

Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
The Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love
December 20, 2020

Music streamed in today's service

In the Bleak Mid Winter - arr. Pam Turner

Gentle Joseph NCH 105

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus - PH 103

What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest PH140

Wait for the Lord - Jacques Berthier

Joy to the World - PH 130

The Bleak Mid Winter/Away in a Manger - arr. Phil Perksin

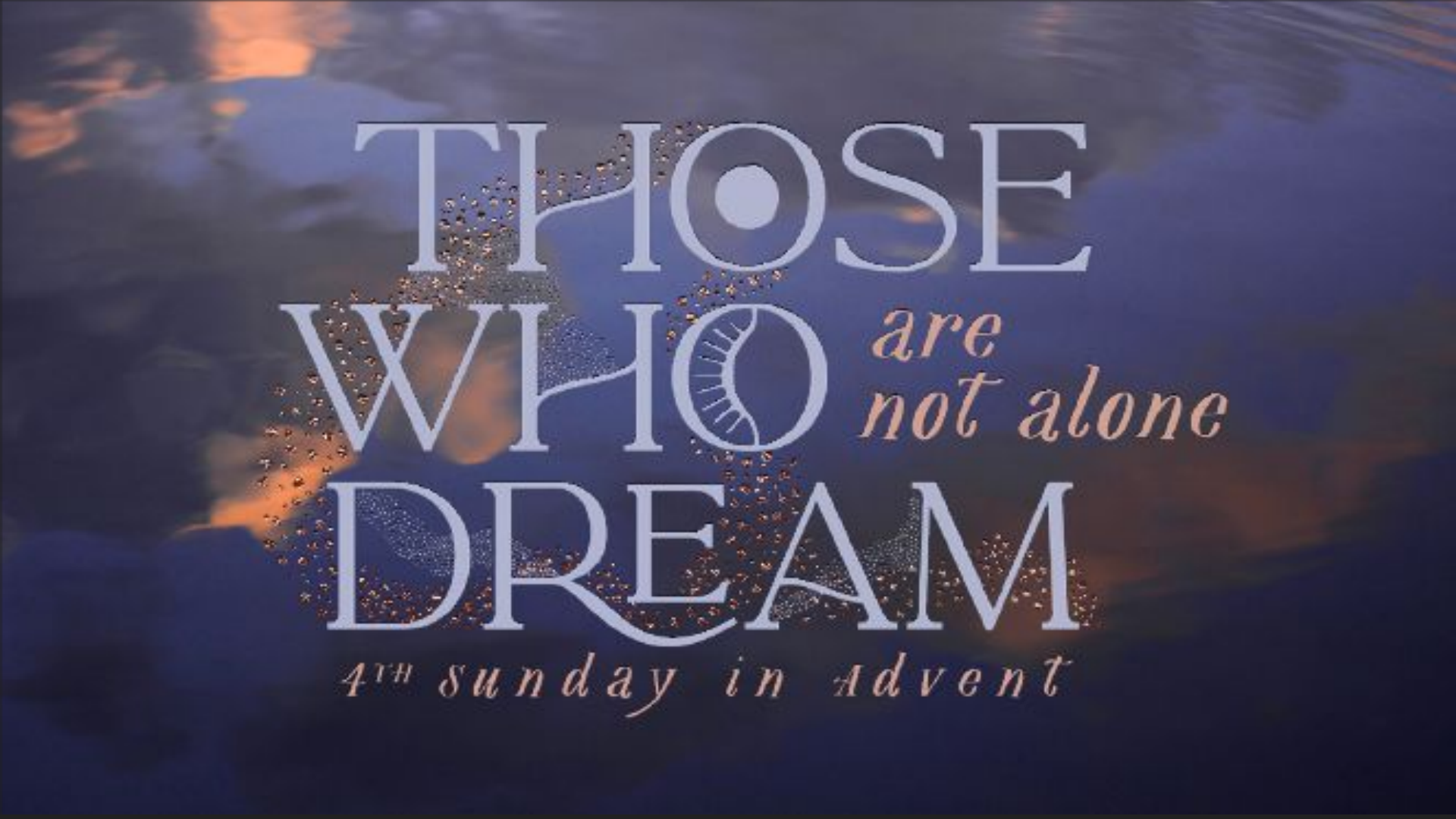
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Today's service will be recorded.

Image: "A Dream Confirmed"

Lauren Wright Pittman, A Sanctified Art





THOSE
WHO *are*
not alone
DREAM

4th Sunday in Advent

Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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Prelude In the Bleak Mid Winter arr. Pam Turner

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Reebee Kavich Girash

Call to Worship David Nuss

One: I knew joy, but when I heard the laugh of my child,

All: Suddenly, joy was overflowing.

One: I knew love, but when you held my hand,

All: Suddenly, love was overflowing.

One: I knew God, but when you showed me grace,

when you forgave me,

when you loved me,

when you raised me,

All: Suddenly, God was overflowing.

One: So, let us worship Holy God together

As a reminder that God is here and we are never alone.

All: This is community.

One: This is the body of Christ.

All: Welcome home.

Opening Hymn Gentle Joseph NCH 105

1 “Gentle Joseph, Joseph dear,
 stay with me, for the baby’s near;
 God will surely your goodness hear,
 as you will love this new-born child,” says Mary.

2 “Gladly Mary, Mary mine,
 I will cradle the child divine;
 Here will heaven and earth combine,
 for you will bear God’s child, O dearest Mary.”

3 “Peace to all and God’s good-will,”
 heaven and earth with this song will fill;
 Soon will God, in the evening still,
 be born in Bethlehem, the child of Mary.

Unison
 Eb Bb/Eb Eb

1 “Gen - tle Jo - seph, Jo - seph dear, stay with me, for the
 2 “Glad - ly Mar - y, Mar - y mine, I will cra - dle the
 3 “Peace to all and God’s good-will,” heaven and earth with this

Bb/Eb Fm Fm7 Bb7

ba - by’s near; God will sure - ly your good - ness hear, as
 child di - vine; Here will heav - en and earth com - bine, for
 song will fill; Soon will God, in the eve - ning still, be

Gm Cm Fm/Ab Bb Ab/Eb Eb

you will love this new - born child,” says Mar - y.
 you will bear God’s child, O dear - est Mar - y.”
 born in Beth - le - hem, the child of Mar - y.

Advent Candle Lighting -- Elizabeth Chen and Richard Edmiston

A: I dream of music that makes my heart swell.

B: I dream of trees that take my breath away.

A: I dream of sunrises that wrap me in light.

B: I dream of family dinners that feel like home.

A: I dream of church services that give me hope.

B: I dream of love as the default.

A: So today, as we draw near to Christmas day, we light the candle of love.

B: May this light burn bright as a reminder that God is here and God is love.

A: We are not alone. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

Advent Candle Song Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus - PH 103 v. 4

4 By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne. Amen.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 103

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
Melody attr. to Christian F. Wilt, 1660-1716
"Psalmodia Sacra," Gotha, 1715

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth thou art;
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;

From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in thee.
Dear de-sire of ev-ery na-tion, Joy of ev-ery long-ing heart.
Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.
By thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it Raise us to thy glo-ri-ous throne. A-men.

ADVENT

Holy God,
Before you could speak, you were speaking—
Leaping in wombs, kicking, stretching, jumping for joy.
You have always found a way to show up in our midst,
Particularly on our fearful or lonely days.
So today, as we crack open our Bibles,
Fluttering through these old beloved pages,
We ask that you would move again.
Stir in us.
Speak to us.
Fill us with the Holy Spirit.
And if we are not able to hear your Word clearly,
Then give us Elizabeths
Who will point out your presence in delight and joy.
Before you could speak, you were speaking,
So here and now, Creator God, we are listening.
Amen.

