

10:30 AM ✦ SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

ENTER THE MYSTERY

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 care line, **206.639.7739**, checked daily.

KBrown@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

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

WBlight@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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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PLYMOUTH UCC PURPOSE

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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

People Look East. Setting by Charles Callahan
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPEJennifer Castle

This is our beginning, a beginning born into mystery. In the womb of this Advent season, our vision is dim and we are pushed into mystery. This time presents a chance for us to learn again how to be held, and feel our way to God. The night is long and feels unbearable, making us sure we are alone. As the world leans toward despair, waiting and wanting with deep sighs in their hearts.

But even in the mystery and not knowing, there is a rustling of new life! Here, hope is born. By instinct, we stumble, walk, crawl and run toward the One who brings transformation. If we dare, we can embrace that the light not as an antidote to the night, but as God’s loving reminder that we cannot resist the promise of hope. May hope shine.

(Lighting of candle)

People: We dare to walk in the light of hope!

ADVENT MUSIC *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710
Plymouth Singers, Verse 1

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile, here
Until the child of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel

SHARING PEACE **The peace of Christ be with you.**

MOMENT OF LOVE IN ACTION Christine Hanson

LITANY FOR WORLD AIDS DAY Ms. Castle

Spirit of the living God, you breathe on all that is fragile and strong, competent and inadequate, broken and whole. You lead us from the places of pain and difficulty to your cool living waters of health and wholeness. Through you every tear is wiped away and we are transformed by your wellsprings of life.

We praise you, O God, and give you thanks for the gift of life and the life-giving power of your Spirit, which renews and refreshes us with hope. We also thank you that no matter our health circumstances, we are beautiful and worthy in your eyes.

We thank you that by the life-giving power of your spirit you bestowed upon us, your people, such gifts as are needed to respond to the situation at hand. Pour on us all that we need to arrest the spread of AIDS and HIV, and reach out to everyone affected with compassion, healing and hope.

May we know your call to be companions in this struggle and employ the courage, wisdom and resources you have given to respond to HIV and AIDS.

We pray for the companionship of those living with or affected by HIV and give thanks for the courage you give us to share our stories. We thank you that our stories raise awareness, invite solidarity and challenge us to join with one another in the struggle.

May we know your call to be partners in this struggle and employ the courage, wisdom and resources you have given to respond to HIV and AIDS.

We pray for your church. Be with us and guide us as we respond to the needs of persons living with or affected by HIV and AIDS. Inspire and empower us as partners to provide the ministry our faith community needs to respond effectively.

May we know your call to be sojourners in this struggle and employ the courage, wisdom and resources you have given to respond to HIV and AIDS.

We pray for our society and world. Be with leaders and stakeholders, and guide them in their response to HIV and AIDS. Give them courage, wisdom and resources that they may create effective and receive the information they need to be change agents. Make it possible so that everyone may have access to the best and most equitable treatment and care required for their health and wholeness.

May we know your call to be stakeholders in this struggle and employ the courage, wisdom and resources you have given to respond to HIV and AIDS.

We give you thanks, O God, that you have raised us up to walk with those thriving and living with AIDS and HIV with great care and love.

May we know your call to be faithful in this struggle and employ the courage, wisdom and resources you have given to respond to HIV and AIDS. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE GATHERED

Riley Balcita, Matt Banks, Ken Carter, Pam Dorrance, Rick Eberharter, Maria Eclipse (Grandmother of Rogie Eclipse), 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, Renee Lang (friend of Glenda Carper), Libonati Family, 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

The Family of Jim Mohundro invites you to his online memorial service, 2 pm Saturday, December 5. See “Announcements” section of the news at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for a link to the service. E-mail Info@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for password.

READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE Isaiah 64:1-9 (NRSV translation) read by Dr. Brown

The prophet, speaking on behalf of the people, both admits the people’s rejections of God and calls on God to be present and act on behalf of God’s people.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence —

as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for the Holy One.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O God, you are our Parent; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Divine, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

ANTHEM *O Love*
Words by George Mattheson (1842-1906); Music by Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)
Plymouth Singers

MESSAGE *Enter the Mystery* Dr. Berown

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION . . . *Two Note Tumble* Aaron Keim
Betty Behmke and Andrea Snyder

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Dr. Brown

POSTLUDE

Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn Setting by David Lasky
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Prayer and Labyrinth Walk Canceled We are sorry to say that, due to increasing Covid cases in our city, state and nation, we must cancel the prayer time and labyrinth walk scheduled for the four Sunday afternoons of Advent in the Sanctuary. Care for the health and safety of our community is most important to us at this time. Thank you all for understanding. Stay tuned for ways to experience the labyrinth virtually. —*June Hayakawa-Fung, Faith Community Nurse*

Congregational Conversations Rescheduled In order to honor our precious time together during Advent, Congregational Council has decided to push the budget conversation and vote from December 2020 to January 2021, potentially at the same time as Plymouth UCC’s Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 31. Please keep reading the *Herald* and checking the website for updates.

Your Plymouth Care Team is committed to maintaining availability of staff to handle any care concerns that might come our way. There is a new care line phone number to get in touch with the Care Team should anything arise. The phone number is **206.639.7739**. Messages are checked at least once a day and the Care Team makes every attempt to follow up as soon as we are able. Please call and leave a message if there is something you feel the Care Team should be aware of as we endeavor to serve you.

Keep 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.

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.
Forgive often. Reject racism.
Fight for the powerless.
Share earthly and spiritual resources.
Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

God is calling us.
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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.