



Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
March 6, 2022

FIRST 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

Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee - arr. Eleanor Whitsett
Offertory Eat This Bread - arr. Jeanne Cotter
We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky NCH 563**
Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross - James Southbridge

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Today's service will be recorded.

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PRELUDE Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee - arr. Eleanor Whitsett Dot Bowe

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Reebee Kavich Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

PASSING OF THE PEACE from Psalm 8 (Inclusive Bible)

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God, our Sovereign, how majestic is your Name in all the earth!

All: You have placed your glory above the heavens!

One: When we behold your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you set in place—

All: what is humanity that you should be mindful of us?

Who are we that you should care for us?

One: You have made us barely less than God, and crowned us with glory and honor.

**All: You have made us responsible for the works of your hands,
putting all things at our feet—**

**One: all sheep and oxen, yes, even the beasts of the field, the birds of the air,
the fish of the sea and whatever swims the paths of the seas.**

All: God, our Sovereign, how majestic is your Name in all the earth!

***OPENING 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.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 25: 31–40

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”

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

All: Thanks be to God.

INTERGENERATIONAL LENT ACTIVITY

Rev. Reebee Kavich Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

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

Eat This Bread - arr. Jeanne Cotter

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

**God, we want to follow all your commandments— to love only you,
not worshiping the things of this world; to love our neighbor freely,
not desiring for ourselves something they possess. Accept these offerings,
we pray, and teach us to be generous, giving fully of ourselves
that we may truly be the body of Christ in this world. Amen.**

*HYMN

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

NCH 563

563

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

John 10:10

Ruth Duck, 1984; rev. 1989

1 We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wildflowers
growing, for we are part of all we are part of all that is with-
in life's river flowing. With open hands re-
ceive and share the gifts of God's creation, that
all may have abundant life in every earthly nation.

2 When bodies shiver in the night and, weary, wait for
morning, when children have no bread but tears, and
war horns sound their warning, God calls humanity
to wake, to join in common labor, that
all may have abundant life in oneness with their neighbor.

3 God calls humanity to join as partners in cre-
ating a future free from want or fear, life's
goodness celebrating. That new world beckons
from afar, invites our shared endeavor, that
all may have abundant life and peace endure forever.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line, with some words hyphenated across lines. The score consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line.

1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers
2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for
3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -
grow - ing, for we are part of all that is with -
morn - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and
a - ting a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's
in life's riv - er flow - ing, With o - pen hands re -
war - horns sound their warn - ing, God calls hu - man - i -
good - ness cel - e - brat - ing, That new world beck - ons
ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that
ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that
from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that
all may have a - bun - dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.
all may have a - bun - dant life in one - ness with their neigh - bor.
all may have a - bun - dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of wilderness and water, Artist of souls, you have called us to a perfect mission, yet we have avoided that call. You have called us to come together as one, yet we have erected barriers between ourselves where none need be. You told us that we were made in Your image, yet we often act as though You were made in ours. And even so, You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationship, to a wholeness with each other and with You. Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations. Through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

COMMUNION PRAYER

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Please hold the bread and juice until all have been served. We will receive them together.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal, heavenly, and loving God, You have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ And you have fed us with spiritual good In the Sacrament of his simple table. Send us now into the world in peace, And grant us strength and courage to Live out the extraordinary demands of Christ’s love in lives of kindness, humility, and justice toward all. Amen.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross - James Southbridge

Dot Bowe

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*Please be in a posture of praise.

A special thank you to **Jeff Boehm** for being our Zoom host, and **Duncan Todd** for publishing the bulletin.

SOURCE NOTES: The Communion Liturgy was written by Thomas A. Mitchell, MDiv Student at Harvard Divinity School and Seminarian at United Parish Brookline. The prayer of dedication is from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*.



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SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM