



Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
November 28, 2021
The First Sunday of Advent

Image: Jesus Praying, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56704> [retrieved November 22, 2021]. Original source:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/talesofaromeet/6867087845> - DL Duncan.

Music streamed in today's service

Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland - JS Bach
My Soul in Stillness Waits - Marty Haugen
Comfort, Comfort, O My People - NCH#101*
Come Thou Long Expected Jesus - arr. Franklin Ritter

Music licensed for streaming/podcast by OneLicense.

**From The New Century Hymnal, Copyright 1995 The Pilgrim Press - Permission is granted for this one time use.*

Today's service will be recorded.

Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
November 28, 2021- The First Sunday of Advent

Prelude Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland - JS Bach Dot Bowe

Greeting and Announcements Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

Passing of the Peace

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

Call to Worship (Psalm 25) Stephanie Shore

To you, O LORD, we lift up our souls

In you we trust

Make us to know your ways, O LORD; teach us your paths

Lead us in your truth, and teach us,

for you are the God of our salvation;

for you we wait all day long.

All of your paths are full of love and faithfulness

for those who keep your covenant.

In Psalm 62, we find these words: “For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him” (Psalm 62:5, NRSV). Our hope comes from God. It is not something we have to produce, manufacture, or do. In this season of uncertainty, we quiet our souls and we wait for God.

We wait for God, for God is our hope.

The prophet Isaiah invites us with these words: “Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters” (Isaiah 55:1, NRSV). We are parched and weary. We are longing to be refreshed and restored. We are thirsty for hope anew.

In a conversation with a thirsty and theologically savvy woman at a well, Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life” (John 4:13-14, NRSV). We wait for this living water from God, for God is our hope.

Today, we are lighting the candle of hope in our Advent wreath. We do this not because we have hope figured out or because we have perfectly pushed our uncertainty away. We light the candle of hope to remind us that when we cannot hope for ourselves, Jesus is our hope.

We wait for God, for God is our hope.

All: This season of Advent, Lord, we offer our uncertain hearts to you. Mend our broken places, and soothe our reluctant hearts. Even when hope is more than we can offer, we cling to you. Hope for us even when we cannot find hope within ourselves. Amen.

Children's Message

Sarah Jane Fuller

Children are invited to Sunday School at this time. Please meet Sarah at the rear of the Sanctuary.

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Stephanie Shore

33:14 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

33:15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

33:16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Luke 21:25-28

21:25 "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

21:26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

21:27 Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory.

21:28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

One: Here end the readings. Hear what the Spirit of God is saying to the church.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Reebee Girash

Prayers of the People

Rev. Reebee Girash

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Reebee Girash

The 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.

Invitation to the Offering

Rev. Reebee Girash

Offertory

My Soul in Stillness Waits - Marty Haugen

Max Evrard and Dot Bowe

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Reebee Girash

**God of hope and wonder,
even surrounded by confusion and trouble
we look for you.
Take these gifts and use
them for acts of justice, peace, mercy, and hope.
Receive also the gifts of our time and our
actions that are just as precious to you as silver and gold. Amen.**

*Hymn Comfort, Comfort O My People NCH#101**

1 “Comfort, comfort O my people, tell of peace,” thus says our God;
Comfort those whose hearts are shrouded, mourning under sorrow’s load.
Speak unto Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.

2 For the herald’s voice is calling in the desert far and near,
Bidding us to make repentance since the realm of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

3 Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble, for Messiah’s holy reign.
For God’s glory evermore shall be known o’er all the world;
And all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

ADVENT

101

Comfort, Comfort O My People

Isa. 40:1-8

Johannes Olearius, 1671
Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

1 “Com - fort, com - fort O my peo - ple, tell of peace,” thus says our God;
2 For the her - ald’s voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er pla - ces plain!

Com - fort those whose hearts are shroud - ed, mourn - ing un - der sor - row’s load.
Bid - ding us to make re - pen - tance since the realm of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, for Mes - si - ah’s ho - ly reign.

Speak un - to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
For God’s glo - ry ev - er - more shall be known o’er all the world;

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver.
Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
And all flesh shall see the to - ken that God’s word is nev - er bro - ken.

Written for John the Baptist’s Day, June 24, this hymn clearly
reflects the Isaiah text. Johannes Olearius, a Lutheran pastor,
held a faculty appointment at Wittenberg University as well as
church administration positions in his region.

Tune: PSALM 42 8.7.8.7.7.8.8.
(FREU DICH SEHR)
Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551

Benediction

Rev. Reebee Girash

Postlude

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus - arr. Franklin Ritter

Dot Bowe

A special thank you to **Stephanie Shore** for being our liturgist today, the **Moffitt-Clark Family** for lighting our Advent Candles, and to **Duncan Todd** for hosting our Zoom service.

Source Notes: The Prayer of Dedication is by Laura Hodges.

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC
55 Coolidge Avenue, Lexington, MA 02420
Phone: 781 862-0357

Office e-mail: admin@pilgrimcongregational.org
Pastor's e-mail: pastor@pilgrimcongregational.org

Pastor's cell (for urgent matters): 781-475-3741

Director of Educational Ministries' e-mail: sarah.fuller@pilgrimcongregational.org

Website: www.pilgrimcongregational.org

Sunday Worship 10:30 am