

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am **Worship Sunday, December 13, 2020**

Third Sunday of Advent

Worship with Veradale UCC

Lectionary Text for December 13: Isaiah 61:1-4

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, Preaching

"A Case for Jubilee"

11:30 am Online Coffee Hour

Virtual Worship Only!

Find links to video stream and worship bulletin and participate online at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

The church building will be closed until further notice. Check 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 care line, **206.639.7739**, checked daily.

Staff e-mail addresses are listed under the "About" tab at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Click on "Ministers and Staff."

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! [f](#) [t](#) [i](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's 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 stories helps our community understand the importance of generosity in our lives, the reasons to support the church, and what we accomplish together. To submit a written piece or video, email Kyna at KynaGrace@gmail.com.

Anxiety, Depression and Our Faith As part of the Anxiety, Depression and Our Faith workshop, Faith Community Nurse June Hayakawa-Fung created two handouts of resources for mental health concerns that we wanted to share with the congregation. Download at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

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 SariBrezna@gmail.com.



A service to celebrate the life of Ruth Fliegel will be held online 11 am Saturday, December 12. Click here for link to live Zoom service. Password is standard Plymouth code. Contact Info@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org if you need assistance with link or password.

 **PLYMOUTH CHURCH**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1217 Sixth Avenue, Seattle,
Washington 98101-3199

Return Service Requested

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...



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), 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), Sandra Price (Mother of Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown), Tommy Rivers Puzey (Friend of Karen Clark), Jose Robles, **Naomi Stein**, Jim Stultz (Brother of Doug Stultz), Jaime Rubio Sulificio, Mildred Whitehurst (Grandmother of Toni Arthur), Samantha Williams (**bold: newly added**)

Our hearts are with friends and family of Jacki Meurk on her recent passing.

Our hearts are with the Hashiguchi Family on the one-year anniversary of the passing of Starr Hashiguchi.

PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

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WELCOME VERADALE UCC



Pastor Gen Heywood

Veradale UCC in Spokane Valley, Washington, is virtually visiting one congregation online each month. Plymouth will have the honor of hosting their virtual visit Sunday, December 13. Pastor Gen Heywood and congregation will sit in solidarity and community with Plymouth during worship, as well as joining in coffee hour. Our guests

have learned the power of visiting a church as a church. Let us enter the mystery of Advent together. ✦

POINSETTIAS IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

Each year during Advent, the Community and Care Board supports a long tradition of delivering beautiful poinsettias to Plymouth folks who are isolated or have suffered a loss. This year the Board felt it was especially important to maintain this ministry. It is also imperative to do this safely.



Help Christmas tradition continue.

We are arranging to make deliveries to Horizon House and other senior living facilities, and to some individuals too.

We need your help!

- If you can safely deliver a poinsettia by dropping it off at a safe distance and wearing a mask, please email June Hayakawa-Fung at JHayakawafung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.
- We will have a drive through pick up of the poinsettias on December 13 in the Plymouth garage, 12pm-2pm.
- Plymouth will continue to accept donations for this ministry, names of donors and those who are remembered, will be listed in the *Herald*. Please email Robert Turner at RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org or send in a note with your check. You can also donate online.

Thank you for helping continue this tradition in a difficult time. ✦

SHARE THE LIGHT DURING SILENT NIGHT

One of my enduring memories of the Christmas Eve service is looking around the Sanctuary as the lights are dimmed, the candles are lit, and we sing "Silent Night" together. This year, to help recreate that feeling, we invite you to submit a video or picture so that you can be a part of this tradition.



Be part of Christmas Eve worship.

We will have a video as "Silent Night" plays of people and groups holding candles. If you or your Plymouth group (boards, committees, small groups, etc.) would like to be included, please take a picture or video of yourself or group holding lit candles. These pictures and videos can be taken in person or as a group on zoom. If you are submitting a video, please submit 30-45 seconds so that we can edit the video for inclusion.

