

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am **Worship Sunday, January 17, 2021**

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Lectionary Text for January 17: James 2:5-13

Rev. Amantha Barbee, Preaching

"The Beginning of the End"

11:30 am **Online Congregational Conversation**

Join online conversation instead of coffee hour this Sunday

Virtual Worship Only!

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

The church building will be closed for all activities until further notice.

Check PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for updates.

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."






ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vital, Inclusive Church Seeks Social Justice Coordinator Our Redeemer's Lutheran is a healthy faith community with a track record of walking the talk. We seek someone with passion, experience and skills to deepen and expand our social justice ministries to not only serve, but invite relationships with people on the margins, and with our area partners and neighbors. This is a flexible, half-time position. Job Description and other details at OurRedeemers.net.

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 and she will walk you through how to contribute. It's simple, quick, and we'd love to see more Plymouth faces!

Text To Give is another powerful tool to donate to Plymouth UCC quickly and securely. Simply text amount you want to give to Plymouth UCC's mobile giving number (206.208.1442). First time donors receive a link request to provide your name, address and credit card number. Then click send! Questions? Contact Diane in the Church office.

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!   



1217 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101-3199

Return Service Requested

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Jessie Attri, 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), Floyd 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 Sulificio, Mildred Whitehurst (Grandmother of Toni Arthur), **Rev. Bob Williams (Uncle of Jamie Shilling)**, Samantha Williams, Stu Williamson (Father of Ruth Williamson) **(bold = newly added)**

An online service celebrating the life of Dorothy Swanson will be held 2 pm Saturday, January 16. Use link at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org and regular church passcode. If you need that code, contact Info@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

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WELCOME REV. AMANTHA BARBEE



Hear Rev. Amantha Barbee this Sunday.

This Sunday we welcome Rev. Amantha Barbee, Senior Pastor of Oakhurst Presbyterian in Atlanta, GA, to our online service, 10:30 am January 17.

Reverend Barbee holds a Master of Divinity from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA, where she earned the E.T. George Award for Excellence in Homiletics and Worship. Rev. Barbee

worked in corporate sales for over 10 years before heeding the call to ministry, then served as a program director in an area women's homeless center.

In 2018, Rev. Barbee received the PCUSA Women of Faith Award, recognizing clergywomen who challenge systemic racism and oppression, work for transformative change, and seek to end racism and injustice. The award was given in part for her work the night Keith Scott was killed in Charlotte, when she stood between protestors and policemen with several other ecumenical colleagues.

As moderator of Mission, Justice and Outreach for the Charlotte Presbytery, Rev. Barbee led a movement to make anti-bias training mandatory for all teaching elders, now represented as a "Racism Task Force" for the presbytery. She is also a supporter of the Women In Transition program at the YWCA and the NC School of the Arts in Charlotte.

Rev. Barbee is an advocate for those with no or limited voice and does not shy away from living into discipleship. Don't miss this inspiring and dynamic preacher. ✦

MLK DAY GATHERING CANCELLED

Due to heightened potential for violence in the next few days, the Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown and staff recommend that there **not** be a gathering of folks outside Plymouth at noon on Monday for the MLK remembrance. We suggest instead that you participate virtually in other MLK events. Visit SeattleMlkCoalition.org for list of online events and other ways to honor the day. ✦

JOIN CONVERSATION AND 151ST ANNUAL MEETING

Plan to attend a Congregational Conversation about Plymouth's 2020 finances and the 2021 budget proposal after worship via Zoom **Sunday, January 17. Plymouth's 151st Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 31.** Link to the January 17 conversation is



Online meetings January 17 & 31.

posted at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. These meetings take the place of coffee hour on these Sundays.

We shared in October that the Council would continue to discern the most appropriate leadership model for Plymouth to live into our mission of growing people of faith and being a community of radical inclusion, work that requires us to dismantle oppressive systems and ways of being.

