



Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14, 2021

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“Create in me a clean heart oh God, and put a new and right spirit within me.”
Sometimes we must empty and clean out all of the mire out of our hearts and lives for God’s renewal. We must muster the courage to take an honest look at our own hearts. Much like the tree our hearts are misshapen, rough, and sometimes hollow. One’s spirit can be bruised and broken cause by external forces and internal choices.

Yet like our own hearts, the misshapeness of the tree yields to openness; there is still beauty in the rough edges; in the hollow shadows God’s light penetrates and shines through.

Like the tiny light in the hollow of this tree, God reminds us that even in our hollow places there is “God-residue” left. There is always enough left in order to give God praise. There is enough light to be fully restored into joy. The God-residue or light that resides within us reminds us of God’s faithfulness, kindness, mercy, forgiveness, and unfailing love. It is when we have cleaned up and cleaned out our hearts that we are able to connect with the light of God that dwells within us.

-- *Olusola Tribble*

Music streamed in today’s service

Schnitterliedchen - Robert Schumann
God Loved the World - New Century Hymnal #208
Hosea - Dave McClave and Stephanie Shore
Precious Lord Take My Hand - New Century Hymnal #472
My Song is Love Unknown New Century Hymnal #222
What Wondrous Love is This? arr. John Carter

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Today’s service will be recorded.

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Prelude

Schnitterliedchen

Robert Schumann

Greeting and Announcements

Sarah Fuller

Call to Worship (from Psalm 107)

Bob Beckwith

O give thanks to God! For God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of God say so -

We whom God has redeemed from trouble.

Let us thank God for God's steadfast love,

For God's wonderful works to human kind.

For God satisfies the thirsty,

The hungry, God fills with good things.

We give thanks to God.

Opening Hymn **God Loved the World** - New Century Hymnal #208

208

John 3:16-17

God Loved the World

*Heiliges Lippen und Herzens Opfer, Stettin, 1778
Transl. August Crull, 1845; alt.*

1 God loved the world, and loving gave
a wondrous gift, the lost to save,
That all who would in Christ believe
should everlasting life receive.

2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
who was made flesh and suffered death;
All who confide in Christ alone
are built on this chief cornerstone.

3 If you are sick, if death is near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer;
Christ Jesus saves us all from death;
that is the firmest ground of faith.

4 Be of good cheer, for God in Christ
forgives the flock, by sin enticed,
and justified by Jesus' blood,
your baptism grants the highest good.

1 God loved the world, and lov - ing gave
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith,
3 If you are sick, if death is near,
4 Be of good cheer, for God in Christ

a won - drous gift, the lost to save,
who was made flesh and suf - fered death;
this truth your trou - bled heart can cheer;
for - gives the flock, by sin en - ticed,

That all who would in Christ be - lieve
All who con - fide in Christ a - lone;
Christ Je - sus saves us all from death;
And jus - ti - fied by Je - sus' blood,

should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
that is the firm - est ground of faith.
your bap - tism grants the high - est good.

Prayer of Confession

Create in us clean hearts, O God. Hear our honest confessions: we have avoided the truth; we have been unkind; we have lashed out; we have taken advantage of injustice. We lay bare our conscience before you, and pray for your grace. Forgive us and call us back to you, to your will and your ways. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Scripture Readings

Bob Beckwith

Job 2:11-13 Now when Job's three friends heard of all these troubles that had come upon him, each of them set out from his home - Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They met together to go and console and comfort him. When they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him, and they raised their voices and wept aloud; they tore their robes and threw dust upon their heads. They sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

Job 16: 1-3, “Then Job answered, ‘I have heard many such things, miserable comforters are you all. Have windy words no limit?’”

John 19:25 “Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.”

Children's Message

Sarah Fuller

Anthem

Hosea

Dave McClave and Stephanie Shore

Sermon

“Being Present”

Susan Moffitt

Passing the Peace

Rev. Reebee Girash

Prayers of the People

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.

Let love flow.

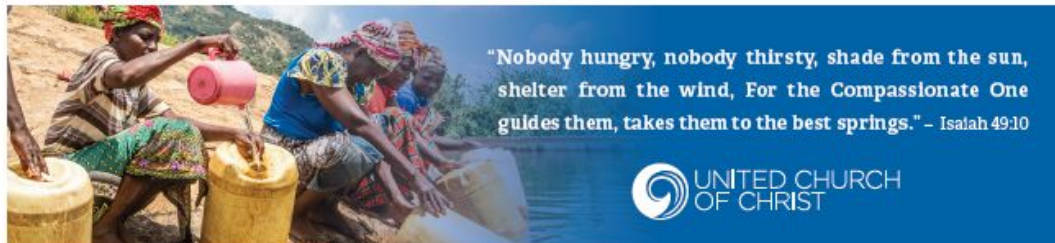
Joshua Mumbi used to spend much of his time collecting water.

