

10:30 AM ✦ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 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](http://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](mailto:KBrown@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

[KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

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

[WBlight@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:WBlight@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020  
THIRD 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.*

Today we are pleased to be joined by Veradale UCC. Pastor Gen Heywood and congregation are 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.

**ADVENT MUSIC** . . . . . *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710

Soul Choir, directed by Sari Breznau, Soloist, Anna Florey

*verse 3:* O come, O come, O Adonai,  
who came to all on Sinai high,  
And from its peak a single law  
proclaimed in majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel

**PRELUDE**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel* . . . . . Arranged by David Low  
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

**INVOCATION** . . . . . Deacon Kathy Rood

Holy One,  
Builder who delights  
in making spaces of safety and beauty,  
Matchmaker who rejoices  
in presenting new spouses with a future of hope,  
fill us today with the gifts we need  
to join you in your life-sustaining, hope-giving work in the world;  
let us share your joyful vision  
of beauty and justice  
in this world you have created and loved.  
In the name of the One who is coming,

**Amen**

**HYMN . . . . .My Soul Gives Glory to My God, vs 1-3 . . . . MORNING SONG**  
Miriam Gnagy, Emily Kurlinsky, Tim Keller, Michael Delos

1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My heart pours out its praise.  
2 My God has done great things for me: yes, ho - ly is God's name.  
3 From age to age, to all who fear, such mer - cy love im - parts,

God lift - ed up my low - li - ness in man - y mar - vel - ous ways.  
All peo - ple will de - clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.  
dis - pens - ing jus - tice far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.

**WELCOME . . . . . Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown**

**GREETING FROM THE REV. GEN HEYWOOD**

**LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLE . . . . . Deacon Tom Maul and Sue Maul**

This is our beginning, a beginning born in the dark. In the womb of time, our vision is dim, but it is the chance for us to learn again how to feel our way to God. The night is long and feels unbearable, making us sure we are alone. The shadows grow, and loom, and may breed fear and insecurity. The world leans toward despair, waiting and wanting with deep sighs in their hearts.

And, there in the dark, hope is born.

*(Lighting of the Hope candle)*

Also, in the dark, peace is available. In the midst of much turmoil and violence, there can be peace. The kind of peace that surprises us as it washes over our worst fears. While we wait, God is with us as the One of Peace comes near.

*(Lighting of the Peace candle)*

With hope and peace abiding, the dark reveals itself as the place where joy might come. Joy doesn't force its way in to our experience, but seeps in through the cracks of our lives like new-found well water seeking to quench our thirst. It gives strength, and bubbles into our souls when comfort is needed most. Joy waits with us, and promises that wherever we find ourselves, we are with God.

*(Lighting of the Joy candle)*

**People: We dare to walk in the light of joy!**

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

**PRAYERS OF THE GATHERED . . . . . Al Bentley**

*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 Sulficio, Mildred Whitehurst (Grandmother of Toni Arthur), Samantha Williams*

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



**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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**CONTEMPORARY VOICE . . . . . read by Deacon Indigo Brown**

sometimes I wonder  
if Mary breastfed Jesus.  
if she cried out when he bit her  
or if she sobbed when he would not latch.  
and sometimes I wonder  
if this is all too vulgar  
to ask in a church  
full of men  
without milk stains on their shirts  
or coconut oil on their breasts  
preaching from pulpits off limits to the Mother of God.  
but then i think of feeding Jesus,  
birthing Jesus,  
the expulsion of blood  
and smell of sweat,  
the salt of a mother's tears  
onto the soft head of the Salt of the Earth,  
feeling lonely  
and tired  
hungry  
annoyed  
overwhelmed  
loving



*Kaitlin Hardy Shetler is a poet, an advocate for women and justice, and an occasional preacher.*

and i think,  
if the vulgarity of birth is not  
honestly preached  
by men who carry power but not burden,  
who carry privilege but not labor,  
who carry authority but not submission,  
then it should not be preached at all.  
because the real scandal of the Birth of God  
lies in the cracked nipples of a  
14 year old  
and not in the sermons of ministers  
who say women  
are too delicate  
to lead.'

