



**Pilgrim Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
Service of Worship – December 25, 2022
CHRISTMAS DAY**

**MUSIC IN TODAY'S SERVICE
LICENSED FOR
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- PRELUDE: Angels We Have Heard on High
- OPENING HYMN: Joy to the World
- ANTHEM: Love Came Down at Christmas by John Rutter
- OFFERTORY: I Will Sing With the Spirit by John Rutter
- POSTLUDE: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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Today's service will be recorded.



PILGRIM
Congregational Church



**Welcome to Pilgrim Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
A Welcoming, Open and Affirming Congregation**

Mission Statement

*A welcoming home to all
spiritual seekers
Making a difference in our world,
By fusing our Christian faith with
everyday life and
Serving God by serving others.*

Statement of Welcome

*We honor the Biblical call to love one another as God
first loved us. We welcome into the full life and
ministry of the church all people of any race,
nationality, religious background, educational
background, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation,
marital status, economic status, and physical, mental,
and emotional abilities.*

Children at Pilgrim

Children are an important part of our worshipping community. We try to make them feel at home! All are welcome. Professional childcare for infants and toddlers is available in Pilgrim Hall from 10:15 to the end of the service.

Visual and Hearing Aids

Hearing devices may be picked up from the table in the narthex.
Large Print bulletins and
Sermons texts are available.

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC | Service of Worship
December 25, 2022 | Christmas Day

PRELUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High
Recording by John and Zac Girash

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Reebee Girash

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Reebee Girash

One: When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

All: God is there.

One: When Jesus is presented at the temple,

All: God is there.

One: When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

All: God is there.

One: When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple,

All: God is there.

One: This very morning,

All: God is here.

One: In the future we cannot see,
All: God is there.
All: Let us worship God!

UNISON PRAYER

Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus.

Shine in our lives.

Shine in the Word now read,

Shine in the hymns now sung

and we, children of your light, shining for all people, will follow. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Joy to the World

Recorded by Benjamin Gline Allen for SNEUCC

**1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

SCRIPTURE READING

RESPONSE READING

Psalm 98

One: Praise the Lord!

All: O sing to the LORD a new song, for God has done marvelous things.

One: God has remembered God's steadfast love and faithfulness!

All: All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

One: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

All: Praise the Lord!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is

born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”
¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

ANTHEM

Love Came Down at Christmas by John Rutter
Recorded by the Pilgrim Church Choir

POEM

First Coming by Madeleine L'Engle

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.
He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.
He did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his Light would not go out.
He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.
We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Reebee Girash

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

OFFERTORY

I Will Sing With the Spirit by John Rutter
Recorded by the Pilgrim Church Choir

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Reebee Girash

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Reebee Girash

God of Vision,

Take these offerings of money and turn them into vision;

vision of all people fed,

vision of all people safe,

vision of all people housed,

vision of all people educated. Amen

*BENEDICTION

You have seen the Savior. Go now in peace.

Be the light to enlighten everyone you meet, and let your life reflect the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen

POSTLUDE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Recorded by Marilyn Kendrix for SNEUCC

*Please be in a posture of praise.

SOURCE NOTES

The Call to Worship and Prayer of Dedication are by Rev. Dr. Robert George included in UCC Worship Ways. The Unison Prayer and the Benediction are by Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian. Today's music is provided by the Pilgrim Church Choir and by the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ.

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www.PilgrimCongregational.org | Sunday Worship 10:30 am

