

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am **Worship Sunday, January 31, 2021**

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Lectionary Text for January 31: Mark 1:21–28

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, Preaching
“Anointing”

11:30 am 151st Annual Meeting
(see article page 1)

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.”



A WORD ABOUT GIVING

All fourth quarter 2020 Giving Statements were emailed January 12, 2021. If you did not receive your statement, prefer a hard copy, or have any questions, please contact Diane Jacobsen at djacobsen@plymouthchurchseattle.org or 206.622.4865 *812. Thank you for your faithful support of the staff, the programs and the mission of Plymouth Church UCC!

We are grateful for those who have become automatic givers to the church. Your regular monthly support enhances our ability to minister to each other and the wider community. If you are interested in setting up a recurring gift to the church, or want to take advantage of Text to Give, CashApp or other options, please contact Diane.

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.

 **PLYMOUTH CHURCH**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1217 Sixth Avenue, Seattle,
Washington 98101-3199

Return Service Requested

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Sharon Ahlquist (Sister of Vicki Schoettle), **Merrily Applewhite**, 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), **Larry Jones**, Michael Kaid, Renee Lang (friend of Glenda Carper), Libonati Family, Sharon Masse (Wife of Gary Magnuson), Dick, Jean and Alex Paul (Parents and Nephew of Beth Paul Russell), Tommy Rivers Puzey (Friend of Karen Clark), Jose Robles, Joseph Scott, Ellen Woodruff Smith (Sister of Bob Woodruff), Naomi Stein, Jim Stultz (Brother of Doug Stultz), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Lisa Waldschmidt (Sister of Angela Deppe), Mildred Whitehurst (Grandmother of Toni Arthur), Samantha Williams, Stu Williamson (Father of Ruth Williamson) (**bold = newly added**)

Our hearts are with the Shilling family on the passing of Jamie's uncle, Rev. Bob Williams.

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

Volume 59
Number 21

January 27, 2021

A 'LEARNING IN PUBLIC' MOMENT

Change Made to the Lenten Devotional Theme



Jennifer Castle

Our Lenten Devotional Theme of “*Seeing Through the Darkness*” was chosen without the thoughtful reflection required to ensure that it was consistent with our values. The particular wording of this theme is racist, and it does not reflect our goal as a church to work on dismantling racism and white supremacy. By using the metaphor of “darkness” to refer to

negative or difficult experiences, the theme perpetuated the very structures of white supremacy that we as a church are working to address.

The initial framing of this theme did not acknowledge the dark as a holy place, as the environment where seeds germinate, as where the process of birth begins. As the Director of Faith Formation, I take responsibility for this mistake and am deeply sorry for the harm it caused. I am committed to the continual work needed within myself and within our faith community to become anti-racist. I am grateful for the ways that we can hold each other accountable in love for this work.

As a result, our new theme will be “*Finding Hope in Times of Struggle*.” This is a better representation of what we intended to communicate without the racist language.

I have received 6 submissions so far and will need 47 submissions in total, so I am discerning whether the project will be able to move forward. The deadline is next Wednesday, February 3, but if you are planning to submit something (a favorite poem, a personal reflection, a photograph, a drawing, etc.) please email me at JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org as soon as possible to let me know of your plans. If there is not sufficient interest, I will scrap this project and spend my energy on more fruitful opportunities for us to grow in faith together.

—Jennifer Castle ✨

151ST ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY

Plan to attend Plymouth's 151st Annual Meeting Sunday, January 31. Link to the meeting is posted at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. This meeting will take the place of coffee hour this Sunday.

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.

A pdf of the 2020 Annual Report has been sent to all on the electronic Herald distribution list. If you have not received it, please contact Robert (Rturner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). A very limited number of paper copies are available. Please contact Info@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org to request a paper copy.
—Sue Maul, Moderator, Al Bentley, Vice Moderator ✨

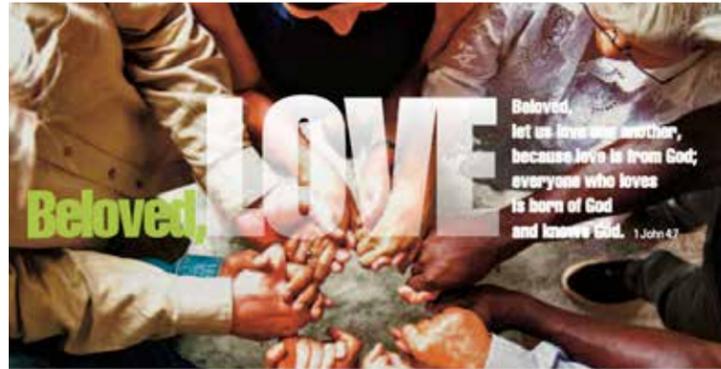
COMMUNION VIDEOS REQUESTED

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! ✨



Online meeting January 31.

LOVE IN ACTION



Beloved, Love in Action

"Do your little bit of good where you are. It's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." — Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Love is a verb. Not simply a feeling or thought. Grounded in God's love for us, we are called to act, to love. 1 John 4:11 puts it this way, "Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another." We take seemingly small actions to live out God's love. Here's the beautiful thing: together in community, we can change the world.

I heard a recent TED talk with Baratunde Thurston, a writer, comedian, and activist, about his personal mission to change the word "citizen" from a noun into a verb. If citizen is a verb, it becomes an action word; something we choose, something we do, an occurrence we participate in. In his podcast How To Citizen, he interviews people who are working to make society better and tries to find practical strategies for making us more connected, hopeful, and inspired to take action.