The council has voted unanimously to recommend that the church utilize the flexibility embodied in our by-laws — that is, that the church should formally choose to adopt a "senior minister" or "senior pastor" style. The council further recommends that the congregation call the Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown as senior pastor, with all the rights, privileges and emoluments pertaining to that position. The council is convinced that no better candidate could be found for this position than Rev. Dr. Brown, whose faith, eloquence, and caring we have come to know and appreciate.

—Sue Maul, Moderator, Al Bentley, Vice Moderator ✦

PLYMOUTH READS

We didn't need further proof that racism is alive in the United States but we got it. Join together as a community of faith in understanding how we can draw on God's promise of justice and actively engage in the dismantling of injustice in our time and our place. Ibram X.

Kendi in his book *How To Be An Antiracist* gives us tools. Register now at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org and join the conversation. ✦



EMBODY THE MESSAGE



Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

This Sunday, we will celebrate the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Across the nation, his courageous and prophet words and vision will be shared in pulpits, social media, and beyond on this holiday weekend. Certainly, this is an opportunity for each of us to honor his life and legacy, his writing and accomplishments.

Furthermore, we are welcomed to embody the message of his life in new and meaningful ways.

In King's sermon *"The Drum Major Instinct,"* he recalled having meaningful conversations with the guards while jailed. Many times, the guards would attempt to convince Dr. King that his movement for justice was wrong-headed. According to the wardens and guards, protesting for justice and racial equity was wrong. They tried to persuade Dr. King that the loftier pursuit was to maintain segregation.

In wisdom, Dr. King spoke in even tone for days finally asking the guards how much they were getting paid. Upon hearing their wages, he invited them to march with the movement. Their low wages and lack of pay equity should have had them on the side of Black and Brown folks with whom their lives had more in common. They held onto the myth of racial superiority, which blinds many to the true dynamics of oppression, much like many who participated in the siege on our Capitol last week.

Embodying the message of Jesus Christ asks the same of us, that no matter our circumstances, we must speak truth to power with great compassion and courage. In doing so, the truth may pierce through the rhetoric and even the myths of being right to help us know we should be on the same team with similar goals of empowerment and equity. If they don't persuade others to a way authentic justice, the message still persuades us to continue becoming our best selves who will do and say what is right.

Plymouth, we could listen to his mighty words and tangentially engage them—or we could embody King's spirit to the point that we build coalitions, resist fear, and extend grace tied up in powerful truth. Plymouth, we can do this on the corner with those who stand for Black lives, in our emails to our representatives, in marching together in the MLK parade (masked and distanced) or even in a jail cell. We are not simply studying Jesus; we are covenanting day by day to be like Jesus, the embodied reality of his way in the world. As we welcome the Rev. Amantha Barbee as our preacher this Sunday, let us assume the sermon is a personal invitation to be the Dr. King of this current age. May the life of Rev. Dr. King be so embodied that we cultivate his vision of justice with every breath.

—Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

PRISON MINISTRY THANKS YOU



Thanks to everyone who was able to contribute a 2021 calendar (or ten) to a collection for Monroe Correctional Center inmates who want them. Thanks to you, over 280 calendars were recently delivered to the prison chaplain for inmate use. The prison will

make additional deliveries later in the year, so if you are still receiving, or have, 2021 calendars, look to the *Herald* for an announcement about collecting and delivering additional calendars in late February. —Mike Pierson

COVID-19 UPDATE

Betty Eberharter has reported that Horizon House residents were vaccinated for COVID-19 on January 4. They expect to receive the second shot in 3 weeks. Horizon House has been locked down (no visitors) and have had very few cases of COVID.

Read more about the vaccine, including the Washington State Department of Health plan for distribution and give feedback on the plan at DOH.Wa.gov.

The City of Seattle Mayor's Office has set up a frequently updated page listing comprehensive pandemic resources: Seattle.Gov/Mayor/Covid-19.

You can learn more about the services listed on this page over the phone by calling the City of Seattle Customer Service Bureau from Monday to Friday, 8:30 am - 5 pm at 206.684.2489 or 206.684.CITY.

