

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Worship Sunday, May 2, 2021

*Fifth Sunday of Easter
Youth-led Worship*

Lectionary Text for May 2: John 15:9-17
Nate Korahais and Annabelle Russell Preaching

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.*

GATHER IN GRATITUDE: MAY 15



Join luncheon at noon May 15.

This year's Plymouth Healing Communities lunch event, *Gather in Gratitude*, will take place remotely May 15, but those living at Horizon House can gather together in Anderson Hall for a catered lunch. There will be seating capacity for 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 is a lunch ready for you. ✦

SEEKING GREEN THUMBS

Plymouth Healing Communities is currently looking for volunteers to help with garden planning, maintenance, harvesting and re-planting on a weekly, monthly or on-call schedule. After online orientation and an in-person



Tend a healing garden.

on-site orientation, volunteers will work individually or in small numbers to allow social distancing. We will accommodate your schedule. Apply on the PHC website, Plyhc.org/volunteer and we will be in touch! ✦

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

Return Service Requested

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Toni Arthur, Jennifer Carter, Larry Counts (Brother-in-Law of Maryann Counts), Pam Dorrance, Maria Eclipse (Grandmother of Rogie Eclipse), Carmen Ramsey Ellington (Friend of Karen Clark), Blake English (Relative of the Guthrie family), Pat Forrester (Sister-in-Law of Kate Forrester), Phil Fredrickson, **Ann Fullerton and Family** (Sister of Doug Stultz), 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), Isabelle Matson and Family, Medora Moburg, Montecino Family, Dick, Jean, and Alex Paul (Parents and Nephew of Beth Paul-Russell), Mary Margaret Pruitt, Tommy Rivers Puzey (Friend of Karen Clark), Maria Ratcliff (Aunt of Toni Arthur), Jose Robles and Family, Joseph Scott, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Lisa Waldschmidt (Sister of Angela Deppe), Samantha Williams

Our hearts are with the Stultz family on the death of their niece and cousin Jessica Fullerton.

Bold=newly added; Names will remain on the prayer list for six weeks, unless otherwise requested.

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 32

April 28, 2021

HOLD ON



Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

*The pain that made you the odd
one out is the story that connects
you to a healing world.*
—Tanya Markul

The psalmist asked, "How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?" In his lament, David wondered how long God would hide from him and how long sorrow would linger in his heart. Day by day, the sorrow seems to compound, does it not?

It can all feel like too much, and there doesn't seem to be anywhere to go with all this knotted pain.

Yet, we must let go of forced normalcy. Together, we must not believe that change and transformation are punishment when our central Christian story is one of resurrection. "Normal" has died! It isn't coming back, and resurrection cannot be experienced longing for stillness and familiarity. Yes, there will be things that will be like what we've known, but we have to be prepared to accept that much may be different and unrecognizable.

Some are ready to return to buildings, to stop wearing masks and are generally assuming that being tired of this may make the virus to go away. Let us be careful, and trust in science while being faithful. Plymouth Church maintains our posture to hold on until all of us can return safely. This is a posture of patience and believing that whatever is ahead for us, we will navigate with confidence, with God as our helper.

David was in despair, and perhaps David was like many of us who simply wanted things to be the way they used to be. By the end of the psalm, however, he declared his trust in God, and sang of God's goodness and providence. No one wants sorrow, but sorrow may help us to prepare for the new thing that is sure to come. Sorrow may be a guide to move us when we might not otherwise. Let us not resist the work that lament invites, for though it makes us different, it also makes us whole and the Beloved Community.

Your pain is a path to your healing. Walk it. Discover how alive you can become. Walk it. Know joy again. Feel held and loved. Hold on. —Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown ✦

DRIVE-UP WORSHIP 10:30 AM 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 north parking lot (6000 16th Ave SW). Set radios to 87.9 FM and join the service from your car. **Note:** The service broadcast is limited to the parking lot — you will not be able to tune in from home. Follow signs and greeters to park your car.



Worship again at South Seattle College.

Keep it safe! You are encouraged to remain in your car during worship (even if you are vaccinated), except when using restrooms available on site. If you would like to sit beside your car, you are welcome to bring a folding chair. Remember to wear your mask any time you are out of your car and around others.