What would it mean if the word "church" was a verb? In a time when our worship is less dependent on our building, and our community is less reliant on shared geography, we have a clear reminder that church is more than concrete and dove windows on a corner in downtown Seattle. When I think about what it means to Be The Church, I'm stepping into a space of personal responsibility for living out the values and vision that we share.

This is love in action! It takes practice to be the church (perhaps I should say "Churching takes practice"), since the status quo of our habits, routines, and unexamined assumptions can lead to a gap between how we behave and how we wish we behaved "when we church at our very best". Like the How To Citizen podcast, our best church can help us feel more connected, hopeful, and inspired to Love In Action.

This Sunday, January 31, we'll hold our first virtual Annual Meeting, and we'll continue Plymouth's 150+ year tradition as we vote on the budget and show up to support each other in covenantal community. Let's church together. —Kyna Shilling ✨

JOIN BLACK HISTORY EVENTS

In honor of the observance of Black History Month in February, please join us for two upcoming Zoom events:



Thursday, February 4 at 6:30 pm We will gather to watch and discuss the Rev. Dr. William Barber's sermon given at the Inaugural Prayer Service. Link will be posted at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Thursday, February 11 at 6:30 pm: Movies that Move We will gather to watch a segment of Cosmic Slop, a science fiction film billed as a "multicultural Twilight Zone." This thought-provoking anthology addresses serious social issues, backdropped by humor and biting parody. The Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown will lead the discussion following the viewing of the film. Link will be posted at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Please plan to join us for both events. —Jennifer Castle
Director of Faith Formation ✨

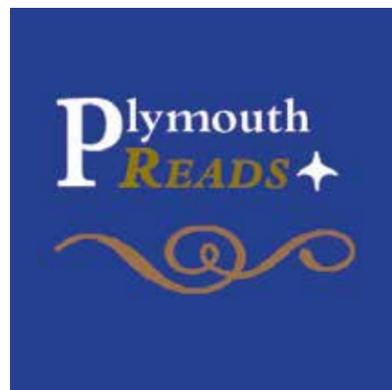
PLYMOUTH READS

Little did we know that the second book we are reading together, "How To Be An Antiracist," by Ibram X. Kendi, would be as relevant as it is. Thirty new policies in the first three days of President Biden's presidency and he is not finished. As this is being written, it is anticipated that President Biden will lift the transgender military ban.

All with the stroke of a pen. If you have been lukewarm about Kendi's theory of the power of antiracist policies, today's news should at least have your interest piqued.

We are halfway through our time to read this book together. Pick up a copy now. And register with Plymouth Reads to keep up on the activities and events around this important read!

Register for Plymouth Reads at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. ✨



MEN'S RETREAT: LAST CHANCE!

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.



Register now for retreat this weekend

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 Retreat Planning Team and Prospect UCC, Seattle ✨

AN EASY WAY TO DONATE



CARS (Charitable Adult Rides & Services) is dedicated to helping non-profit organizations such as Plymouth Church

United Church of Christ raise thousands of dollars in vehicle donations through successful car donation programs.

Careasy.org is just what it says, easy. As the staff person who activated Plymouth's participation in the program in 2014 and the donor of 2 work vans, I have experienced both ends of the spectrum. They handle everything from beginning to end of the donation process, including marketing, free pick-up, selling, mailing a thank you letter with tax information to the donor (AKA me) and most importantly, mailing Plymouth a check! Alan and I had our own business for over 30 years and our work vans played an important role. Watching them towed away was extremely hard but were comforted in knowing that our donation benefited Plymouth UCC.

If you would like to donate your used vehicle (includes car, motorcycle, boat, plane or RV), avoid the hassle of a private sale and benefit Plymouth UCC in the process, go to Careasy.org, or call CARS at 1.855.500.RIDE and they will do the rest.

—Diane Jacobsen ✨

CHECK OUT THE LIBRARY BLOG

This week's blog entry is titled, "Ikigai, Ikebana, and Shinrin-yoku." Intrigued? Check it out!

"A new book in Plymouth Library is Ikigai: "Giving Every Day Meaning and Joy" by Yukari Mitsuhashi. Ikigai is about knowing yourself and what you want out of life. It is the action one takes in the pursuit of happiness."

New articles are posted on the Library Blog every Monday. If you have feedback on the blog, or questions about the Plymouth Library, please send email to PlymouthLibrary@gmail.com. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Do you want to check this or any library book out? Read how below.

—Suzanne Sanderson, Plymouth Librarian ✨

GET BOOKS TO GO!

You can now check books out of Plymouth Library and have them mailed to your home! To find out what we have, go to our online catalog by following these easy steps:

1. Go to the Library Page at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org
2. Click "Online Catalog" in the purple box.
3. Click on Enter the name of the library: VidaBVarey (That's the official name of the Plymouth Library.)
4. Click on "sign in" (no password needed).
5. Search by title, author, subject, etc.
6. When you find a book you would like to check out, email me at PlymouthLibrary@gmail.com with the author, title and call number and your mailing address.

If you need to apply for a card, send the following information to PlymouthLibrary@gmail.com: your name, address, telephone number, and the best email address for you.

Books will be mailed to you with a prepaid mailer you can use to return them. We will mail up to two books at a time. Books must be returned before you can check out more.

If you are going to be in downtown Seattle, email me for how to contact someone who will answer the door of the church building to take your books. You may also mail them using the library mail rate to: Plymouth Church Library, 1217 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101. Please keep our library materials in a safe place and return them as soon as you are able.

—Suzanne Sanderson, Plymouth Church Librarian ✨



New articles posted every week.



Have books delivered to your home!