We would love to be able to show as many of you as possible! Please e-mail your pictures and/or videos to KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. The deadline for submissions is **2 pm on December 17**. Thanks, —Rev. Kevin Bechtold ✦

A NOTE FROM PLYMOUTH STAFF

We realize that many of you enjoy our Sunday coffee hours as a way to connect with one another after worship. What may not be apparent is that these gatherings are announced, coordinated and hosted by Plymouth staff. From time to time we will need to take a pause. While we know that not having coffee hour is disappointing to some, we want to invite you to take the opportunity to connect in other ways on those Sundays. We encourage you to reach out to a Plymouth friend you haven't connected with in a while, either over the phone or for a socially-distanced walk. You could gather a few friends for a conference call or host a group on your personal Zoom account. Or you could spend the time writing notes to Plymouth folks you are missing. There are lots of ways for the Plymouth community to stay connected in this pandemic time.

There will be no coffee hour on December 27, so start thinking about what you might do instead to draw near to others in the Plymouth community. ✦

LOVE IN ACTION



Charlie Torres

It's not a stretch to say that Plymouth's love makes its way to the soccer pitch/field. When I referee the little tykes, tie their cleats which constantly come undone, console them when they cry for a variety of reasons (skinned knees, gave up a goal, etc.), and laugh with

them, I always sense that God's love is all around. I don't think that it stays in the Sanctuary or at N-Sid-Sen or at Pilgrim Firs. When I'm refereeing a youth match, I look around at the parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles on the sidelines watching their beautifully dressed loved ones in purple/red/blue uniforms running around and think how happy they are.

Before each match, the kids line up to show me their shin guards, to let me see that they've removed any jewelry that they may have been wearing, and then they answer a few playful questions I have for them; where's Barcelona, where's Liverpool, who's the best soccer player in the world? Life seems so simple at times watching the little ones play. There are no politics, no performance enhancing drugs to watch out for, no ugly stuff; just the kids playing, awaiting half time when they get their snacks, and then the final whistle when they get to run through the tunnel made by their parent's arms held high up in the air forming an arch with another parent's arms.

The kids run through the human arch again and again and again. I hear coaches and parents reminding the children to go thank the referee. I love seeing the parents/grandparents walk away with the little ones. I wonder what they're thinking, what they're saying; "Want to go out for some ice cream? Nice game! You were fantastic!" I think of how hard life can be and how rewarding it can be for a grandparent or parent to share such a tender moment. When I witness this, I feel God's presence on the soccer field and believe that my running around tooting my whistle in my colorful referee jersey, and tying cleats which come untied, helps in some small way. I call it Love in Action. —Charlie Torres

PLAN TO JOIN CONVERSATIONS

In order to honor our precious time together during Advent, Congregational Council has decided to push the budget conversation and vote 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.



We need to hear from you!

PLYMOUTH READS

Plymouth Reads will be starting up again in January with a new book, "How Be An Antiracist" but as we close out 2020, we would like to highlight a musical event, "Breathing Free," from New York organization called Heartbeat Opera with a panel discussion following entitled, "To Love Radically" this Saturday, December 12, 2020, at noon Pacific time. Visit HeartBeatOpera.org/Breathing-Free



Also, click on the Plymouth Reads Resource Page for a final word on James Baldwin. — Plymouth Reads Team, Sponsored by Plymouth Library Committee

2021 CALENDARS SOUGHT FOR PRISON MINISTRY



With the Monroe Correctional Center inmate visitation program still on hold due to the pandemic, the opportunity remains to provide inmates with 2021 calendars — there is a big demand there for them. Many

of us receive free calendars in the mail this year, and if you have any you can spare, please call Mike Pierson at 206.604.8673 or email him at mikepierson2@gmail.com to arrange for him to pick them up. If you live at Horizon House, please put them in Sue Jones' cubby hole in the mailroom (#1S). We plan to gather them by the week before Christmas, for delivery to inmates by the end of the year. Thanks!

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

Your gifts will be divided evenly between *The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross* and *Plymouth UCC Scholarship Fund*.

