

10:30 AM ✦ SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021

Epiphany:

Embody the Message

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, JANUARY 3, 2021

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

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.

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

This Sunday we share together Holy Communion in our online interactive worship.

Before the time of the service you will want to prepare some bread, a slice or a small loaf of any kind of bread and juice of some sort. Let it be something you alone or you with others in your house may break and share. Remember this is a meal of grace, so whatever “bread” or “juice” you choose will more than suffice.

Set these elements in the sacred place where you experience worship electronically with our faith community. You are invited to light a candle or place a flower or plant or something meaningful into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup. Thank you for your preparation.

PRELUDE

We Three Kings Setting by Janet Linker
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

INVOCATION June Hayakawa-Fung

From the ports on our coasts
Memory of unwanted arrivals
We search for you and we invoke you
Divine partner of tired lives
From the coffee plantations and mountains
From knowledge starting to be born
We make space for you and dedicate our time
Divinity without beginning and without end
From our damaged cities
Where misery and opulence coexist
We confess that we need you
Fresh source of renewal and hope
From the heart of the earth
With our calloused hands
We invite you to share the day
Creator of all that is good and that which gives life
Come we are your people! Come we need you!

HYMN *O For a World* AZMON

Miriam Gnagy, Emily Kurlinski, Tim Keller, Michael Delos



1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,



Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

STAR WORDS

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION Dr. Brown



Everyone is welcome at our table to share the bread and the cup, whether you are a believer, a seeker, a skeptic, doubter or somewhere in between.

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION PRAYER Jennifer Castle

Cheri Bader (Sister-in-law of Mari Mitchell), Riley Balcita, Matt Banks, Ken Carter, Jon & Maryann Counts, Pam Dorrance, Rick Eberharter, Maria Eclipse (Grandmother of Rogie Eclipse), Carmen Ramsey Ellington, (friend of Karen Clark), Phil Fredrickson, 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), 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)
We grieve with the family and friends of Phyllis Mines, who passed away December 30.

 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

**Holy One, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING. Rev. Kevin Bechtold

Holy One, we have received the gifts of you from the land that was tilled by the farmers and invisible ones who provide while also being oppressed. May we understand our need for the gifts of their labor as much as we need to learn and believe them, your beloved. May these gifts give us courage to continue solidarity with least, and with all who walk alone, so that we walk with them in their fight. Bring us all the peace of God based in justice so that it will be actualized in their communities and lives. Amen

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

CONTEMPORARY VOICE read by Ms. Hayakawa-Fung

For Those Who Have Far to Travel, An Epiphany Blessing by Jan Richardson

If you could see
the journey whole
you might never
undertake it;
might never dare
the first step
that propels you
from the place
you have known
toward the place
you know not.

Call it
one of the mercies
of the road:
that we see it
only by stages
as it opens
before us,
as it comes into
our keeping
step by
single step.

There is nothing
for it
but to go
and by our going
take the vows

the pilgrim takes:
to be faithful to
the next step;
to rely on more
than the map;
to heed the signposts
of intuition and dream;
to follow the star
that only you
will recognize;
to keep an open eye
for the wonders that
attend the path;
to press on
beyond distractions
beyond fatigue
beyond what would
tempt you
from the way.

There are vows
that only you
will know;
the secret promises
for your particular path
and the new ones
you will need to make
when the road

is revealed
by turns
you could not
have foreseen.
Keep them, break them,
make them again:
each promise becomes
part of the path;
each choice creates
the road
that will take you
to the place
where at last
you will kneel
to offer the gift
most needed—
the gift that only you
can give—
before turning to go
home by
another way.



Jan Richardson is an artist, writer, and ordained minister in the United Methodist Church.

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW Matthew 2:1-12
(NRSV translation) read by Rev. Donene Blair

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise folk from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. Then Herod secretly called for the wise ones and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

ANTHEM

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow, Trad. Spiritual,
modeled after Twin Bandit's recording

Plymouth Soul Choir, Directed by Sari Breznau, Edited by Doug Arney

MESSAGE Home by Another Way Dr. Brown

HYMN Our God is Blessing Me . . Bishop Larry Trotter
performed by Evan Florey-Barnes, bass, Leo Neer, drums,
Rev. Kelle Brown vocals, Sari Breznau piano and vocals

Our God is blessing me right now, oh, right now
Our God is blessing me right now, oh, right now
God woke me up this morning
and God started me on my way
Our God is blessing me right now (repeat)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTIONDr. Brown

POSTLUDE

O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright (Wie schön leuchtet)

Setting by Mark Sedio

Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Take Note: Plan now to attend a Congregational Conversation about Plymouth’s 2020 finances and the 2021 budget proposal after worship via Zoom Sunday, January 17.

Plymouth Reads is back in 2021 with our second of three books: *How To Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. Be sure to visit the Plymouth Reads web page and see all the great resources put together by our church librarian, Suzanne Sanderson, and to register to receive weekly emails and hear about the latest details on events and other happenings around the reading of *How To Be An Antiracist*. Click the “Plymouth Reads” button at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for link to registration and resources.

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

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.

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, 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.



UNITED IN CHRIST'S LOVE,
**A JUST WORLD
FOR ALL**

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.