CHECK OUT THE LIBRARY BLOG



Read all about it at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

This week Librarian Suzanne Sanderson writes *"Are We Happy Yet?"*

"A few years ago, I wrote about the happiest countries in the world. It's time for an update so here are the twenty happiest countries for 2020 (which will not go down in history as one of the happiest years in most

people's lives) according to The World Happiness Report..." New articles posted every Monday at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Click on the Library box on the homepage and then the link to the blog. Check out archived articles, too.

DEMONSTRATING LOVE IN ACTION



Social Justice is in our church DNA

This week, a seditious mob of racist thugs committed domestic terrorism at our nation's Capitol. White supremacy is starkly visible in the police response, in the

media coverage, and in the self-righteousness of those taking selfies as they looted and desecrated one of our houses of government. In this midst of feeling anger, grief, and helplessness this week, I also felt gratitude for Plymouth Church. As I've been pondering our year-round Stewardship theme of "Love in Action," I wanted to lift up some things that I love about this church community, and some actions that we can take together.

1. I love that Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown is a prophetic voice calling this predominantly white church to repentance, accountability, and reconciliation with God and with each other. I value her leadership and her clarity of vision. When I was feeling despair this week, I trusted that Sunday's sermon would light a fire in my heart. How do we turn that love into action? We can amplify her voice, by sharing her words and our worship services with others who might be hungry for inspiration.
2. I love that social justice is part of our church DNA, and that we're finding new ways to live that out in 2021. How do we turn that love into action? For white folks-- fortify your personal commitment to antiracism. Join the "Plymouth Reads" group and discuss *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi, or sign up for our daily Black Lives Matter vigil outside the church or join on MLK day from 12-2:00 pm. Ask a church member to be your accountability buddy and get to work. Bring racial justice work into all your committees, boards, and action teams.
3. I love the Plymouth community. How do we turn that love into action? Call, text, video chat, email, or write a card to another member. We may be unable to meet in person, we may be physically isolated, but we're not alone. It's been an emotional week, so let's check in with each other and reinforce our shared connection. We can also hold each other and this church in prayer. Our prayers, pledges, and presence keeps our community strong. While not everyone has the financial means to support our church (and thank you to those who do!), we all contribute to Plymouth when we show up for each other. —Kyna Shilling

MAY'S VOTE



Enjoy online performances and discussions.

May's Vote — a play about the two women who led the campaign that won the vote for women in Washington State in 1910 — is coming to Plymouth UCC for two virtual performances: (Pacific Time): **Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2:30 pm** and **Friday, Jan. 29, 6:30 pm**. Tickets can be reserved through the Key City Public Theater website: KeyCityPublicTheatre.org/MaysVote/.

Please consider donating to University Congregational UCC to help offset the costs of presenting *May's Vote*. Once costs are met, 50% of donations will go directly to the artists. After you reserve tickets and check out, you will receive a confirmation email, with a link for viewing the performance. It will also include a link to the Online Giving page of the University Congregational UCC website, UniversityUCC.org. Choose "May's Vote" on the drop-down "Select a fund" menu.

Donations by check can be sent to University Congregational UCC at: 4515 16th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105. Please include "May's Vote" on memo line. For questions or problems, please email Communications@UniversityUCC.org.

COMMUNION VIDEOS REQUESTED



Be part of online worship.

The worship team would love to feature Plymouth folks communing together for our worship videos on Communion Sundays. Would you be interested in making a short video of yourself and others serving one other Communion? This

could include couples, friends, and family groups with youth and children. Please contact Rev. Donene Blair for details at DBlair@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Thank you!

CONTRIBUTE TO DEVOTIONAL

In this time when we can't physically be together, it is particularly meaningful for our faith community to experience Lent through a devotional made up of submissions from one another. Our theme for Lent is *Seeing Through the Darkness*. Submissions can be stories from life, prayers, photography, poetry (your own or favorite poems written by others), or art. What role has the darkness played in your faith journey? What are the gifts found in darkness? Where do you find hope? How have you been able to move through dark times in your life?

Please email submissions to JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org by **Wednesday, February 3**. Please contact Jennifer if you have questions or need more information.