

10:30 AM SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2021



Alive!

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

DBlair@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

For administrative needs, or other non-pastoral care questions, please email:

WBlight@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

PRELUDE

Variations on a Theme by Corell. Aaron David Miller
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

INVOCATION Deacon Tom Maul

Leader: God of love and light, we come as witnesses
of your glory and faithfulness, amazed to discover
your transformative love.

God, we desire for you to abide within us, and for
your grace to be revealed anew daily.

**All: Be with us and awaken within us the call to
love one another, in the way it was made
real through Jesus the Christ.**

Amen.

HYMN *God of Grace and God of Glory* CWM RHONDDA
 Jennylynn Vidas, Sari Breznau, Tim Keller, Michael Delos

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.
 in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY . . . *Plymouth Reads* Melony Joyce

PRAYER OF CONFESSION. Min. Jennifer Castle

Adapted from “Forgive Us: Confessions of a Compromised Faith” by Mae Elise Cannon

Holy God, we have sinned.

We have sinned in thought and in word, and in deed.

Forgive us for thinking that we deserve our power and our privilege.

Have mercy, Lord.

Forgive us for viewing others as lazy, inferior, or unskilled because of the color of their skin.

Have mercy Lord.

Forgive us for the way we have oppressed Black and Asian people throughout our history—from enslavement, exclusion, incarceration to segregation, Jim Crow, redlining.

Have mercy, Lord.

Forgive us for creating and maintaining a system where unarmed Black people are guilty until proven innocent and are shot in the streets.

O God, have mercy on us. We lament with the families of our Black and Brown siblings.

Forgive us for our criminal justice system that is biased, that spins injustice while clinging to the name itself as just.

Forgive us Lord. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.

Forgive us for the things we have done: a disdainful look, ignoring job applications, questioning another’s competency while not questioning others.

Forgive us for the things we have left undone: turning a blind eye to continuing discrimination, justifying our positions, refusing to seek out and include diverse voices, our unwillingness to learn from our fellow Black and Brown siblings.

Forgive us for excluding and ignoring the cries of injustice that our Black siblings have been calling out for years. Forgive us for not considering the truth until a white person says it.

Forgive us, Holy One, as we seek a new way forward.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE Min. Castle

One day, our souls will look back and wonder how we got over. One day, the work of our lives will speak for us. May the wonder bring us joy, and may the work speak words of justice. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Kevin Bechtold

Riley Balcita, Matt Banks, Larry Counts (Brother-in-Law of 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, Katherine Guthrie, Joyce Irving (Mother of Rev. Louis Mitchell), Sue Jones, Michael Kaid, Paul Lehto, Libonati Family, Sharon Masse (Wife of Gary Magnuson), Montecino Family, Dick, Jean, and Alex Paul (Parents and Nephew of Beth Paul-Russell), Tommy Rivers Puzey (Friend of Karen Clark), Maria Ratcliff (Aunt of Toni Arthur), Jose Robles and Family, Joseph Scott, Naomi Stein, Jim Stultz (Brother of Doug Stultz), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Lisa Waldschmidt (Sister of Angela Deppe), Samantha Williams

(Names will remain on the prayer list for six weeks, unless otherwise requested.)

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 PEACE **Peace be with you.**

MOMENT OF LOVE IN ACTION Adele Reynolds

CONTEMPORARY VOICE read by Deacon Indigo Brown
A Litany for Survival, by Audre Lorde

For those of us who live at the shoreline
standing upon the constant edges of decision
crucial and alone
for those of us who cannot indulge the passing dreams of choice
who love in doorways coming and going
in the hours between dawns
looking inward and outward
at once before and after
seeking a now that can breed futures
like bread in our children's mouths
so their dreams will not reflect the death of ours;
For those of us
who were imprinted with fear
like a faint line in the center of our foreheads
learning to be afraid with our mother's milk
for by this weapon
this illusion of some safety to be found
the heavy-footed hoped to silence us
For all of us
this instant and this triumph
We were never meant to survive.

