it lives out *Love in Action*. Sharing these stories helps our community understand the importance of generosity in our lives, the reasons to support the church, and what we accomplish together. If you'd like to submit a written piece or video, please email Kyna at [KynaGrace@gmail.com](mailto:KynaGrace@gmail.com). ✨

## PLYMOUTH READS EVENTS NEXT TWO SATURDAYS

This Saturday, November 7 at 3 pm come and join in a discussion on our first book, *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin. This will be a tumultuous week for which James Baldwin has much to say. Discussion questions, developed by Plymouth members, are posted on the Plymouth Reads resource page (click link at top of Library homepage at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)). Be sure and register for Plymouth Reads to receive a Zoom invitation. Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown will introduce the event, with members of the Library Committee hosting. See you there!

Next Saturday, November 14, brings our reading of *The Fire Next Time* to an end. Don't miss this opportunity to gather and hear from Ernest L. Gibson III, a James Baldwin scholar, on the relevancy of Baldwin's call to Americans to meet the reality of racism with love. Register for Plymouth Reads to receive a Zoom invitation (click resource page link at top of Library homepage at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)). ✨

## ANXIETY, DEPRESSION & OUR FAITH



*Rev. Sarah Lund leads workshop*

Research from the Kaiser Family Foundation shows that over half of the population in the United States is struggling with anxiety, depression, or other mental health concerns in this difficult and challenging time. People of faith are not immune from these struggles, and there are spiritual tools and faith practices that can

help. Please join us as we welcome the Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, the UCC's Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice, who will help us open up this important conversation. The online workshop will include time for sharing in small groups as well as learning from Dr. Lund. The gathering will be held on Tuesday, November 10 from 6:30-8 pm.

Use Zoom link in news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org), or email Jennifer Castle ([JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)) for link and password. Please plan to join us for this time of learning and sharing. ✨



*Join the discussions.*

MOVING FORWARD



Rev. Steven Davis

The first time I participated in worship at Plymouth as a staff minister, I shared the following story by our General Minister and President of the UCC, Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer sharing about his mother, who said, *“All I ever wanted as a mother was for my children to know that no matter what they’ve done or where they’ve been, the door to our house is always open to them... and there is nothing they can do or no where they can go from which they cannot turn back and come home.”*

Plymouth is a place of faith that lives and believes the truth that God’s love transcends all distinctions... no matter your sexual orientation or your ethnicity, whether you’re a seeker, a skeptic, a believer or somewhere in between... Plymouth desires to be a place of faith, where no matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are... welcome here! I believed and cherished that statement and affirmation. I still do today as I say my “goodbyes.”

Thank you for your many expressions of love, support and affirmation of my ministry shared with you. I’m grateful for all the ways you’ve welcomed me and Bill, and how with so much grace, you share with us in moving forward. We will be moving from Seattle to Bill’s home town of Waco, Texas, which is also very near Dallas/Ft. Worth where much of my family lives and is near. We look forward to seeing the ways in which God opens new possibilities to engage in building up the beloved community. Thank you for the honor of calling Plymouth “home” for this season. You will remain in our hearts! God bless you, and, *“May you live as long as you want, and never want as long as you live ...”*

Yours in grace and hope, Rev. Steve Davis ✨

HONOR REV. DAVIS THIS SUNDAY

To honor the gifts and graces of the Rev. Steve Davis, and to wish him a future marked by blessings and love, there will be a ritual of release and farewell during the worship service on November 8. Steve will be the guest of honor at coffee hour that day, when he will be presented with gifts in commemoration of his time at Plymouth. Please join us for this virtual event. Cards wishing Steve well can be sent in care of the church office. Contributions toward the cost of the gift can be sent to Joan Griswold at 12900 N.E. 10th Place, Bellevue, WA 98005. Funds in excess of the cost of the gift will go to Steve as a ‘purse,’ in gratitude for his time with us. ✨



Sue Maul, Moderator, Al Bentley, Vice-Moderator

CONTRIBUTE TO DEVOTIONAL

In this time when we can’t physically be together, it will be particularly meaningful for our faith community to experience Advent together through a devotional made up of submissions from one another. Our theme for Advent this year is *Enter the Mystery*. Submissions can be stories from your life, prayers, photography, or art. Here are some questions to get you thinking: How do you enter the mystery of Advent? Of faith? How do you welcome mystery? In what ways do you resist mystery? What role has mystery played in your life of faith?

Please email your submissions to Jennifer Castle at JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org by **Wednesday, November 18** so there is time to put the devotional together in time for the first Sunday of Advent on November 29. Please contact Jennifer if you have questions or need more information. ✨

JOIN THE CONVERSATIONS



We need to hear from you...

Please plan to attend these upcoming virtual conversations and meetings. Your participation is vital as we move forward. We need to hear from you!