We'll need 6-8 able-bodied folks to help set up, greet and direct traffic. Contact Info@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org if you can give us a hand that Sunday morning.

If you have time afterward and the weather is good, consider a stroll through the Chinese garden on campus — the peonies and flowering cherries are in bloom! (Visit SeattleChineseGarden.org for directions and information). ✦

JOIN PLYMOUTH READS



Last October Plymouth Reads began with an invitation from the Plymouth Library Committee to read together three books on race in America by three Black American authors.

The first book was *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin. Our next selection is *I'm Still Here* by Austin Channing Brown. Stay informed about plans to begin the book by registering for Plymouth Reads at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org (under the "About" tab, click "Library" and then the link to register). ✦

CELEBRATE DR. ELIZABETH GORDON'S ORDINATION 3 PM MAY 23



Congratulations, Elizabeth!

"I am excited about celebrating this final step with Elizabeth, especially on Pentecost Sunday." —Mike Denton, Conference Minister, Pacific Northwest Conference

Please mark your calendars now for the Ordination Service of Elizabeth Stanhope Gordon, PhD, MDiv, JD. This joyful on-line event is co-sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ and Plymouth Church, United

Church of Christ, Seattle. The Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown is honored and thrilled to preach on the theme of God's Promise. All are welcome!

Date & Time: 3 pm (PST) Sunday, May 23

Location: Via Zoom! To attend, please register to receive the link for the service. Visit PlymouthChurchSeattle.org and click the box on the homepage with Elizabeth's image.

"We love to celebrate the accomplishments of members in our church family! Elizabeth has a fire burning inside of her to offer her many gifts in the healing ministries." —Al Bentley, Moderator, Plymouth Church

Elizabeth will be ordained as a Clinical Spiritual Care Provider at the University of Washington Medical Center. She also serves as a Fellow in Older Adult Spiritual Care at the VA Medical Center on Beacon Hill. With Plymouth, Elizabeth is an immediate past member of Council and a current board member of Plymouth Healing Communities. This church mission provides companionship, housing, and circles of care for people who live with mental illness and housing instability.

Her past pursuits include teaching at Seattle University, advocating for disability rights as a lawyer, and running Uncle Mike's Superlicious Barbecue with her husband, Michael.

We hope you will attend this spirit-filled service that marks the culmination of a long journey of study, discernment, and internships. More importantly, it will open new doorways for Elizabeth to grow and contribute to this dynamic field in which health, aging, and spirit intersect.

Please uphold Elizabeth in your prayers as she completes her final preparations towards ordination and continues in her ministry as a Clinical Spiritual Care Provider. ✨

You're invited to join online, 3 pm May 23. Link to register at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

LEARN MORE ABOUT PLYMOUTH

A class for those who joined as new members in covenant on Easter as well as for those who may be interested in joining us in the future will be held on Tuesday, May 4 on Zoom from 7-8:30 pm. This will be a time to introduce yourself and learn



Class for all interested, 7-8:30 pm Tuesday, May 4

more about Plymouth Church, the United Church of Christ, and progressive Christianity. This class will be led by Rev. Kevin Bechtold and Min. Jennifer Castle. Contact Jennifer at JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for more information and link to the class. ✨

WELCOME, BABY MICHAEL!



Thank you for your support of the Montecinos Family.

Plymouth's Immigration Ministry Team wants you to meet the newest member of the Montecinos family: Michael. He joins his cousins Melany (8 years old) and Keila (17 months), Aunt Karina, and Uncle Jorge, along with his Mom, Mayency, all sharing a very small apartment provided by our partner, Gethsemane Lutheran Church. The whole family is here seeking asylum from gang violence against their family in El Salvador. All are busy learning English and looking forward to the day when they can legally work

here, and hopefully be granted the right to live here. Until then, they are dependent on support from the faith community for daily expenses. Read the note below from Pastor Joanne to learn how you can help to provide a welcome for baby Michael. —Carol Mooney, Immigration Ministry

In the early hours of April 21st, Mayency gave birth to a baby boy. She has named him Michael in recognition of her sense of the archangel's protection for them both in the long journey from El Salvador to Seattle. Mayency's sister Karina was there for labor and delivery. Mother and child are doing well.

