

10:30 AM ✦ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 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.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021
TRANSFIGURATION 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.*

PRELUDE

In Quiet Mood Florence B. Price
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

Florence Price (1887-1953) was the first African American woman to win recognition as a composer of symphonic works (1933). In 1903, when she was fifteen, she enrolled at the New England Conservatory of Music, one of only a few conservatories that admitted persons of color at that time. While some of her over 300 compositions were published during her lifetime, many were not. Her work as a composer has experienced a renaissance over the last few years, although she is still mentioned far more often than her music is presented.

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

CALL TO WORSHIP Jennifer Castle

Come, if you are willing.
Come into this place, but be prepared to find yourself sitting next to your worst enemy.
Come into this place but be prepared to find yourself offering prayer with someone whose values and way of life revolt you.
Come into this place, but be prepared to find yourself.
Be prepared to find yourself in mysterious places, unrecognized thoughts, that you would prefer to remain unacknowledged.
Be prepared to live in a world that can never match your memories of what it used to be, or dreams of what it might be.
Be prepared to know you are loved, but be prepared also for the outrageous news that every other human being is loved no more and no less, no matter what you or they do.
Come, if you will, but be prepared for an uncertainty that will not quickly be resolved, for a discomfort that will not be easily salved, for a hunger that will not willingly be satisfied.
Come, if you are willing.

HYMN *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

Words by James Weldon Johnson; Music by John Rosamond Johnson

Morehouse College Glee Club,

Shared with permission from Director Dr. David Morrow

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won

Stony the road we trod
Bitter the chastening rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died
Yet with a steady beat
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast

God of our weary years
God of our silent tears
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way
Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee
Shadowed beneath Thy hand
May we forever stand
True to our God
True to our native land
Our native land

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Carlton Johnson

Jessie Attri, Riley Balcita, Matt Banks, Ken Carter, 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)

We grieve with Susan Berry and family at the passing of her mother, Janene Berry, on February 5.

We grieve with the family and friends of Merrily Applewhite, who passed February 10.

Our hearts are with Barb Laski and family on the one-year anniversary of the passing of her husband Art Carpenter.

We keep the family and friends of Merlyn Bell in our prayers. Merlyn was a longtime friend of Plymouth and advocate for the mentally ill and homeless in Seattle.



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.

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SHARING PEACEThe peace of Christ be with you.

MOMENT OF LOVE IN ACTION Al Bentley

CONTEMPORARY VOICE read by Rev. Johnson



January 15, 1929-
April 4, 1968

Love is creative and redemptive. Love builds up and unites; hate tears down and destroys. The aftermath of the ‘fight with fire’ method which you suggest is bitterness and chaos, the aftermath of the love method is reconciliation and creation of the beloved community. Physical force can repress, restrain, coerce, destroy, but it cannot create and organize anything permanent; only love can do that. Yes, love—which means understanding, creative, redemptive goodwill, even for one’s enemies—is the solution to the race problem.

But the end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the beloved community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opposers into friends. The type of love that

I stress here is not eros, a sort of esthetic or romantic love; not philia, a sort of reciprocal love between personal friends; but it is agape which is understanding goodwill for all... It is an overflowing love which seeks nothing in return. It is the love of God working in the lives of [people]. This is the love that may well be the salvation of our civilization. into our lives.

—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

READING FROM CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Acts 2:41-47a
(NRSV translation) read by Dr. Brown

The account follows directly on the story of Pentecost, where the Holy Spirit had been experienced powerfully not only by gathered followers of Jesus, but also by others in Jerusalem. Peter had given the first Christian evangelistic sermon. The response was tremendous: Three thousand people repented, were baptized, and joined the Jerusalem Christian community. This week’s passage describes what the life of the resulting community looked like.

So those who welcomed [Peter’s] message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

ANTHEM *How I Got Over.* Clara Ward
Shirley Young, Vocals, Sari Breznau, Guitar

MESSAGE *The Beloved Community* Gus Newport

SONG OF COMMITMENT

Light of a Clear Blue Morning Dolly Parton
Plymouth Singers, soloist Annabelle Russell

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Dr. Brown

POSTLUDE

Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho Setting by Fela Sowande
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

Fela Sowande (1905-1987) was born in Nigeria and is considered to be the father of modern Nigerian Art Music. He studied organ with Thomas King Ekundayo Phillips of Christ Church Cathedral in Lagos as well as with other Nigerian church musicians. Sowande traveled to London to study civil engineering but became wrapped up in the world of music, supporting himself as a jazz musician. Besides being a prolific composer for organ as well as choral works, Sowande wrote a number of symphonic pieces, and was a pioneering ethnomusicologist focusing on the music of his home country.

Special thanks to guest preacher Gus Newport. Mr. Newport was the mayor of Berkeley, California, from 1979 to 1986. He serves on the leadership committee of the National Council of Elders, an organization of people over sixty-five who were involved in the major social justice movements of the last part of the twentieth century: civil rights, environmental rights, farm workers' rights, and LGBTQ rights.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Called as Siblings The Plymouth Immigration Ministry team offers a Wednesday Night Lenten series on Zoom, 7-8 pm, beginning February 24 and continuing 4 weeks. Focus on current immigration laws and systems and how they affect everyone from US born children and unaccompanied minors to asylum-seeking adults and long-time residents. Through discussion, film, presentations, guest speakers, prayer, and reflections we'll listen for ways working together can make a difference during pandemic restrictions and beyond. Please join us for all or as many Wednesdays as you can. RSVP on the homepage at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org to receive the Zoom link. —*Carol Mooney*

White Co-conspirator Summit March 19-20 Get equipped to be an agent of change! This virtual summit is unapologetically intended to speak to white people about their role in dismantling white supremacy. Each speaker session and workshop calls out a particular area of white supremacy in order to shift the dominant narrative, and provides ways to re-imagine collectively conspiring against white supremacist culture in order to foster a true Beloved Community. Speakers include Jim Wallis and Nadia Bolz-Weber. Cost is \$150 for the two day session. Links to more info and registration at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org (*In the news feed, click on article "White Co-conspirator Summit."*)

Plymouth Reads It is hard to believe we are in Week 7 reading *How To Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. For those of you who have registered, thank you. The list is growing!! And what better time to crack open this powerful book when we can see in the news Kendi's influence on national, state and local policymakers. Don't miss out on this opportunity to read and discuss with a faith community this relevant, let's-get-to-it labor of love and intellect. Register at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Celebrate with Jennifer Hagedorn The Pacific Northwest Conference UCC, Plymouth Church UCC, and Spirit of Peace UCC, warmly welcomes you to attend Jenn Hagedorn's ordination and installation service as Pastor at Spirit of Peace UCC in Sammamish, Washington Sunday, February 28 at 3 pm PST. Details at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org (*In the news feed, click on article "Celebrate with Jennifer Hagedorn."*)

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.