

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am **Worship Sunday, February 7, 2021**

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Lectionary Text for February 7: Song of Solomon 1:5-7

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, Preaching
"The Necessity of Ego"

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 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."

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Special Thank You to all who (virtually) attended the play *May's Vote* last week! *May's Vote* is a play about the two women who led the campaign that won the vote for women in Washington State in 1910. Plymouth Congregational Church played an important role in the Washington State campaign through hosting the state convention. I hadn't attended a virtual play before, but I found it to be enjoyable and extremely well done. There may be more performances of *May's Vote* later this spring, and you can consult KeyCityPublicTheatre.org for information on future dates as they become available.

—Jennifer Castle

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 mission of Plymouth Church UCC!

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

Return Service Requested

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Merrily Applewhite, Jessie Attri, Riley Balcita, Matt Banks, Ken Carter, Jon & Maryann Counts, Pam Dorrance, 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 Betty Eberharter and family on the passing of her son, Rick Eberharter.

We grieve with Maryann Counts and family on the passing of Jon Counts, January 30.

PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

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INNOVATING TRADITION



Report from Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting held after last week's service was like no other before it! It was held online via Zoom with questions asked in the chat function. And as innovating as this sounds, the Annual Meeting continued a Plymouth tradition that is 151 years old.

Two agenda items passed with unanimous consent: approval of the minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting and acceptance of the slate of nominations for lay leadership on the Council, Boards, and Committees. We thanked Sue Maul for all her hard work and gifts she brought to her role as moderator of the Congregational Council and welcomed in our new Moderator, Al Bentley. The full slate of nominations is in the Annual Report. Stay tuned for more information on new lay leaders and their roles. Our lay leadership now more closely represents our increasingly diverse demographics.

The remaining issues put to the congregation for a vote really tested our ability to hold an Annual Meeting online with a full counting of hands raised for yes votes, no votes, and abstentions. With approximately 90 small screens of hands raised, it went quite smoothly. The congregation voted unanimously to return to a senior pastor model of ministry for the church and to call Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown as that senior pastor! Congratulations, Rev. Dr. Brown!



Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown is now
Plymouth's Senior Pastor.

This vote enables Plymouth to align all aspects of the church and its ministry under her leadership and her vision of a radically inclusive Christian community. Dr Brown brings to this position innovative approaches to ministry, a heart for social justice, and invaluable insights from her lived experience as an African American woman to help us become a true representation of God's Kingdom here on earth.

Lastly, the congregation overwhelmingly passed the proposed budget for 2021. Thank you, Plymouth! And, thank you, God for another year of mercy and grace! —Dr. Elizabeth Gordon

HELP WITH LENTEN 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 new theme is "Finding Hope in Times of Struggle." Submissions can be stories from your life, prayers, photography, poetry (your own or favorite poems written by others), or art. Where do you find hope? How have you been able to move through times of hardship in your life?

Please email your submissions to Jennifer Castle at JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org by **Friday February 5**. Contact Jennifer if you have questions or need more information. ✨



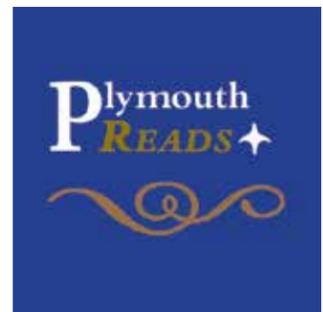
Contribute by Friday, February 5.

PLYMOUTH READS

Have you registered for Plymouth Reads? If not, take a few moments and click on the link below. Kendi's *How To Be An Antiracist* is taking us in a much different direction than James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time* so we are excited to have you all there for this new discussion on racism. Each week we send registrants an email with a weekly challenge that helps enliven your read. And updates on our events which will be coming up in March. Join us!

Plymouth Reads Weekly Challenge:

Over and over again, Kendi relates significant moments in his life that he doesn't let go of but uses as a way to get a better understanding of racism. His definition of an activist, "One who has a record of power or policy change" came to him after failing to organize students to free the Jena 6. In acknowledging his failure, he believes that an activist must not be defined by actions, but by results. This week, imagine yourself as an activist. Who would be your role models? What would be your cause? Write a short story or draw a picture of yourself in action! (Chapter 16, *Failure*) ✨



MUSIC NOTES



Dr. Wanda Griffiths on Music this month

During February we will be lifting up music of Black composers. The organ prelude Feb 7, "Communion: Rite of Fellowship," is by Dr. Sharon J. Willis and is extracted from her *Exodus Suite: A Tribute to Harriet Tubman* (2006).

About this movement she writes: "There was a deep sense of fellowship among underground passengers who had journeyed to the Promised Land of freedom together. . . . akin to the ritual of communion. The two spirituals used for thematic material: *Drinking of the Wine* and *Let Us Break Bread Together* capture the essence of this spiritual communion among the passengers. It also speaks to the relevance of the invisible church, a place where slaves gathered to worship – sometimes at the edge of plantation fields at midnight. Now freed, they ate their first meal together."

