



Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
March 20, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

*This Lent, our theme is Creation Care,
Climate Justice, and the Renewal of the Earth.*

In the words of Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light:

As people of faith, we begin with love.
We see the earth not simply as an elegant mechanism,
but as a miracle of creation.
We see people not only as producers, workers, and consumers,
but as unique and precious souls.
We see ecological healing and environmental justice
as our sacred responsibility.
What we hold sacred we will protect.

MUSIC STREAMED IN TODAY'S SERVICE

There is a Green Hill Far Away - arr. George Stebbins
We Come With Joy - Delores Dufner
Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant NCH 539**
Liebster Jesu - JS Bach

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Today's service will be recorded.

**All: A planet filled with God's presence,
quivering in the forests,
vibrating in the land,
pulsating in the wilderness,
shimmering in the rivers.**

**One: God, reveal yourself to us in this place
and show us your face in all creation.**

**All: Holy! Holy! Holy!
Earth is filled with your presence.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rich Edmiston

**Creator God, for every way in which we have harmed creation, we confess.
For every way in which we have allowed creation to be harmed, we confess.
For every way in which our neighbors have been hurt by the harm we have
done to creation, we grieve. Forgive us, O God, and move us toward
the renewal of your beautiful and beloved creation. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Rev. Reebee Girash

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rich Edmiston

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 58:1-8 and Luke 9:10-17

Rich Edmiston

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. ³‘Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?’ Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a

bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.

Luke 9:10-17

¹⁰On their return the apostles told Jesus all they had done. He took them with him and withdrew privately to a city called Bethsaida. ¹¹When the crowds found out about it, they followed him; and he welcomed them,

and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed to be cured.

¹²The day was drawing to a close, and the twelve came to him and said, ‘Send the crowd away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside, to lodge and get provisions; for we are here in a deserted place.’ ¹³But he said to them, ‘You give them something to eat.’ They said, ‘We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people.’ ¹⁴For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, ‘Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each.’ ¹⁵They did so and made them all sit down. ¹⁶And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. ¹⁷And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MOMENT FOR CHILDREN

Sarah Jane Fuller

Children and Youth are invited to attend Sunday School at this time.

SERMON

Rev. Reebee Girash

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Reebee Girash

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Reebee Girash

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

We Come With Joy - Delores Dufner

Max Evrard and Dot Bowe

*DOXOLOGY - #515 Pilgrim Hymnal (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

Rev. Reebee Girash

On my own what I have to give doesn't amount to much in the light of all you have given to me and in the face of so much need. Put together as a congregation, what we offer you here in love becomes more, not simply added together, but somehow multiplied in its usefulness. We ask you to bless our gifts and with the addition of your blessing, just as it was with the loaves and fishes, there is enough for all. Amen

*HYMN Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant NCH 539

- 1 Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.
- 2 We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.
- 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
- 4 I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.
- 5 When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.
- 6 Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29

1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser- vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil- grims on a jour-ney, we are trav- elers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad- ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep- ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5 When we sing to God in heav- en we shall find such har- mo- ny,

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser- vant, too.
We are here to help each oth- er go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor- row till we've seen this jour-ney through.
Born of all we've known to- geth- er of Christ's love and ag- o- ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

CLOSING PRAYER

Creator God, this Lent we pray that you would move us to love. Love our neighbors, next door and around the world. Love your creation, from the trees outside our windows, to the ocean thousands of miles away. Love our children, those whose names we know and those who will come seven generations from now. In love, may we protect, restore, and steward this beautiful world. In love, may we serve. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Reebee Girash

POSTLUDE

Liebster Jesu - JS Bach

Dot Bowe

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*Please be in a posture of praise.

A special thank you to **Rich Edmiston** for being our liturgist today, to **Mike Stevens** for being our Zoom host, and **Duncan Todd** for publishing the bulletin.

SOURCE NOTES: The Call to Worship is adapted from *Season of Creation*. The Prayer of Dedication is from the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.



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SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM