



Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
June 6, 2021
Confirmation Service

Music streamed in today's service

Called to Love and Called to Service - composed by
Zachary Girash, led by Max Evrard and Zachary Girash
Guide My Feet - NCH #497
I Was There to Hear Your Borneing Cry - NCH 351
Called as Partners in Christ's Service - NCH 495

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Today's service will be recorded.

Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
June 6, 2021
Outdoor Confirmation Service - 2:30 pm

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Sarah Jane Fuller

Call to Worship

Sarah Jane Fuller and Madeleine Clark

One: Come, gather together, this is a day of rejoicing.

One: Come, draw near, here we listen to the promises of our faith.

All: Thank you, God, for the waters of baptism and the fire of confirmation.

One: Come, you are welcome here, this is a community of care, a place of hope.

One: Come, all you beloved children of God!

All: Come, let us worship God together!

Hymn **Called to Love and Called to Service** - composed by Zachary Girash, led by Max Evrard and Zachary Girash

Called to Love and Called to Service

Confirmation project

Zac Girash

1 Called to love and called to service called by you our God
Called to practice love and kindness with compassion broad
Called to walk the path of justice however hard it may be
Called to make this world a better world with the guide of thee

♩ = 100

Called to love and called to ser-vice called by you our God
Lord, though you have ma-ny as-pects, for-most you are love
Called to do good in this wor-ld by our love of you
We are trav-el-ers on a jour-ney all our whole lives through

2 Lord, though you have many aspects, foremost you are love
When we act with love, we spread the love that you are of
And though the path of love may often be not the easiest way
We know your help is always there each minute of every day

Called to pract-ice love and kind-ness with com-pas-sion broad
When we act with love, we spread the love that you are of
For do-ing good is love, which is what you ask us to do
In our love, in oth-ers' ser-vice, in our faith in you

3 Called to do good in this world by our love of you
For doing good is love, which is what you ask us to do
Our world's state is far from perfect, and that of its people too
But we can fix at least some of it with the help of you

Called to walk the path of just-ice how-ev-er hard it may be
And though the path of love may of-ten be not the ea-si-est way
Our wor-ld's state is far from per-fect, and that of its peo-ple too
When we turn a way from lov-ing, when from your road we stray

4 We are travelers on a journey all our whole lives through
In our love, in others' service, in our faith in you
When we turn away from loving, when from your road we stray
That you would gently guide us back to your holy way, we pray.

Called to make this world a bet-er world with the guide of thee
We know your help is al-ways there each min-ute of ev-ery day
But we can fix at least some of it with the help of you
That you would gent-ly guide us back to your ho-ly way, we pray

Luke 10:25-37

25 Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus.[a] “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 26 He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” 27 He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” 28 And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

29 But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” 30 Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

35 The next day he took out two denarii,[b] gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ 36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” 37 He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

The Sacrament of Baptism

Zachary Allen Girash

Zachary would like to thank his Godparent, Eric Deckert.

Congregational Promise

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support and care to Zachary as he lives and grows in Christ?

People: **We promise our love, support and care.**

Hymn **Guide My Feet** - NCH #497

DISCIPLESHIP

Guide My Feet

497

African-American traditional; alt.

Heb. 12:1-15

1 Guide my feet while I run this race,
guide my feet while I run this race,
guide my feet while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

1 Guide my feet while I run this race, guide my feet
2 Hold my hand while I run this race, hold my hand
3 I'm your child while I run this race, I'm your child
4 Stand by me while I run this race, stand by me

2 Hold my hand while I run this race,
hold my hand while I run this race,
hold my hand while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

Yes, my God.

3 I'm your child while I run this race
I'm your child while I run this race,
I'm your child while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

while I run this race, guide my feet while I run this race,
while I run this race, hold my hand while I run this race,
while I run this race, I'm your child while I run this race,
while I run this race, stand by me while I run this race,

Yes, my God.

4 Stand by me while I run this race,
Stand by me while I run this race,
stand by me while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

For I don't want to run this race in vain.

The Rite of Confirmation of Baptism

Isabella Stevens

Madeleine Clark

Mairi Morrison

Sydney R. Stevens

Zachary Allen Girash

Isabella wishes to thank her mentor, Julia Clark.

Madeleine wishes to thank her mentor, Mary Mackie.

Mairi wishes to thank her mentor, Susan Moffitt.

Sydney wishes to thank her mentor, Steve Van Evera.

Zachary wishes to thank his mentor, Ed Bond.