—Kaitlin Hardy Shetler

**READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE** . . . . . Isaiah 61:1-4  
(NRSV translation) read by Rev. Heywood

*The passage begins with an announcement of divine presence and action.*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
God has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display God's glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

**ANTHEM**

*Es ist ein' Ros entsprungen (Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming)*

Setting by Michael Praetorius, 1609

Miriam Gnagy, Emily Kurlinsky, Tim Keller, Michael Delos

Es ist ein' Ros entsprungen  
aus einer Wurzel zart,  
wie uns die Alten sungen:  
von Jesse kam die Art  
und hat ein Blümlein bracht  
mitten im kalten Winter  
wohl zu der halben Nacht.

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem has sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
as saints of old have sung.  
It came a floweret bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah had foretold it,  
the Rose I have in mind,  
With Mary we behold it,  
the Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
she bore to us a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.

**MESSAGE** . . . . . *A Case for Jubilee.* . . . . . Dr. Brown

**HYMN** . . . . . *My Soul Gives Glory to My God, vs 4-5* . . . MORNING SONG

Miriam Gnagy, Emily Kurlinsky, Tim Keller, Michael Delos

Love casts the mighty from their thrones;  
promotes the insecure,  
leaves hungry spirits satisfied,  
the rich seem suddenly poor.

Praise God, whose loving covenant  
supports those in distress,  
remembering past promises  
with present faithfulness.

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** . . . . . Dr. Brown

**POSTLUDE**

*Fantasia on Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (In dulci jubilo)* . . . . . J.S. Bach

Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ



## GIVING OPTIONS TO SUPPORT PLYMOUTH UCC

Thank you for your faithful support of the mission and ministries of Plymouth United Church of Christ. Listed below are a variety of ways for you to provide offerings and gifts.

**MAIL** Mail your offerings to the church: Plymouth Church, United Church of Christ/  
1217 6th Ave/ Seattle WA 98101

**ONLINE GIVING THROUGH SIMPLE CHURCH** Click on GIVE at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Choose to deduct directly from your bank account or credit/debit card to make a one-time offering, or schedule recurring offerings.

**TEXT TO GIVE** Simply text to 206.208.1442 and enter a dollar amount. You will receive prompts to complete the transaction. Once set up, you will be able to text offerings with one step.

**CASH APP** Download the Cash App mobile app from the Apple App Store or Google Play and follow the instructions to set up giving directly from your bank account. Our Cash App ID is \$PlymouthUCCSeattle. Questions? [DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

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

***Continue Poinsettia Tradition*** The Community and Care Board supports a long tradition of delivering poinsettias to Plymouth folks who are isolated or have suffered a loss. We need your help! If you can safely deliver a poinsettia, please email June Hayakawa-Fung at [JHayakawafung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:JHayakawafung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). We will have a drive-through pick up of poinsettias TODAY in the Plymouth garage, 12 pm-2 pm. You can also donate to this ministry. Names of donors and those remembered will be listed in the *Herald*. Email Robert Turner at [RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) or send a note with your check. You can also donate online. Thank you for helping continue this tradition in a difficult time.

***Be Part of Christmas Eve Worship*** During service on Christmas Eve 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. Pictures and videos can be taken in person or as a group online. If submitting video, please submit 30-45 seconds so we can edit for inclusion. We would love to show as many of you as possible! Please e-mail pictures and/or videos to [KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Deadline is 2 pm December 17. —*Rev. Kevin Bechtold*

***Help Migrant Families*** This holiday season, Plymouth’s Immigration Ministry Team has ways for you to help families seeking asylum. Gift cards are also needed to help provide holiday cheer to unaccompanied immigrant children and youth served by Kids in Need of Defense (KIND). Learn how to donate at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

***2021 Calendars Needed for Prison Ministry*** Many of us receive free calendars in the mail this year, and if you have any you can spare to help Plymouth Prison Ministry, please call Mike Pierson at 206.604.8673 or email him at [mikepierson2@gmail.com](mailto:mikepierson2@gmail.com) to arrange for pick 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.

***Embodiment in a Disembodied Time*** All male gender identifying people are invited to register for the Pacific Northwest Conference UCC Online Men’s Retreat January 29-30. Read more and register at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

***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.

***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. This is one simple action we can take to show up. Come when you can. 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.