

Pilgrim Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ

Service of Worship

November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent



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

- PRELUDE: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People & Lo, He Comes on a Cloud Descending – Robert Lau
- GATHERING SONG: Dona Nobis Pacem
- OPENING HYMN: Comfort, Comfort O My People*
- ANTHEM: My Soul in Stillness Waits – Marty Haugen
- HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
- OFFERTORY: When the King Shall Come Again – Christopher Idle
- CLOSING HYMN: Come O Long Expected Jesus*
- POSTLUDE: Jesus, Lead Thou On – Max Reger

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Today's service will be recorded.



PILGRIM
Congregational Church



**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.

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PRELUDE

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People &
Lo, He Comes on a Cloud Descending – Robert Lau

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Bruce and Fran Nickerson

One: We light this candle as people of hope,

All: Yearning for Christ's peace.

One: The peace which surpasses all understanding.

All: We yearn for peace, not as the world gives, but as Christ gives.

One: In the face of worry, frenzy and pain, we light this candle as people of hope,

All: And we remember Christ's invitation: Peace, be still.

One: Friends, let us have hope that Christ's peace can be ours.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Sarah Jane Fuller

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

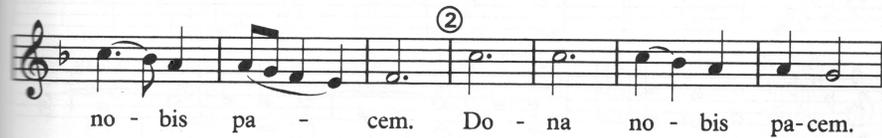
One: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

GATHERING SONG

Dona Nobis Pacem

376

Dona Nobis Pacem



**May be sung as a canon*

WORDS: Trad. Latin
MUSIC: Trad.

DONA NOBIS PACEM
Irr.

Dona nobis pacem, pacem
Dona nobis pacem.
Dona nobis pacem
Dona nobis pacem.
Dona nobis pacem.
Dona nobis pacem.

OPENING PRAYER

Chris Reaske

Compassionate God, greet us with your grace today, for we need you. We cannot save ourselves. Though we may be frantic with activity, our efforts do not yield peace, peace as you can give. Today we would be quiet enough to hear your voice. Today, we would be still enough to feel your touch. Help us to find that place where we can receive as well as give, wait as well as act, and listen as well as speak. Our whole world needs your peace. Come to us now, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Isa. 40:1-8

Comfort, Comfort O My People – Black Hymnal 101

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.

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 work is never broken.

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Chris Reaske

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

My Soul in Stillness Waits – Marty Haugen
Lesley Morrison

SERMON

Rev. Reebee Girash

*HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – Red Hymnal 110

Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, Sts. 1, 2, alt.
Tr. Henry S. Coffin, 1877-1954, Sts. 3, 4

Adapted from Plainsong
Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890

In unison

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by thine
3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, And or - der all things,
4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, Un -
ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, And
far and nigh; To us the path of knowl - edge show, And
heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; Fill

REFRAIN

til the Son of God ap - pear.
death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
cause us in her ways to go. the whole world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el! A - men.

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, thou Day spring, come and cheer,
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

3 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.

4 O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Refrain

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

When the King Shall Come Again – Christopher Idle

*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**

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.**

***CLOSING HYMN**

Come O Long Expected Jesus – Black Hymnal 122
(next page)

***BENEDICTION**

The peace of the earth be with you,
The peace of the heavens too;
The peace of the rivers be with you,
The peace of the oceans too.

Deep peace falling over you;
God's peace growing in you.

Trad. Guatemalan, Arranged by John L. Bell

POSTLUDE

Jesus, Lead Thou On – Max Reger

***Please be in a posture of praise.**

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

122

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

1 Come, O long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set all peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;
3 Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you came to reign!
4 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us as your own;

From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true lib - er - ty.
Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long - ing heart.
Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to us a - gain.
By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your cross and crown.

1 Come, O long-expected Jesus,
born to set all people free;
From our fears and sins release
us;
grant us your true liberty.

2 Israel's strength and
consolation,
hope to all the earth impart;
Dear desire of every nation,
enter every longing heart.

3 Born all people to deliver,
born a child, you came to reign!
Born to rule on earth forever,
come, be known to us again.

4 By your own eternal Spirit,
come to claim us as your own;
By your all sufficient merit,
let us share your cross and crown.

SOURCE NOTES The opening prayer is by Ruth C. Duck. The Prayer of Dedication is by Laura Hodges.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 4 – Advent Sunday Services 10:30am

December 4 – Newcomer's Lunch (after Worship Service)

December 10 – Carols and Cocoa for a Cause 4pm

December 11 – Mitten Tree Sunday 10:30am

December 18 – Pageant and Special Music 10:30am

December 21 – Longest Night 6pm Zoom; 7pm in Person

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service 6pm

December 25 – Christmas Hymn Sing 10:30am

A special thank you to our Zoom host, Duncan Todd, our Liturgist, Chris Reaske, our Advent Candle lighters, Bruce and Fran Nickerson and our social time host, Bob Beckwith.



Pilgrim Church Staff

Rev. Reebee Kavich Girash, Pastor

Dot Bowe, Music Director

Max Evrard, Choir Director

Sarah Jane Fuller, Director of Educational Ministries

Kim Provo, Office Administrator

April Chung, Nursery Care Provider

Romeo Alves, Church Sexton

Pilgrim Church Officers and Committee Contacts

Moderator - Duncan Todd | **Vice Moderator** - Lesley Morrison |

Clerk - Jeff Boehm | **Treasurer** - Dave McClave

Pilgrim Committee Chairs

Communications - Lisa Boehm, chair

Educational Ministries - Lesley Morrison, chair

Finance & Administration - Bob Beckwith, chair

Forever Pilgrim Fund - Bob Beckwith, chair

Investment Committee - Dave McClave, chair

Mission Committee - Doug Johnston, chair

Pastoral Relations Committee - Bob Beckwith, Susan Moffitt, Alexis Stevens

Stewardship - David Nuss, chair

Worship - Ed Bond, chair

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

Sunday Worship 10:30 am