

10:30 AM ✦ SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 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

KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

DBlair@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

JHayakawafung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

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

SDavis@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2020
TWENTY-THIRD 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.*

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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 *God of Grace and God of Glory*
Settings by Lynette Maynard and Mark Patterson
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Piano

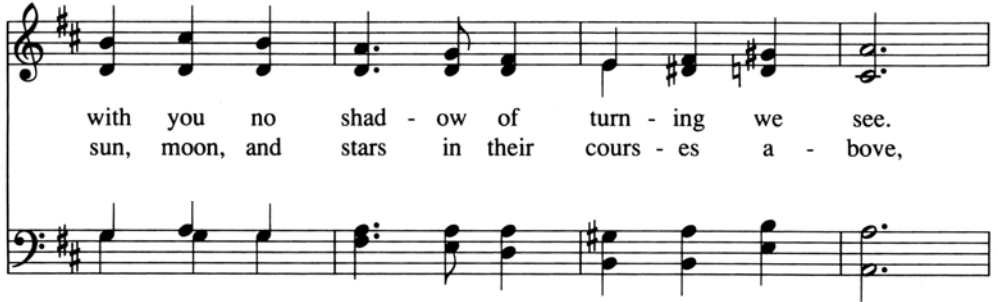
WELCOME Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

CALL TO WORSHIP Sue Maul
Holy God,
We hear echoes of your Wisdom in Christ Jesus
The One you sent to dwell in our midst and lead us to
abundant life.
Keep us alert to the call to follow,
ready to respond with justice and joy
in your holy moment,
which is always Now.

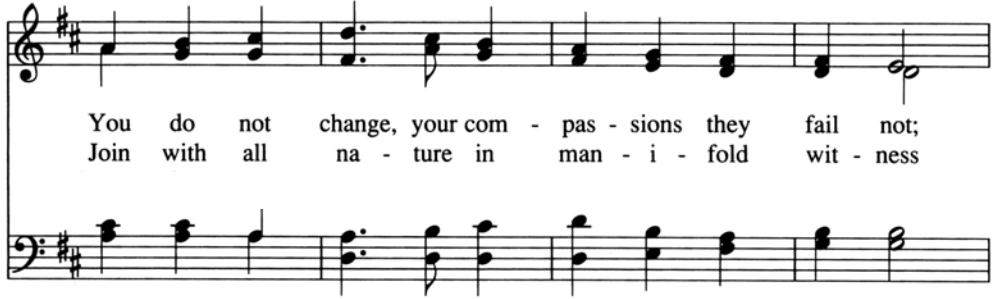
HYMN *Great Is Your Faithfulness*, vs 1-2 FAITHFULNESS
Miriam Gnagy, Sari Breznau, Tim Keller, Michael Delos



1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,



with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,



You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness



all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.
to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.

Refrain

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by
 morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed your
 hand has pro-vid-ed, Great is your faith-ful-ness, God, un-to me!

ANNOUNCEMENTS Dr. Brown

SHARING PEACE The peace of Christ be with you.

PRAYERS OF THE GATHERED Al Bentley

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

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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SERVICE OF RELEASE AND FAREWELL FOR THE REV. STEVE DAVIS

Sue Maul, Al Bentley, Rev. Mike Denton

Sue Maul: Our church family is constantly changing.
People come and go.
Babies are born.
Children grow up.
People commit themselves to one another.
Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives.
Individuals move into our community and church life.
Others leave us moving away to new places,
new experiences, and new opportunities.
It is important and right
that we recognize these times of passage,
of endings and beginnings.
Today we share the time of farewell
with the Rev. Steve Davis who is leaving.

Al Bentley: On June 27th, 2016, Plymouth Church United Church of Christ called the Rev. Steve Davis to serve as Minister of Church Finances and Operations.

Rev. Steve Davis: I thank Plymouth Church United Church of Christ, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last 5 years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

People: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Rev. Davis: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

VOWS OF RELEASE

All who are able, please witness these words.

Ms. Maul: Do you, the members and friends of Plymouth Church release Steve Davis from the duties of minister?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Mr. Bentley: Do you offer your encouragement for his ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Ms. Maul: Do you, Steve Davis, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

Rev. Davis: I do, with the help of God.

Mr. Bentley: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and on the relationship with Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown and the clergy team of Plymouth Church, who will continue to serve?

Rev. Davis: I do, with the help of God.

