



"Elements of Peace," Kelowna, British Columbia. Photo by Marcia Nelson Pedde

Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rally Sunday
September 13, 2020

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United Church of Christ
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Rally Sunday
The Sacrament of Baptism and Communion

Prelude Morning Prelude Robert J. Powell

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Reebee Kavich Girash and Sarah Fuller

Call to Worship Jeff Boehm

We gather from the North, South, East and West.

We gather from Lexington, Billerica and Waltham, Woburn, and Concord.

We gather from New Hampshire and Texas, Chatauqua and Northampton.

We gather as one community, to worship God.

Passing of the Peace Rev. Reebee Girash

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
 Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away.
 Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

2 All thy works with joy surround thee, Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
 Stars and angels sing around thee, Center of unbroken praise.
 Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
 Chanting bird and flowing fountain, Call us to rejoice in thee.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee 8

Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933 HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.
Arr. from Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, Earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
 4 Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er, All who live in love are thine;
 Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
 Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in thee.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di - vine.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life. A - men.

**Holy God,
in your realm of glory
the poor are blessed,
the hungry filled,
and every tear is wiped away.
Strengthened by this vision,
may we follow in the way of holiness
that your Son made known in life and death. Amen.**

The Baptism of Juliette Nadine Snipe, child of Matthew and Jennifer Snipe



The congregation makes our promises:

We receive and welcome Juliette as a new person in Christ. We rejoice in her presence among us, and we support Jennifer and Matthew, her parents, in the covenant which they made on her behalf. We enfold Juliette in our love, praying that she will always accept the grace that she has received in baptism, and that together, with her, we shall grow in faith and love.

We give you thanks, Holy One, for your child Juliette, and for the grace present in water and the Holy Spirit. As you enfold her in your arms of love, you make her our sister in Christ. Help Juliette grow strong and secure in the fellowship of your faithful disciples. Give to this newly baptized child, strength for life's journey, courage in times of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life: through Jesus Christ who makes us one. Amen.

Hymn **Child of Blessing, Child of Promise** NCH 325 verses 1&4

1 Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.

4 Child of God, your loving Parent,
learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
trust and love God more than all.

HOLY BAPTISM

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

325

Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1981



1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir-it's sign;
2 Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion, love's cre-a-tion, loved in-deed!
3 Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came.
4 Child of God your lov-ing Par-ent, learn to know whose child you are.



With this wa-ter God has sealed you un-to love and grace di-vine.
Fresh from God, re-fresh our spir-its, in-to joy and laugh-ter lead.
Back to God we hum-bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.
Grow to laugh and sing and wor-ship, trust and love God more than all.



Ronald Cole-Turner, a teacher of theology, is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. He is an award-winning author on the interface of science and religion.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
Attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660-1716), in
Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Anthem

Ukuthula

Meditation

Rev. Reebee Girash

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.

Call to Offering

Sarah Fuller

Offertory

A Celebration of Praise

James Denton

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Prayer of Dedication

Sarah Fuller

May our gifts become symbols of our intention to minister with God and to serve all whom God loves. Amen.

Invitation and Communion Prayer

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

As we are worshipping online, you are invited to bring bread and juice to worship on Communion Sundays so that we may observe the feast together.

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Grace

Words of Institution

Communion Prayer

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessings for this Time

Blessing Backpacks and Devices

Jeff Boehm

Blessings Students and Teachers

Sarah Fuller

Blessing the Zooms

Max Evrard

Blessing for Face Masks

Rev. Reebee Girash

Postlude

Allegro from Organ Concerto 13

GF Handel

Source Notes: The opening prayer is from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers and the Blessings at the end of the service include blessings by Sarah Weaver and Mary Luti.