Dr. Willis is the founder of Americolor Opera Alliance and is currently the Chair of the Dept. of Music at Morris Brown College in Atlanta. This week's postlude is a jubilant setting of the African American spiritual "King of Kings" by Dr. Ralph Simpson (b. 1932). It is dedicated to Dr. Joyce Johnson, currently Professor Emeritus and College Organist at Spelman College. Dr. Simpson was the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in music from Michigan State University (1964). He has served on the faculties of many universities and churches and is currently the retired Chair Emeritus of the Music Department of Tennessee State University in Nashville. —Dr. Wanda Griffiths

CONTINUE TO STAND FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

We continue to publicly stand for Black Lives Matter in front of Plymouth this fall. As a majority white Christian church we have helped create, and have benefited from, systemic institutional racism. Now we must be part of changing it. This is one simple action we can take.

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 logistics.



Keep showing up and speaking out.

JOIN BLACK HISTORY EVENTS

In 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 is posted at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Thursday, February 11 at 6:30 pm: We 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. Senior Pastor Kelle Brown will lead the discussion following. Links posted at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. (In the news feed, click on article "Join Black History Events.") —Jennifer Castle

MORE ANTI-RACISM RESOURCES



Subscribe to Podcasts:

- *Antiracism Center:* Twitter
- *Audre Lorde Project:* Twitter | Instagram | Facebook
- *Black Women's Blueprint:* Twitter | Instagram | Facebook
- *Color Of Change:* Twitter | Instagram | Facebook
- *Colorlines:* Twitter | Instagram | Facebook
- *The Conscious Kid:* Twitter | Instagram | Facebook

For an extensive list of resources in all media, visit PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. (In the news feed, click on article "Anti-racism Resources.")

THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

- February 1**
 - Black college students staged a sit-in at a segregated lunch counter in Greensboro, NC, 1960
 - Langston Hughes, poet and author, born 1902 (d.1967)
- February 3**
 - Geraldine McCullough wins Widener Gold Medal for Sculpture, 1965
 - 15th Amendment (Black Suffrage) passed, 1870
- February 4**
 - 24th Amendment abolished Poll Tax, 1864
- February 6**
 - Peabody Fund established to promote Black education in South, 1867



PEACE ACTION NEWS

The Good News:

January 22 marked the day that nuclear weapons officially became illegal under international law after Honduras became the 50th country to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.



The Hopeful News: Biden & Putin agreed to extend the New START agreement which limited the size of the two countries' strategic nuclear arsenals which is due to expire February 5.

The Bad News: the United States still dedicates billions of dollars and resources to continue building nuclear weapons across the country, flouting international law.

Plymouth's Peace Action Group works through the Washington Against Nuclear Weapons Coalition (www.wanwcoalition.org) a statewide coalition that aims to reduce and eliminate all components of the 1.7 trillion dollar rebuild of the US nuclear weapons arsenal. Our ultimate goal is to prevent nuclear war and abolish nuclear weapons worldwide.

—Plymouth Peace Action Group

GIVING OPTIONS TO SUPPORT PLYMOUTH UCC



Thank you for your faithful support of the mission and ministries of Plymouth United Church of Christ. Listed below are a variety of ways for you to provide

offerings and gifts.

MAIL Mail your offerings to the church: Plymouth Church, United Church of Christ/ 1217 6th Ave/ Seattle WA 98101

ONLINE GIVING THROUGH SIMPLE CHURCH Click on GIVE box at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Choose to deduct directly from your bank account or credit/debit card to make a one-time offering, or schedule recurring offerings.

TEXT TO GIVE Simply text to 206.208.1442 and enter a dollar amount. You will receive prompts to complete the transaction. Once set up, you will be able to text offerings with one step.

CASH APP Download the Cash App mobile app from the Apple App Store or Google Play and follow the instructions to set up giving directly from your bank account. Our Cash App ID is \$PlymouthUCCSeattle. Questions? DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

VACCINATION UPDATE

February 1, King County is opening two COVID-19 community vaccination sites, at the accesso ShoWare Center in Kent and at the General Services Administration (GSA) Complex in Auburn. These south King County sites will serve those who are at highest risk from COVID-19 and face barriers to accessing vaccine through traditional healthcare systems.



Important news to note.

Public Health has received enough vaccine doses from the state to begin operating the two sites at 500 doses per day, six days a week. These sites will position King County to be able to quickly scale up vaccination efforts and serve the broader community when more vaccine becomes available.

While the vaccine supply remains very limited, these community sites will serve south King County residents 75 years of age and older and their caregivers and will expand to lower risk groups as soon as possible. Older adults in south King County are at particularly high risk, as rates of COVID-19 in many parts of south King County have been nearly twice as high compared to the county average.

Learn where and when to get vaccinated at PublicHealthInsider.com. —June Hayakawa-Fung, Faith Community Nurse

NEW SCAM TO WATCH!



If you received a COVID-19 vaccine, don't post a photo of your vaccine card on social media. Such cards contain your name, date of birth, patient number and other information

that bad actors can use to steal your identity. That's especially true if your privacy settings on Facebook, Instagram or other social platforms are not strict, allowing the image to be widely shared.

Even where you were vaccinated should be kept private. If you've already posted a photo of a vaccine card, remove it or replace the image with a harmless sticker that gives you bragging rights for having rolled up your sleeve — but doesn't jeopardize your identity.

Learn about protecting information at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. (In the news feed, click on article "New Scam to Watch.")

A REMINDER: No one from Plymouth Church UCC staff will ever request funds or personal information. Please be aware, pay attention to the email address from which the request is being sent, and **DO NOT** respond. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the church office: Info@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. —Toni Arthur, Assistant to Senior Pastor