WITNESS OF THE CONFERENCE

Rev. Mike Denton: On behalf of the Pacific Northwest Conference and the United Church of Christ, I witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and release. The member churches of conference hold each of you in prayer. We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

Council: Thanks be to God.

Ms. Maul: Let us pray.

O God, we give thanks for remembered times when we, together, have shared the life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared in worship, in ministry, in service. We pray that Rev. Davis will be aware of your Spirit's guidance as he moves to new and unknown places, in the name of Jesus the Christ.

People: Amen.

SHARING POLICY FOR CLERGY AND CONGREGATIONS CONCLUDING PASTORATES

Rev Dr. Cameron Sharp, Co-Chair, Pacific Northwest Conference Committee on Ministry

MOMENT OF LOVE IN ACTION

CONTEMPORARY VOICEread by Patricia Valentine

Prayer for the Morning

by Audette Fulbright Fulson

Did you rise this morning,
broken and hung over
with weariness and pain
and rage tattered from waving too long in a brutal wind?
Get up, child.
Pull your bones upright
gather your skin and muscle into a patch of sun.
Draw breath deep into your lungs;
you will need it
for another day calls to you.
I know you ache.
I know you wish the work were done



*Called to All Souls
Unitarian Universalist in
NYC in 2016, Audette
is the first woman ever
called to the pulpit there.
She has served in racial
reconciliation and conflict
resolution work for
over 15 years, and was
delighted to perform the
first LGBTQ marriage in
Wyoming. She writes a
well-regarded social media
daily prayer series.*

and you
with everyone you have ever loved
were on a distant shore
safe, and unafraid.
But remember this,
tired as you are:
you are not alone.
Here
and here
and here also
there are others weeping
and rising
and gathering their courage.
You belong to them
and they to you
and together,
we will break through
and bend the arc of justice
all the way down
into our lives.

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW Matthew 25:1-13
(NRSV translation) read by Rev. Mike Denton

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

[Jesus said:] “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten wedding attendants took their lamps and went to meet the newlywed. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the new spouse was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the newlywed! Come out to meet them.’ Then all those attendants got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the new spouse came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other attendants came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But the newlywed replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

ANTHEM. *Keep Your Lamps*

African-American Spiritual, arr. by André Thomas

Jennylynn Vidas, Emily Kurlinski, Tim Keller, Michael Delos; Sari Breznau, Percussion

MESSAGE *Trimmed and Burning* Dr. Brown

HYMN *Great Is Your Faithfulness, vs 3* **FAITHFULNESS**

Miriam Gnagy, Sari Breznau, Tim Keller, Michael Delos

Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,
your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.
Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed your hand has provided,
great is your faithfulness, God unto me!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Dr. Brown

POSTLUDE. *Toccata Giocosa* Gilbert M. Martin

Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

CLOSING Dr. Brown

HONOR REV. DAVIS AT COFFEE HOUR TODAY

To honor the gifts and graces of the Rev. Steve Davis, and to wish him a future marked by blessings and love, Rev. Steve Davis will be the guest of honor at coffee hour immediately following this service, when he will be presented with gifts in commemoration of his time at Plymouth. Please join us for this virtual event. Link to join on Zoom at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. 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 and Al Bentley*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Depression, Anxiety and Our Faith Research from the Kaiser Family Foundation shows over half of the population in the United States is struggling with anxiety, depression and other mental health concerns in this difficult and challenging time. People of faith are not immune from these struggles. In response, the Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, the UCC's Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice, will join us for an online workshop addressing anxiety, depression and our faith. The gathering will be Tuesday, November 10 from 6:30-8 pm. Use Zoom link in news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org, or email Jennifer Castle (JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) for link and password. Please plan to join us for this time of learning and sharing.

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.

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. 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.

Congregational Conversations Please plan to attend these upcoming virtual conversations and meetings. Your participation is vital as we move forward. We need to hear from you! Change in Dates: 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. Time details in upcoming *Herald*.

Plymouth Reads You are invited to participate in Plymouth Reads! November 14 "Baldwin's Radical Philosophy of Love" 3 pm Zoom Event Dr. Ernest L. Gibson III, an Associate Professor at Auburn University and James Baldwin Scholar will share his scholarly but also very personally felt journey into the brilliance of James Baldwin.. Register at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org to attend Book Club Saturday and to hear Dr. Ernest L. Gibson III.

PRAYS WELL WITH OTHERS



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.