In order to surround Mayency and Michael with tangible expressions of support, we've created a way for donations to be made online. Visit SanctuaryDowntownSeattle.com/Asylum to learn more about Mayency's gratitude for our support of her as she arrived in November 2020; scroll down to learn what we're encouraging as gifts at this time.

With a network of people surrounding this family, we extend hospitality in tangible form. Thank you for the ways you have been a part of these expressions of love for families we accompany. —Pastor Joanne Engquist, Gethsemane Lutheran Church ✨

LOVE IN ACTION: CELEBRATING UGANDAN STUDENTS

Part of why I joined Plymouth Church more than 30 years ago is the many opportunities here to put Love in Action through service. I believe God calls us to think and act for



We honor Beacon of Hope students upon graduation.

justice internationally as well as locally. During the last 6 years, through Plymouth's Community Service and Social Action Board, your mission money has funded full, six-year scholarships for 4 students from different villages and towns in Uganda. Today we rejoice as these students: Rhoda, Susan, Erasmus and Kenneth, take their final national exams to graduate from Beacon of Hope Secondary School in Soroti, Uganda.

Scholarship applicants are selected by their village leaders because of their academic potential and leadership skills. Lack of family support ended their schooling after 6th grade. Applicants are interviewed by Pilgrim Africa and admitted to Beacon of Hope School based on the number of scholarships donated each year. The student body is composed equally of girls and boys who receive a STEAM education grounded in Christian faith and values. It is the equivalent of our junior and senior high school years, in a live-in setting where everything is provided: food, books, medical care, extracurricular activities like robotics, soccer, and dance.



Share your story of Love in Action at Plymouth.

This ministry has brought to me personally as a Plymouth member, joy, opportunity, cultural expansion, and deepening of my faith. Louise

Halm and I visited Beacon of Hope 2 years ago and met these students. Their dedication to their studies, even during 7 months of COVID shutdowns, and the hope they bring to their families and the country of Uganda is huge. Achieving their high school education opens a door for them to take the next step toward realizing their dreams. Plymouth, your love made that possible.

They have big dreams — for Kenneth, aerospace engineering; for Rhoda, a teacher or lawyer; Erasmus wants to be an accountant and Susan, a lawyer. High exam scores and scholarship opportunities will determine whether college is open to them. Please keep them and the other graduates in your prayers.

I believe our whole church has benefited from this relationship with Beacon of Hope, even without traveling to Uganda. We have

hosted Denish, Patience, Yasmin, Mercy, Benson and Rebecca, as well as their extraordinary teachers like Moses, when they came to Seattle for fundraising and robotics. They touched our hearts with their stories, their openness, faith, and joy. COVID, and denial of visas prior to that, have brought a halt to their visits here. However, email and photos are how we remind them that we still care, and they are not forgotten.

I believe our mission dollars are well spent educating future leaders of Uganda at Beacon of Hope, even if we never meet them. Louise and I hope that more of you will join us in taking an active interest to keep these scholarships and relationships going. Thank you, Plymouth, for putting your love in action in Uganda! —Carol Mooney ✨

SCAM ALERT!

We continue to get periodic alerts about various persons claiming to be Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown and sending what looks like a personal request from her for financial assistance on a project or



Please be aware and protect your personal information.

private matter. This is not the first time a staff member has been the subject of "spoof emails." Unfortunately, those who respond are often asked for money, or the message has a computer virus attached. This has happened before to Kelle and others. Each time we've taken measures to block senders from our system and when appropriate, reported to the authorities for follow-up.

We have shared before in previous *Herald* mailings that **NO ONE** from the Plymouth Church UCC staff will ever send such a request. 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. ✨

HELP WITH CLINIC AT PLYMOUTH



We are looking for fully-vaccinated Plymouth volunteers who could help at two vaccine clinics that will be held at Plymouth. Both are on Wednesdays: **May 5, 12 pm-6 pm** and **June 2, 12 pm-6 pm**. This will be run by Harborview Medical Center and is not an open clinic; it is focused on essential workers

who have not had vaccine access. Appointments are being handled by Harborview and Plymouth is acting as host to help welcome and direct folks when they are on site. Please let me know if you can help for part or all of the 6-hour slots.

—June Hayakawa-Fung, Faith Community Nurse, JHayakawafung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. ✨