Sharing our Interpretation of the UCC Statement of Faith

Mairi Morrison and Isabella Stevens

Sharing our Confirmation Projects

Mairi Morrison, Isabella Stevens, Madeleine Clark

Confirmation Liturgy

The Congregation's Welcome

We welcome you with joy into adult membership of Pilgrim Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. We promise to walk with you on our journey as Christians as we share together the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. May you always live in the knowledge that God is your refuge and strength. And by the power of the Holy Spirit, may you walk in the ways of Jesus all of your days. Amen.

Presentation of Confirmation Certificates and Ringing of the Church Bell

Prayer of Blessing - The Congregation

By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We celebrate your presence in this household of faith. Thanks be to God for making all things new. Amen.

Hymn I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry - NCH #351

1 I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
I'll be there in case you wander off and find where demons dwell.

2 When you found the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living God, to whom you now belong.
Should you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

3 In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

4 I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

351

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

John Ylvisaker, 1985; alt

Unison

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
2 When you found the won - der of the Word, I was
3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too
4 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the
old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you
there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you

were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.
liv - ing God, to whom you now be - long.
through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold. *St. 4, end*

I was there when you were but a child, with a
Should you find some-one to share your time and you
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you

faith to suit you well; I'll be there in case you
join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

G A7 D to beginning

wan - der off and find where de - mons dwell.
vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

Adding to the Church Record Book

Benediction

Rev. Reebee Kavich Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

Closing Hymn **Called As Partners In Christ's Service** - NCH #495

DISCIPLESHIP

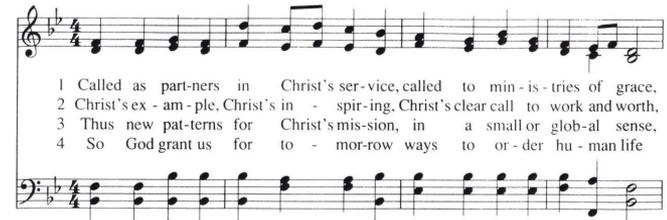
Called as Partners in Christ's Service

495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22

1 Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace.
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.



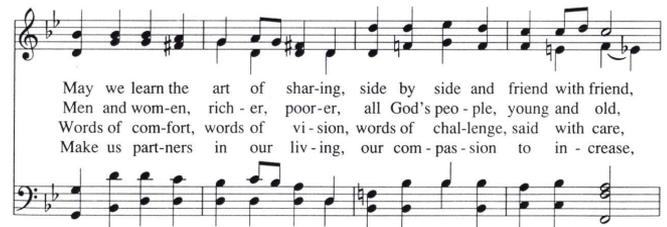
1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life

2 Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people young and old,
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.



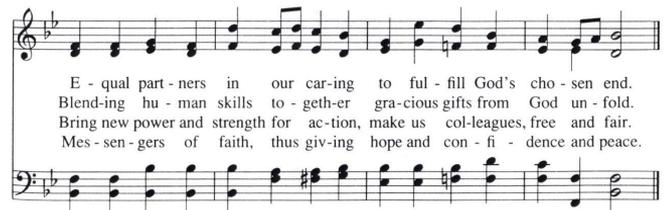
We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-ter-ing, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con- quers strife.

3 Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a smaller global sense,
Help us hear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,

4 So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.



E-equal part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
Blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

An Adaptation of the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith by the Pilgrim Confirmation Class of 2021

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us through our brother Jesus, whose footsteps we walk in, and whose word is known to us in this way:

God seeks in holy love to guide all people in the pursuit of purpose and calling in the ways of kindness, compassion, justice, and above all, love.

God calls the universe into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God has come to us through Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, to teach the people to feed and to heal, to help and to encourage; conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God, as the Creator, calls on humankind to share in the mission to sustain all of Earth's creation; respecting the land, and all creatures that live within it; protecting and nourishing it, and advocating for its preservation; celebrating in all its beauty, and the bountiful sustenance it provides in return.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be followers in the service to all of creation, to spread God's endless love to all the world and resist the powers of evil; to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in passion and glory.

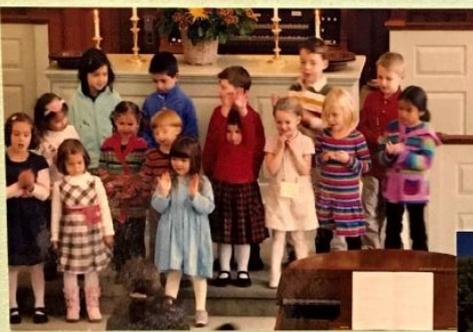
God inspires the best in us, and wishes the best for us, watching over us with love and encouragement to make positive decisions in our daily lives.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, races, genders, sexual orientations, learning differences, and physical abilities. Everyone is welcome, and everyone is beloved.