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' 34 Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' 35 The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.' 38 Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

Anthem

Come Emmanuel

Dot Bowe

Children's Message

Sarah Fuller

Hymn What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest PH140

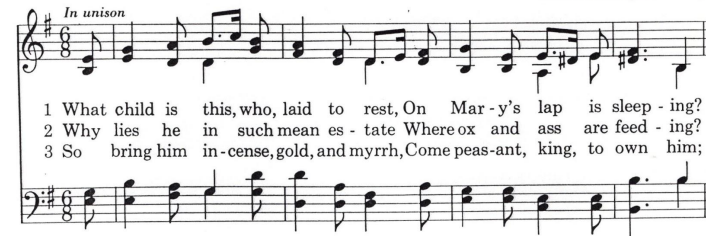
What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest

William C. Dix, 1837-1898

GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7, with Refrain
Traditional English Melody

1 What Child is this, who laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

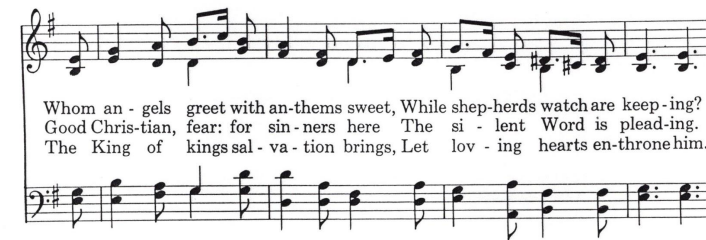
In unison



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, Come peas - ant, king, to own him;

*Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste, to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mary.*

2 Why lies he in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.

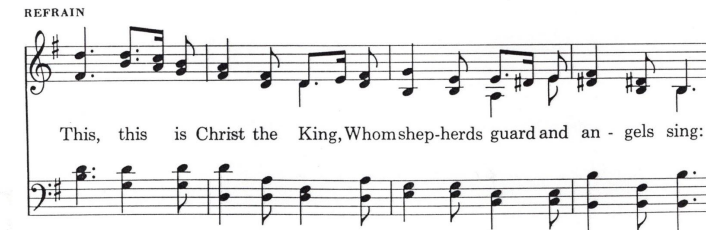


Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear: for sin - ners here The si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, Let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

[Refrain]

3 So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone him.

REFRAIN



This, this is Christ the King, Whomshep - herds guard and an - gels sing:



Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y.

Sermon

Rev. Reebee Girash

Passing the Peace

Sarah Fuller

Prayers of the People

Rev. Reebee Girash

Pastoral Prayer

The 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

Sandy Gardiner

Offertory

Wait for the Lord
Lisa and Sam Boehm

Jacques Berthier

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Prayer of Dedication

Sarah Fuller

Incarnate God, each day that you wore human flesh, you gave lovingly - without reserve. Today, let us follow your great example. Receive our expressions of love: our offerings, our love of God and neighbor, our service and our prayers. Amen.

Closing Hymn Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come PH 130

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.

3 He rules the world with truth and grace,
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of his righteousness,
 And wonders of his love,
 And wonders of his love,
 And wonders, wonders, of his love. Amen.

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

ANTIOCH C.M.

Attr. to Georg F. Handel, 1685-1759
 Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns: Let men their
 3 He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

And heaven and na - ture sing, And
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 And won - ders of his love, And

sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love. A - men.

heaven and na - ture sing.
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of his love,

Benediction

Rev. Reebee Girash

Postlude

The Bleak Mid Winter/Away in a Manger

arr. Phil Perksin

Source Notes: The Prayer of Dedication is by Kwasi I Kena, published in the Africana Worship Book. All the other prayers today are by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org and are part of Sanctified Art's Advent and Christmas 2020 materials. The artwork used in the bulletin is from the same package.