



**Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC  
Service of Worship  
October 9, 2022**

**MUSIC IN TODAY'S SERVICE LICENSED FOR STREAMING/PODCAST by OneLicense**

- \* PRELUDE: Just As I Am — setting by Gordon Young
- \* GATHERING SONG: Halle Halle
- \* OPENING HYMN: We Gather Together
- \* HYMN: What a Friend We Have in Jesus\*
- \* OFFERTORY: Ave Maria — Flor Peeters
- \* CLOSING HYMN: May the Sending One Defend You\*
- \* POSTLUDE: Verses from Te Deum — Anonymous

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

***Today's service will be recorded.***

# Welcome to Pilgrim Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

## A Welcoming, Open and Affirming Congregation

### Mission Statement

*A welcoming home to all  
spiritual seekers  
Making a difference in our world,  
By fusing our Christian faith with  
everyday life and  
Serving God by serving others.*

### Statement of Welcome

*We honor the Biblical call to love one another as God  
first loved us. We welcome into the full life and  
ministry of the church all people of any race,  
nationality, religious background, educational  
background, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation,  
marital status, economic status, and physical, mental,  
and emotional abilities.*

### Children at Pilgrim

Children are an important part of our worshipping community. We try to make them feel at home! All are welcome. Professional childcare for infants and toddlers is available in Pilgrim Hall from 10:15 to the end of the service.

### Visual and Hearing Aids

Hearing devices may be picked up from the table in the narthex.  
**Large Print bulletins** and  
Sermons texts are available.



**Pilgrim Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**  
**Service of Worship - October 9 2022**

PRELUDE

Just As I Am — setting by Gordon Young

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Bob Beckwith

One: Peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

GATHERING SONG

Halle Halle

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Bob Beckwith

One: Let us worship our God whose name is Love.

**All: Let us praise our God whose nature is Mercy.**

One: Blessed are we whose wrongdoings have been forgiven,

**All: Blessed are we in whom Love Divine finds a home,  
and Whose spirit radiates truth.**

One: Let Us praise God together!

# \*OPENING HYMN

# We Gather Together — Red Hymnal 21

21

## We Gather Together

*Netherlands Folk Song*  
Tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934

KREMSER 12.11.12.11.  
*Netherlands Folk Song, 1626*  
Arr. by Edward Kremser, 1838-1914

1 We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing, He chas - tens and  
 2 Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing, Or - dain - ing, main -  
 3 We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant, And pray that thou

has - tens his will to make known; The wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis -  
 tain - ing his king - dom di - vine, So from the be - gin - ning the fight we were  
 still our de - fend - er wilt be. Let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u -

ress - ing. Sing prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.  
 win - ing; Thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glo - ry be thine.  
 la - tion. Thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free! A - men.

1 We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; He chastens and hastens his will to make known; The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing: Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

2 Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, Ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine, So from the beginning the fight we were winning: Thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine.

3 We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, And pray that thou still our defender wilt be. Let your congregation escape tribulation: Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free! Amen



## SCRIPTURE READING

Bob Beckwith

Luke 15:1-3a, 11-32

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he told them this parable:

<sup>11</sup> Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe – the best one – and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost

and is found!" And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup> 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." '

One: Here ends the reading. Hear what the Spirit of God is  
saying to the church.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Children and Youth are invited to Sunday School at this time. Please gather at the rear of the Sanctuary with Sarah Jane Fuller.*

SERMON

Rev. Reebee Girash

\*HYMN

What a Friend We Have in Jesus - Black Hymnal 506


What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Joseph Scriven, 1855; alt.


PRAYER

506


Phil. 4:6-7




1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, bur - dened with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to our God in prayer!  
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to our God in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?  
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to our God in prayer!



All be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.  
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to our God in prayer!  
 Je - sus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

1 What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to our God in prayer! Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to our God in prayer!

3 Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge--take it to our God in prayer! Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to our God in prayer! Jesus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Reebee Girash

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Reebee Girash

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Ave Maria — Flor Peeters

\*DOXOLOGY

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

**O God, from your providing hand we receive what we need for our lives.  
Teach us your ways of justice and lead us to practice your generosity, so that we  
may live a life worthy of the gospel make known through your Son Jesus Christ,  
our Savior. Amen.**



## \*CLOSING HYMN

## May the Sending One Defend You — Black Hymnal 79

### May the Sending One Defend You

79

Brian Wren, 1989; rev. 1993

Unison

The musical score is written for unison voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words hyphenated to fit the meter.

1 May the Send - ing One de - fend you, may the Seek - ing One a - mend you,  
2 May the Giv - en One re - trieve you, may the Gift - ed One re - lieve you,  
3 May the Bind - ing One u - nite you—may the One Be-loved in - vite you—

May the Keep - ing One be - friend you, in your glad - ness and in your griev - ing.  
May the Giv - ing One re - ceive you, in your fall - ing and your re - stor - ing.  
May the Lov - ing One de - light you— Three-in - One, joy in life un - end - ing.

Brian Wren wrote this text during a visit with composer Mikkel Thompson on Bainbridge Island, Washington. When he first heard the tune, Wren said, "It cried out for a text, and suggested the style of ancient Celtic blessings."

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Tune: ROLLINGBAY 8.8.8.9.  
Mikkel Thompson, 1989

1 May the sending One defend you,  
may the Seeking One amend you,  
May the Keeping One befriend you,  
in your gladness and in your grieving.

2 May the Given One retrieve you,  
may the Gifted One relieve you,  
May the Giving One receive you,  
in your falling and your restoring.

3 May the Binding One unite you –  
may the One Beloved invite you –  
May the Loving One delight you –  
Three-in-One, joy in life unending.

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Verses from Te Deum — Anonymous

\*Please be in a posture of praise.

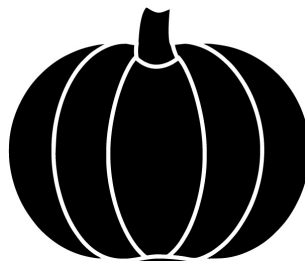
*A special thank you to our Zoom host, Nick Zorn, our Liturgist, Bob Beckwith, and our Social host, Claire Moir!*

SOURCE NOTES

The Prayer of Dedication is from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers.

Photo image: Drawing by Anne Cowan.

The Call to Worship is adapted from Nan Merrill's Psalm 32 from *Psalms for Praying*.



## **THE PUMPKIN PATCH IS HERE!**

**Please sign up to watch the patch - weekend times are particularly important.**

**October 15:** Apple Pie Fest in the Patch - a photo booth, pumpkin painting, cornhole, and your favorite goodies! Bring a friend.

**October 16:** S'Mores in the Patch for Youth. (and cornhole!) Speak to Sarah Jane - new friends welcome!

**October 21:** Meet our new neighbors! At Pre-School pickup time (2:15-3:15) CUI families and Pilgrim members are invited to the Patch. Pumpkin painting for the preschoolers!

## **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**October 16:** Outdoor Church - Youth Feeding Our Neighbors.

Please sign up to bring sandwich supplies for our monthly Youth service project.

**October 23:** CROP WALK! Join Don and Claire Moir and other Pilgrims on the annual Church World Service CROP Hunger Walk on October 23 - arrive at the starting point in Concord by 1:15. A great cause, and great company! Email [themoirs2@gmail.com](mailto:themoirs2@gmail.com) to join the walk or donate.

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC  
55 Coolidge Avenue, Lexington, MA 02420 | 781-862-0357  
Office: Admin@pilgrimcongregational.org  
Pastor: Pastor@pilgrimcongregational.org  
Pastor's cell (for urgent matters): 781-475-3741  
Music Director: Dot.Bowe@pilgrimcongregational.org  
Choir Director: Max.Evrard@pilgrimcongregational.org  
Director of Educational Ministries: Sarah.Fuller@pilgrimcongregational.org

[www.PilgrimCongregational.org](http://www.PilgrimCongregational.org)

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