**11:30 am Sunday, December 6:** Congregational Conversation about the 2020

budget (update about pledges, projected budget deficit) and the 2021 high/low budget projections. Major issues will be outlined and discussed. Feedback will be incorporated into the final budget.

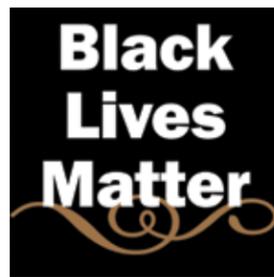
**11:30 am Sunday, December 20:** Congregational Meeting and budget vote. Keep reading the *Herald* for more details. ✨

WE’RE STILL STANDING!

Join others at Plymouth 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. ✨



Send your thoughts to Jennifer Castle.



UNITED FOR GOOD

On behalf of the sponsoring congregations of the United for Good prayer — Saint Mark’s Cathedral, Temple de Hirsch Sinai, First AME, St. James Cathedral, and the Church Council of Greater Seattle — our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for being present at the Interfaith Vigil yesterday evening. It was a powerful and beautiful time of shared prayer. Though the pandemic meant that only a handful of us could be in St. James in person, we were joined by many others from our congregations and around the region: about 1400 prayed with us via Vimeo, and the service had another 800+ views on Facebook. That’s a lot of prayer and I know you’ll agree that our country needs it!



Thanks to all participants.

We treasure the times we are able to gather together and give witness to the reality that, no matter our differences, we are all children of one God. —Michael Ryan, Corinna Laughlin ✨

JOIN LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY



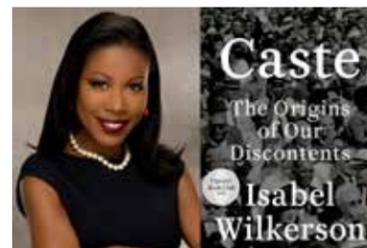
Take time for discussion and contemplation.

Study with friends Wednesdays at 9 am on Zoom. Led by Jennifer Castle, this group studies the biblical texts from the Revised Common Lectionary for the upcoming Sunday’s worship service. Attendance ranges from 12-20 people,

and the Zoom link is accessible from the Plymouth website. Please contact Jennifer at jcastle@plymouthchurchseattle.org if you have questions, would like the Zoom password, or would like to be added to the weekly email list for this group. ✨

CHECK OUT THE LIBRARY BLOG

Book of the week: *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson — available for check out from Plymouth Library. Here’s some news about the book:



*“Ava DuVernay, who directed ‘A Wrinkle In Time’ and ‘When They See Us,’ will now be in the director chair to adapt ‘Caste’ by Pulitzer Prize winner Isabel Wilkerson. DuVernay will also be writing and producing the feature film for Netflix, which takes a look at how the US is still affected by an unspoken caste system that shaped the country.”*

New articles posted weekly at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Click the Library box on the homepage, then the link to the blog. ✨

WALK THE LABYRINTH IN ADVENT

You are warmly invited to the Plymouth Sanctuary each Sunday afternoon in Advent (Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13 & 20), 1-4 pm, for a time of quiet prayer and contemplation. The Labyrinth will be available for those who wish to use this ancient meditative practice. Park in Plymouth garage, and enter the building through the garage elevator entrance. Safety precautions will be taken with the requirement of masks that fully cover one’s mouth and nose, contact tracing and temperatures taken. Look for information on how to RSVP for specific slots of time. Plymouth Deacons and volunteers will be here to assist you.



1-4 pm November 29, December 6, 13 & 29

The Labyrinth is a sacred place set aside for you to reflect, look within, pray, negotiate new behavior. The rhythm of walking, of placing one foot in front of the other, empties the mind, relaxes the body and refreshes the soul. Before walking, take time in gratitude to be thankful for your life. Bless the people in your life. If there’s a specific event or situation troubling you, bring it to mind. If possible, form a healing question.

As you begin your walk become quiet, let go of the mind chatter, release rather than try to solve your troubles. Open your heart to feel whatever it might feel. Become aware of your breathing. Take slow breaths. Relax and move at your own pace. This is a place of reflection. Open yourself to Spirit. Listen to that small voice within. In the safety of the Labyrinth have a heart-to-heart talk with yourself.

When you are ready, return by the same path you followed in. It is during your return that integration of your experience occurs, perhaps in a sense of well-being, healing, excitement, calm or peace. Is there something from your walk to take back into your everyday life?

Each Labyrinth experience is different. You may feel nothing, or have a powerful reaction. Listen to your heart. Journaling your Labyrinth experiences helps you recognize changes you may wish to make in your life. May you find blessings on the path. ✨

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. We’d love to see more Plymouth faces! ✨



Sharing the Peace