

10:30 AM ✦ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 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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JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

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

WBlight@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020
FOURTH 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.*

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

*Festal Flourish on “Ding Dong, Merrily on High” David Lasky
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ*

INVOCATION Rev. Kevin Bechtold

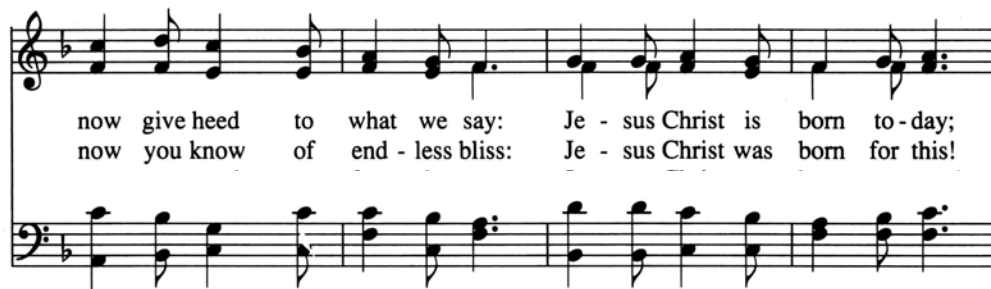
O Wondrous God,
send your Messenger to us today with a word of grace
if we are fearful, move us to Confidence.
If we are weary, offer us Rest.
If we are empty, fill us with Hope.
We have been searching for you far away;
Let us find you at home in our midst,
Changing hearts and minds
Urging us to join your work of Love.
We pray in the name of the One who is coming,
Jesus, the Christ.

Amen.

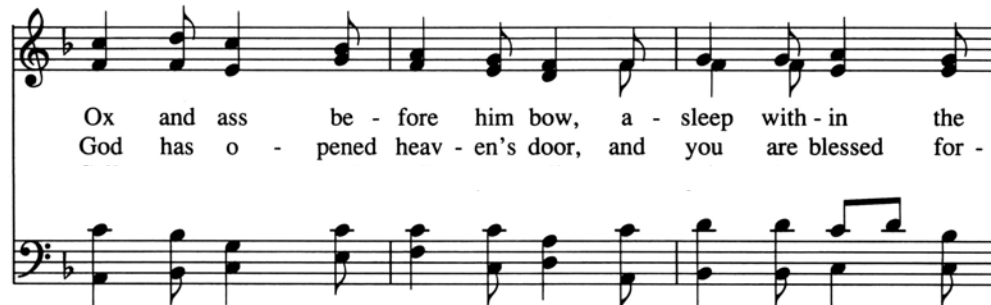
HYMN *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice vss 1-2* IN DULCI JUBILO
Miriam Gnagy, Jennylynn Vidas, Emily Kurlinski, Tim Keller, Michael Delos



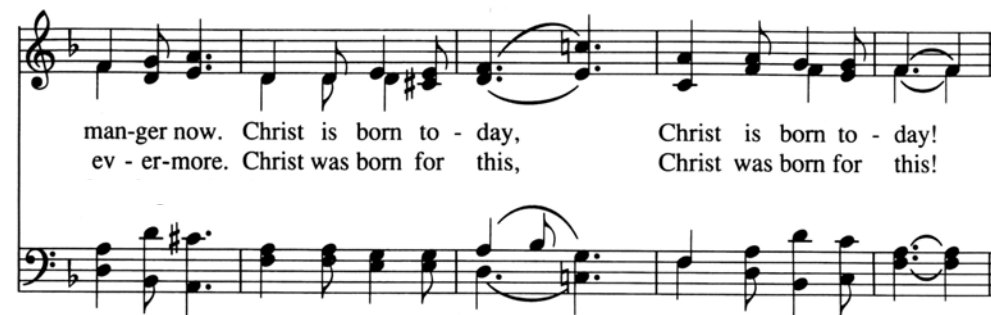
1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



now give heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now you know of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!



Ox and ass be - fore him bow, a - sleep with - in the
God has o - pened heav - en's door, and you are blessed for -



man-ger now. Christ is born to - day, Christ is born to - day!
ev - er-more. Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

MOMENT OF LOVE IN ACTION Don Bell

LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLES Anderson Family

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 darkness grows, and grows on us, teaching us that within it God abides here. 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 welcomes joy. 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. Joy waits with us, and promises that wherever we find ourselves, we are with God.

(Lighting of the Joy candle)

After many days of mystery, we find ourselves on the way of love. When we falter, and love strengthens. When the spirit of scarcity looms, and the abundance of love reveals blessings. Love looks forward while honoring how what we've endured made us who we are. Let us allow love to do its work so that we might become the ready midwives for the blessing, Immanuel, that is to come.

(Lighting of the Love candle)

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

ADVENT MUSIC *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
Psalteriolum Cationum Catholicarum, 1710
Soul Choir, directed by Sari Breznau, Soloists Bing Tso and Janet Gwilym

Verse 7: O come, Desire of Nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace



MOMENT OF LOVE IN ACTION Joanie Stultz

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

PRAYERS OF THE GATHERED Rev. Bechtold

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 Sulficio, Mildred Whitehurst (Grandmother of Toni Arthur), Samantha Williams, Stu Williamson (Father of Ruth Williamson)

Our hearts are with Angela Deppe and family at the passing of her mother, Mary Deppe, on November 29.

 A variety of faithful addresses for God (Creator, Mother, Holy One, Father) are welcome at Plymouth UCC, including in the Lord's Prayer. 

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.**

CONTEMPORARY VOICE

Achieving the Impossible Yazmin Nazer

READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
(NRSV translation) read by Rev. Donene Blair

Within David's checkered story (a patchwork of triumph and downfall) comes a pivotal glimpse into God's relationship with David, Israel, and ultimately all of history by way of the promise of an eternal "house."

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE Luke 1:37-38
(NRSV translation)

"Nothing is impossible for God." Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

ANTHEM. *Candlelight Carol* John Rutter
Plymouth Singers; Doug Arney, Video Editor

MESSAGE *The Square Root of Impossible* Dr. Brown

HYMN *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice vs 3* IN DULCI JUBILO
Miriam Gnagy, Jennylynn Vidas, Emily Kurlinski, Tim Keller, Michael Delos

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice
Now you need not fear the grave
Jesus Christ was born to save
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain the everlasting hall
Christ was born to save
Christ was born to save

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Dr. Brown

POSTLUDE

Fugue and Toccata on "O Come All Ye Faithful" Marcel Dupré
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

WORSHIP ON LONGEST NIGHT

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. 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE WITH PLYMOUTH UCC

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

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 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 at 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.

Join Weekly Bible Study with friends Wednesdays at 9 am on Zoom. Led by Jennifer Castle, this group studies the biblical texts from the Revised Common Lectionary for the upcoming Sunday's worship service. Attendance ranges from 12-20 people, and the Zoom link is accessible from the Plymouth website. Please contact Jennifer at JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for the Zoom password, or if you would like to be added to the group's weekly email list.

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.