

Pilgrim Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
June 28, 2020

Music licensed for  
streaming/podcast by  
OneLicense

Pilgrim Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
June 28, 2020  
Open and Affirming Sunday

Prelude Prelude in A Minor JS Bach

Greeting and Announcements Rev. Reebee Kavich Girash and Sarah Fuller

Passing of the Peace Rev. Reebee Girash

Call to Worship (Psalm 89) David Nuss

One: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever.

**All: With my mouth, I will declare your faithfulness to this generation and all generations.**

One: Your steadfast love is established forever.

**All: Your faithfulness as firm as the strongest oak, as strong as the heavens themselves.**

One: You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, my servant David”

**All: Following you, we have established our own covenant with you and each other, to affirm the lives of our transgender, bisexual, lesbian, and gay siblings, to invite them into the full life and ministry of your Church, our church.**

One: For you are the glory of their strength, of our strength

**All: By your favor, our burdens are lifted. For your steadfast love endures all things.**

# Opening Hymn      **What a Covenant, NCH 471**

471

What a Covenant

Deut. 33:27

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.

1 What a covenant, what a joy divine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

1 What a \*cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

*Refrain: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.  
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. *[Refrain]*

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing  
last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing  
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Savior near,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. *[Refrain]*

*Refrain*

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from  
on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

## Unison Prayer

**Holy One of Blessing, eternally we co-create ourselves in your love.**

**All companionship orientations;**

**All gender identities and expressions;**

**All ways of having family.**

**We celebrate LGBTQ+ peoples everywhere**

**Knowing that many are still not safe to come out;**

**To be free;**

**To live life abundantly.**

**Heal all who are ill in body, mind, heart or spirit.**

**Bind up all wounds and provide adequate care.**

**Extinguish any stigma people are enduring.**

**We celebrate because everyone should be celebrated.**

**We are your body on earth.**

**May our love and hope be sent on the wings of this prayer**

**To all who need refreshing, affirmation, and love's embrace.**

**May it be so. Amen.**



40 ‘Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

<sup>41</sup>Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; <sup>42</sup>and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.’

Anthem

Colorful Creator

Ruth Duck

Children's Time

Sarah Fuller

Sermon

Rev. Reebee Girash



- 1 O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,  
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.
- 2 O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,  
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.
- 3 We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice  
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.
- 4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.
- 5 O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,  
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

## O for a World

575

*Miriam Therese Winter, 1987**Acts 4:32-35; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 1 Pet. 3:8-12*

1 O for a world where ev - ery-one re - spects each oth - er's ways,  
 2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,  
 3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice  
 4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.  
 5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.  
 Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.  
 That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.  
 Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.  
 Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

## Prayers of the People

### Pastoral Prayer

#### Lord's Prayer (In unison)

**Our Father (Creator), who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Mission Moment

OUT Metrowest (<https://outmetrowest.org/>)

David Nuss

Offertory

Just As I Am

arr. Gordon Young

*If you would like to support Pilgrim Church, you may mail in a check or arrange electronic giving by contacting Dave McClave. Additionally, we now accept donations using a credit card or PayPal on our website under the tab Learning, Growing and Caring and select Giving. Thank you for your support.*

# Closing Hymn    Blessed Be the Tie That Binds NCH 393

- 1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.
- 2 Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
our comforts and our cares.
- 3 We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.
- 4 When we are called to part it gives us inward pain,  
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

## Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

393

*John Fawcett, 1782; alt.*

*Gal. 3:28; 6:2; Col. 3:13-15*

1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;  
2 Be - fore our God we come and pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,  
4 When we are called to part it gives us in - ward pain,

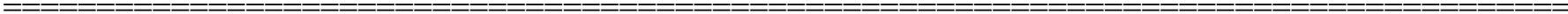
The shar - ing of a com - mon life is like to that a - bove.  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
And of - ten for each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

Benediction

Postlude

Jig Fugue

D. Buxtehude



Source Notes: The call to worship and opening prayer are from the Open and Affirming Coalition of the UCC, [www.openandaffirming.org](http://www.openandaffirming.org).