When it rained, he would collect water running in the streets. Often he would spend much of the day walking to a local water source and carrying back buckets. Sometimes he would even travel to the water source with his family the night before, spending the night there so that they could bring back water in the morning. His mother, Josephine, did not like to make the journey alone — it was not safe.

There was not much time to go to school. And when he did go to school, Joshua Mumbi was very tired during the day. It was hard to focus; it was hard to learn.

But thanks to your gifts through One Great Hour of Sharing, Joshua Mumbi and his family — and all of the other families in his village — have a safe, clean water source close to home. With a new solar-powered borehole well, they have water for cooking, water for drinking, water for bathing and keeping things clean and sanitary. Because you **let love flow**, water brought new life to a whole community. Now children like Joshua Mumbi and his siblings can go to school every day, and a whole world of opportunity is open to them. Now the whole community is empowered to provide for their needs, plan for their future, and pursue new opportunities for growth.

So that more communities can experience this new life, please give generously, and **let love flow**.



Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Precious Lord

Max Evrard & 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.

Doxology (#515 Red)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

or

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Prayer of Dedication

Bob Beckwith

Source of Life, Source of Love, Source of Strength: Bless our gifts of time, talent, and treasure, that by them we might be a part of the building up of your reign in this world. Amen.

Closing Hymn **My Song is Love Unknown** New Century Hymnal #222

- 1 My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me:
Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake my God should take frail
flesh and die? My God should take frail flesh and die?
- 2 God left the richest throne salvation to bestow;
But Christ as flesh and bone the world refused to know.
But, O my Friend, my Friend indeed, who at my need did
life expend; who at my need did life expend.
- 3 Sometimes they threw down palms and sweetest praises sang.
Hosannas and glad psalms through streets and markets rang.
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath, for blood and death they
thirst and cry; for blood and death they thirst and cry.
- 4 What has my Sovereign done? What makes this rage and spite?
Christ gave new strength to run, restored the gift of sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these themselves displease, and
'gainst Christ rise; themselves displease, and 'gainst Christ rise.
- 5 I sing my plain belief, one song my heart outpours;
Never was pain nor grief, never was love like yours.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could
gladly spend; I all my days could gladly spend.

My Song Is Love Unknown

222

*Samuel Crossman, 1664; alt.**2 Cor. 5:15-19; Heb. 5:7-10*

1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
2 God left the rich - est throne sal - va - tion to be - stow;
3 Some - times they threw down palms and sweet - est prais - es sang.
4 What has my Sov - ereign done? What makes this rage and spite?
5 I sing my plain be - lief, one song my heart out - pours:

Love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
But Christ as flesh and bone the world re - fused to know.
Ho - san - nas and glad psalms through streets and mar - kets rang.
Christ gave new strength to run, re - stored the gift of sight.
Nev - er was pain nor grief, nev - er was love like yours.

O who am I, that for my sake my God should take frail
But, O my Friend, my Friend in - deed, who at my need did
Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, for blood and death they
Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could

flesh and die? My God should take frail flesh and die?
life ex - pend; who at my need did life ex - pend.
thirst and cry; for blood and death they thirst and cry.
'gainst Christ rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst Christ
glad - ly spend; I all my days could glad - ly spend.

Benediction

Rev Reebee Girash

Marked by a cross,
cherished and forgiven
We are traveling home.

Called to be holy,
called to be whole
We are traveling home.

Across deserts,
over mountains,
We are traveling home.

God in our hearts,
God in our lives,
We are traveling home.

Source Notes: The Benediction is adapted from one by written by Ruth Burgess. Included in *Traveling to Easter with Jesus as our Guide*, posted on the website of Patmos Abbey—The Order of Saint Columba. <http://www.patmosabbey.org/>

Today's preacher is Pilgrim member Susan Moffitt. Susan Moffitt has been part of the Pilgrim community since 2007, and she very much misses being in the Pilgrim sanctuary with her family (children Julia, Madeleine, & Eleanor; husband Michael; parents Jim & Judy). In her spare time, she is a Professor at Brown University; and she is in the process of writing her third book, currently titled *The Struggle to Learn*, which has been a struggle to write. She looks forward to seeing fellow Pilgrims in person again soon.