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to our lower-income retirees. Because of the pandemic, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church have increased dramatically. In such a time as this, the need for the Christmas Fund is more urgent than ever.

The Plymouth UCC Scholarship Fund continues to support members and friends in financial hardship take part in opportunities offered by and through Plymouth UCC.



HELP MIGRANT FAMILIES

The Immigration Ministry Team contributes monthly from our budget to assist the Robles and Montecinos families with rent and food, and to support phone contact between Jose in the Northwest Detention Center and his family. There are 4 young children and 7 adults between the two families. Gift cards for clothes, food, gas (sent to Gethsemane) are helpful presents or a monetary contribution through Gethsemane would be greatly appreciated. Learn more about sanctuary families and how to contribute at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org (click news article "Christmas Donations: Be the Light for Others"). Questions? Please contact Carol Mooney.



Plymouth's Immigration Ministry Team invites the Plymouth community to help provide some holiday cheer to the unaccompanied immigrant children and youth served by Kids in Need of Defense (KIND). KIND provides representation to undocumented children and youth who arrived in the U.S. without a parent or guardian. KIND staff will be mailing store gift cards and treats to the kids to provide a little holiday cheer and extra support. To participate, please purchase \$25, \$50, or \$100 store gift cards from Target, Fred Meyer, or Ross. Most cards need to be received by December 16. Learn more at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org (click news article "Gift Cards Needed for KIND.")

EMBODIMENT IN DISEMBODIED TIME

All male gender identifying people are invited to register for the Pacific Northwest Conference UCC Men's Retreat January 29-30.

The retreat will be held online, Friday evening, January 29, 7:30 to 9 pm for music, worship and introductions, continuing Saturday with program led by Phil Porter, 9 to 11 am and 2 to 4 pm, ending Saturday evening, 7:30 to 9 pm, with the Wisdom Circle.

The theme will be "Embodiment in a Disembodied Time." Our host will be Phil Porter of Interplay. Phil has been with us before and he is eager to be with us again in these strange times.

Link to register at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org (click news article "Embodiment in a Disembodied Time.")

Contact Hans Danker, JDank@msn.com for scholarship assistance, Advent blessings, —Rick Russell, member of Planning Team and Prospect UCC, Seattle



Join online retreat January 29-30, 2021.

21 DAYS TO SHARE A DREAM

Denish Oleke, graduate of Beacon of Hope School in Soroti, Uganda, needs to raise the remaining \$5000 for his WSU Software Engineering Program by January 1. Do you remember when he worshipped at Plymouth Church with the Beacon of Hope Robotics team and spoke to us? His smile, his faith in God, his courage and his determination are unforgettable! In addition to contributing to his education costs, Louise Halm and I have enjoyed exploring Seattle and beyond with him during the last 3 years while he has been living with a family in Shoreline and getting his AA degree at Shoreline Community College. His dream is to complete his degree and return to Uganda to help others.



Denish Oleke

Deri Kispert writes: "At age 8, Denish was abducted from his village in Uganda and forced to be a child soldier in Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). He escaped after 3 years, and found his family living in unbearable circumstances inside an Internationally Displaced Person's (IDP) camp, where both parents died shortly after. Some time later, Denish was selected by NGO Pilgrim Africa to attend their school for former child soldiers in Soroti, Uganda, where he completed his high school education."

Please read the rest of his remarkable story and find link to contribute at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org (click news article "21 Days to Share a Dream.")

Please include Denish in your prayers and share his story with family and friends in the next few weeks. Thank you.

—Carol Mooney and Louise Halm

KEEP STANDING, KEEP SPEAKING

We continue to publicly stand for Black Lives Matter in front of Plymouth. As a majority white Christian church we have helped create, and have benefited from, systemic institutional racism. Now we must be part of changing it. This is one simple action we can take to show up and speak out.

Come when environmental conditions are safe for you and stay for any length of time you are able. Social distancing and mask-wearing protocols must 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. Help keep a Plymouth presence on the streets!



Keep issues front and center.