And when the sun rises we are afraid
it might not remain
when the sun sets we are afraid
it might not rise in the morning
when our stomachs are full we are afraid
of indigestion
when our stomachs are empty we are afraid
we may never eat again
when we are loved we are afraid
love will vanish
when we are alone we are afraid
love will never return
and when we speak we are afraid
our words will not be heard
nor welcomed
but when we are silent
we are still afraid
So it is better to speak
remembering
we were never meant to survive.



Audre Lorde was an American writer, feminist, womanist, librarian and civil rights activist. She was a self-described “Black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet,” who dedicated both her life and her creative talent to confronting and addressing injustices of racism, sexism, classism, capitalism, heterosexism, and homophobia.

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE Luke 24:36b–48
(NRSV translation) read by Deacon Maul

Jesus charges all disciples to be witnesses, proclaiming repentance and forgiveness to all nations. These statements are not just doctrines to affirm but the basis for the calling to be witness of God’s marvelous things.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

HYMN *Ella's Song* Bernice Johnson Reagon
Stephanie Anne Johnson

MESSAGE *Bearing Witness* Dr. Brown

CHARGE AND BLESSING Dr. Brown

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain" James Biery
Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Organ

**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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plan Now: Drive-Up Service May 9 Sunday, May 9, there will be pre-recorded online worship at 10:30 am and drive-up in-person worship at 10:30 am at South Seattle College parking lot (6000 16th Ave SW). Keep checking the *Herald* and PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for details.

Plymouth Reads Join Saturday, April 24 at 3 pm, Plymouth Reads hosts a conversation with former King County Councilmember Larry Gossett and Branden Born, UW Associate Professor in the Department of Urban Design & Planning. Together they bring experience in politics, advocacy, community engagement, planning, design, and academics to untangle where the racism lies and where antiracist policies can bring equity to Seattle's built communities. Click on "Plymouth Reads" at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org to register and receive a Zoom invitation to this webinar.

Thank You! Plymouth UCC and the wider church humbly thank all who contributed to the Lenten Special offering. Thanks to you, we have received over \$2,500 in donations toward One Great Hour of Sharing and Plymouth UCC Scholarship Fund.

Rooted in Love Pacific Northwest Conference Annual Meeting April 30-May 2. We're excited to see you! Our theme, Rooted in Love, is the same as this year's national UCC General Synod. We will explore the ways we're rooted in love, and how that can ground and inspire us as we continue to live into all God has in store for us. Link to register at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

Happening at N-Sid-Sen This Summer Camp is looking for a lifeguard this summer. Read about applying at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. As publicized earlier, Plymouth will not hold camp at N-Sid-Sen this summer. N-Sid-Sen will be offering opportunities for you to come home to the lake. All are Thursday-Monday. Please know space is limited. All attending any event will be required to follow all COVID-19 safety protocols. More information and registration at N-Sid-Sen.org. Registration is open now.

Gather in Gratitude with Plymouth Healing Communities This year's Plymouth Healing Communities lunch event, Gather in Gratitude, will take place remotely, but those living at Horizon House can gather together in Anderson Hall for a catered lunch. There will be seating capacity for up to 40 persons. If you can attend, please RSVP to PHC board member and Horizon House resident Pam Mitchell (apt. 404; pmitch@uw.edu; 206.465.0158). Let Pam know by May 1, so that there lunch ready for you. Read more at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

Seeking Green Thumbs Plymouth Healing Communities, a non-profit providing housing and companionship to folks struggling with homelessness and mental illness, has two properties in Beacon Hill that have raised garden beds. We are looking for volunteers to help with planning, preparing and maintaining beds. Volunteers will work alone or in numbers allowing social distancing. We will accommodate your schedule. Apply at Plyhc.org/volunteer and we will be in touch!