God promises to all who follow the Gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in the realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God.

Amen.



"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."
-Joshua 1:9



On the left there are pictures that represent my faith journey in the past and on the right there are pictures of what I want my faith journey to continue to look like. In the middle I put Pilgrim because it brings everything together and without it I wouldn't have made all of these memories. Pilgrim is a physical place and community where God is present and it helps me remember God is with me wherever I go.



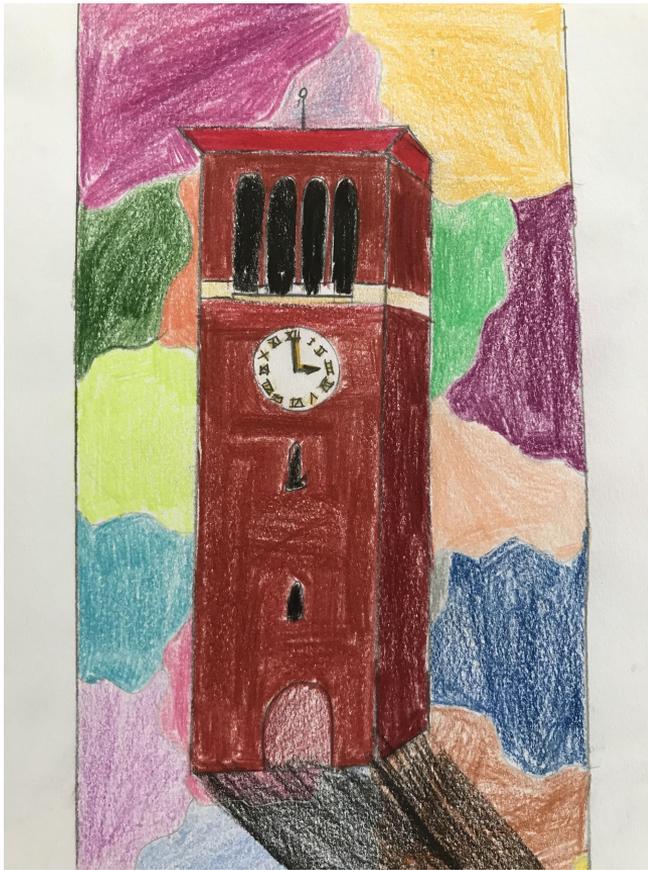


By Isabella Stevens

Confirmation Reflection – Sydney Stevens

Throughout the course of confirmation, we have covered many topics. In our youth group meetings, we often had adult guests come in and share their knowledge about certain topics. We have talked about how science and faith can go hand in hand, social justice, climate change, and many other issues. We also had mentors to help us on our journey. Having mentors allowed us to dive deeper into topics of interest and write our path. During confirmation, the thing that has stuck with me the most is the teachings of Jesus and how they still ring true today. A Bible passage that I often look back on is the parable of the Good Samaritan. On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 26 “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” 27 He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’[a]; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’[b]” 28 “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” 29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” 30 In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii[c] and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ 36 “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” 16

37 The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.” There are many important things that we can take from this. A few things are the First and Second most important commandments. “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all you mind’ [a]; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ But what does it mean to love your neighbor? Who is considered a neighbor? A neighbor is anyone and everyone. To love your neighbor as yourself is to treat all people with kindness and compassion. In doing this you are loving God because you are showing love to all his creation. Another thing I want to highlight are the actions of the Priest and the Levite. Both of them did not stop to help the wounded man because it was considered unclean. They were just trying to follow the purity laws in order to please God. But sometimes that puts us in a hard position. Are we to follow the rules of our religion and leave a wounded man on the side of the road, or offer help in a way that’s possibly unfaithful. Jesus answers this question. “Love your neighbor as yourself.” The priest was following the rules but in doing this he was not showing love to the man who was mugged. Sometimes the rules are contradictory; but when in doubt, always choose love and you will do the right thing. The last thing that is important is that Jesus told the story in a way that framed the Samaritan in good lighting and held him on a high pedestal. Back in those times Jews and Samaritans did not get along and both groups equally demonized each other. By telling us that the Samaritan was the hero, he teaches us that goodness can come from all people. I am so grateful to have had this opportunity to get confirmed. I would like to thank Mr. Van Evera for being my mentor, and Sarah and Rev. Reebee for all their hard work in helping us get confirmed. I would also like to thank fellow pilgrims for building this community where it’s okay to ask questions and make mistakes. This environment has allowed for so much learning and growth. I wouldn’t be who I am today without Pilgrim Congregational Church. I can’t wait to see where the rest of my faith journey takes me.



Chautauqua



Nana



Pilgrim

By Madeleine Clark