

Pilgrim's Online Worship will begin at 10:30. If you are reading this message you are in the right place!

While you wait, download the order of worship and hymns [HERE](#)

Welcome to our early folks! Our worship leaders are muted as we continue to prepare.

You may use the chat function in Zoom to greet one another now. This service will be recorded. Please stay muted for now.



Image: <https://pixabay.com/photos/st-francis-of-assisi-italy-statue-5295249/>

# Pilgrim Congregational Church United Church of Christ October 4, 2020

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Pilgrim Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

October 4, 2020

World Communion Sunday/Neighbors in Need Offering/The Blessing of the Animals

Prelude Werde munter, mein Gemute J. Pachelbel

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Reebee Kavich Girash and Sarah Fuller

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 148) Nick Zorn

All God's family, come and praise our Creator!

We come with eyes to see, and ears to flap and hear.

All creatures lift your voices in singing, meowing and barking.

We come to celebrate God's marvelous creation!

With dogs and cats, hamsters and snakes,

We come to thank the Giver of all life!

God, our Creator, help us to love all creatures as our kin,  
all animals as our partners on Earth, all birds as messengers of praise,  
all small beings as expressions of your mysterious creativity and all buzzing,  
bubbling, cheeping, yowling things as voices of hope. Amen

# Opening Hymn    **As We Gather at Your Table**    NCH 332

332

As We Gather at Your Table

*Mat. 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24*

*Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989*

**1** As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

**2** Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

**3** Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

## Genesis 1:24-25 (The Inclusive Bible)

24 Then God said, “Earth: bring forth all kinds of living soul—cattle, things that crawl, and wild animals of all kinds!” So it was: 25 God made all kinds of wild animals, and cattle, and everything that crawls on the ground, and God saw that this was good.

## Matthew 5:1-9 (NRSV)

- 1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.
- 2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
- 3 ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 ‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- 5 ‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- 6 ‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- 7 ‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
- 8 ‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- 9 ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

The Blessing of the Animals

Sermon

“There are Angels Among Us”

Rev. Reebee Girash

Passing the Peace

Sarah Fuller

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Neighbors in Need

Mona Roy

*Today we are highlighting a special UCC offering. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. To give to Neighbors in Need, use Pilgrim's online giving at <https://pilgrimcongregational.org/learning-growing-caring/giving/> or send a check to the church. Be sure to note your gift is for Neighbors in Need. We appreciate your support for Pilgrim Church and for the ministries of the wider church.*

## Offertory

Max Evrard and Elena Snow

*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.*

## Prayer of Dedication

Sarah Fuller

God, make us instruments of your peace:

where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

Bless these gifts that they may be used to do your will. Amen.

# Communion Hymn **Come My Way, My Truth, My Life** NCH 331

## Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

331

*George Herbert, 1633; alt.*

*John 8:12; 14:1-7; 15:11*

*Unison*

1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us  
2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a light as shows a  
3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a joy as none can

breath; Such a truth as ends all strife;  
feast; Such a feast as mends in length;  
move; Such a love as none can part;

such a life as con- quers death.  
such a strength as makes a guest.  
such a heart as joys in love.

1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
such a way as gives us breath;  
Such a truth as ends all strife;  
such a life as conquers death.

2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:  
such a Light as shows a feast;  
Such a feast as mends in length;  
such a strength as makes a guest.

3. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
such a joy as none can move;  
Such a love as none can part;  
such a heart as joys in love.



## The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation (Germany)

Confession and The Lord's Prayer (Chile)

**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.**

Assurance of of Grace (China)

Words of Institution

Communion Prayer (Guatemala)

Sharing of the Elements (South Africa)

*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 Thanksgiving (Mexico)

We give you thanks O Lord, for all food that has arrived at our table from your generosity. Bless the people who have made it possible, from the cultivation of the earth until it arrived to us. Give bread to those who are hungry, and to those who have bread give us hunger for you. Amen.

# Closing Hymn The King of Love My Shepherd Is PH 80

1 The King of love my Shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his, And he is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul he leadeth,  
And where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love he sought me,  
And on his shoulder gently laid, And home rejoicing brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.

5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight, Thy unction, grace bestoweth,  
And O what transport of delight From thy pure chalice floweth!

5 And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise Within thy house forever.

## The King of Love My Shepherd Is

80

Second Tune

Based on Psalm 23

Henry W. Baker, 1832-1877

ST. COLUMBA 87.8.J

Ancient Irish Melody

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a treble and bass clef. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with a bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate syllable placement. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight,  
Thy unction grace bestoweth,  
And O what transport of delight  
From thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
Within thy house forever.

## Benediction

Sarah Fuller

May the God of Life, be your guide on the road every day, be your refuge in times of uncertainty and be your rest in times of fatigue.

May the God of Life, strengthen you when you feel weak, comfort you when you feel sad and hug you when you feel alone. May the God of Life, who loves you and knows you, cover you with the tenderness of a Mother. Forever. Amen. (Argentina)

## Postlude

Postlude Fugue in A minor

JS Bach

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Source Notes: The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer are from Season of Creation's Blessing of the Animals.

The Prayer of dedication is adapted from the Prayer of St. Francis.

The Communion Liturgy is adapted from materials from the global Christian community and compiled by Maren Tirabassi - <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com>.

The image in the bulletin is a photo of a statue of Francis of Assisi blessing a tiny creature.

<https://pixabay.com/photos/st-francis-of-assisi-italy-statue-5295249>