

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am **Worship Sunday, December 20, 2020**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lectionary Text for December 20: 2 Samuel 7:1-11

"The Square Root of Possible"

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, Preaching

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."

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.

A NOTE FROM PLYMOUTH STAFF



There are many ways to stay connected.

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. ✦



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, **Joseph Scott**, Naomi Stein, Jim Stultz (Brother of Doug Stultz), Jaime Rubio Sulificio, Mildred Whitehurst (Grandmother of Toni Arthur), Samantha Williams, **Stu Williamson** (Father of Ruth Williamson) (**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

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EXPERIENCE LONGEST NIGHT



Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

Join Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown and guest artist Heatherlyn for the longest night of the year **6 pm, Monday, December 21**. Spoken word and scripture will be interspersed with powerful and moving music in a meditative worship experience as together we contemplate the darkness and look for the light.

Inspired by the irresistible way music can connect and carry us, Heatherlyn has built an international community around songs, poetry, and gatherings designed to pull listeners deeper into their own stories and the stories of others.



Heatherlyn

Her passion for theology and the beautiful complexity of the human spirit is present in everything she creates, resonant

in the echoes of the soul, rock, and roots influences that weave through her eclectic sound. Whether she is curating sacred space through music at HeatherlynMusic.com, on the road in partnership with patrons, faith communities, and social justice organizations around the world, or as the Worship Minister at Left Hand Community Church in Boulder County, CO, her motivation rests in the firmly held belief that love is a powerful force of hope and healing, and that music is a uniquely powerful expression of love.

Invite friends and family for a special Longest Night worship service. Link to the online service will be posted on the Plymouth home page, 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. ✦

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS EVE WITH PLYMOUTH UCC

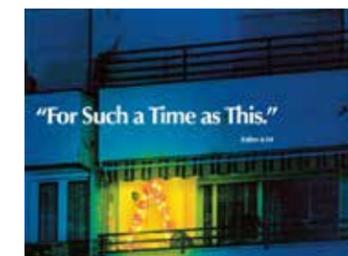
Advent's time of waiting is nearly over; Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve, we finally light the Christ Candle and celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Worship services are 5 pm and 9 pm. Link to the online service will be posted on the Plymouth home page, PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Our special service this year will feature virtual choral videos from Plymouth Singers and beloved congregational carols. Beautiful pre-service music will begin fifteen minutes before the service is scheduled to begin so tune in early. ✦



Online Christmas Eve services at 5 & 9 pm.

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING



Gifts through the end of December 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. Members and friends of Plymouth are grateful for your support. ✦

THANK YOU FOR MINISTERING CHRISTMAS CARE



Thank you all for supporting this loving Plymouth tradition.

The Community and Care Board thanks everyone for supporting a long tradition of delivering beautiful poinsettias to Plymouth folks who are isolated or have suffered a loss. We are especially grateful for the faithful crew who worked to distribute plants for delivery: Kathy Rood, Betty Eberharter, Maryann Counts, Barbara Rhoer, Don Mitchell, Medora Moburg, Carol Mooney, David Guthrie, Janet Gwilym, Roberta Devine, Joanie Stultz, Tad Anderson,

Amy Neer, Kathleen Bernard and Diane Jacobsen.

You can still help! Plymouth will continue to accept donations for this ministry; names of donors and those who are remembered will be listed in future issues of 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. ✦

LOVE IN ACTION



In calling a pastor, Plymouth people have been gifted with an ability to sense a pastor's ability to

meet someone's urgent need, while juggling the multitude of demands of a large congregation.

We came to Plymouth for the first time, Palm Sunday, 1998. Pastor Tony Robinson took some precious time to talk with us after the service. That evening our son, Peter, was killed in a one-car accident. The first caring phone call came from Tony. A few months ago, the adopted son of long time friends took his own life. They had no church connection, but knew where we are members, and called for the help they so desperately needed-- and received it abundantly from Pastor Kelle, and a team of Plymouth care-givers. They are grateful, and so are we-- for a congregation in which the promise of the Third Sunday in Advent is so lovingly fulfilled: "Those who sow in tears, shall harvest with shouts of joy!" (Psalm 126:5). This is love in action at Plymouth. —Don and Lynnea Mayer ✦

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! ✦



HELP MIGRANT FAMILIES



Spread Christmas cheer to 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. Learn more at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org (click news article "Gift Cards Needed for KIND.") ✦

A WORD ABOUT YEAR-END GIVING

Here are a few reminders about year-end giving. All mail-in contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2020 to be credited toward your 2020 pledge or other designated gift. Gifts made online must be entered by December 31 to be posted to your 2020 pledge. Recurring online donations will automatically continue into 2021. Please contact Diane if you wish to make changes.



Thank you for your faithful support.

Online giving options are available through bank drafts, credit/debit cards, and text-to-give. If you would like to utilize automatic giving in 2021, contact Diane in the church office, 206.622.4865 or email DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for assistance in setting up recurring donations. Your gifts to the church are a blessing to our community and the world around us. Thank you for your generosity. ✦

EMBODIMENT IN DISEMBODIED TIME



Join online retreat January 29-30, 2021.

All male gender identifying people are invited to register for the Pacific Northwest Conference UCC Men's Retreat January 29-30. The theme is "Embodiment in a Disembodied Time." Our host will be Phil Porter of Interplay.

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, 7:30 to 9 pm, with Wisdom Circle. 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 ✦

STAND FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

We continue to publicly stand for Black Lives Matter in front of Plymouth. This is one simple action we can take to show up and speak out. 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. ✦



KING COUNTY COVID UPDATE



June Hayakawa-Fung, Faith Community Nurse

As our country is hitting record numbers of daily deaths and infections to COVID-19, there is a ray of hope. This week the vaccine against this virus began to roll out. (See the article below) Some front-line workers in our own congregation have received it, but we are not out of the woods yet.

We still need to be extremely vigilant in wearing masks, social distancing and not gathering in groups. This Christmas we cannot come together as we normally do. To keep each other safe we need to stay home. We'll be celebrating Christmas Eve virtually. Still, the birth of Jesus brings us the hope and light we need to hold onto for a better, safer future. —June Hayakawa-Fung, Faith Community Nurse

COVID-19 vaccine has been authorized for emergency use by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and will start to arrive in Washington state in December, 2020. Public Health – Seattle & King County is working with the Washington State Department of Health on vaccine distribution.

- The first supplies of vaccine will be limited and offered first to specific groups at highest risk, such as workers in healthcare and people in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.
- COVID-19 vaccine will not be widely available until 2021. Eventually vaccine will be available for everyone.
- Healthcare clinics, pharmacies, and drive-through and walk-through clinics will likely provide vaccinations.
- COVID-19 vaccine will be covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most private insurance, and the cost of the vaccine will be covered for people who are uninsured. Public Health will also have free vaccination clinics.
- Vaccine safety is a priority. All COVID-19 vaccines must go through a rigorous and multi-step testing, evaluation and approval process before they can be used. Vaccines will also be monitored for safety once they are given.
- A safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19 is a major break-through. But vaccine alone won't end the pandemic right away.
- Even after a vaccine is available, stopping the pandemic will continue to require everyone — even if vaccinated — to continue to follow all guidance to protect themselves and others.

All COVID related resources from King County Department of Public Health can be found at: KingCounty.gov/Depts/Health/Covid-19.aspx ✦