



**Pilgrim Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
Christmas Eve | December 24, 2022**

**MUSIC IN TODAY'S SERVICE  
LICENSED FOR STREAMING/PODCAST  
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- PRELUDE: Aus Meines Herzens Grunde Segen – Sigfrid Karg-Elert
- CAROL: Oh Come, All Ye Faithful
- CAROL: The First Nowell
- CAROL: Angels We Have Heard on High
- CAROL: Joy to the World

*\*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



**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, UCC | December 24, 2022 | Christmas Eve

PRELUDE

Aus Meines Herzens Grunde Segen – Sigfrid Karg-Elert

**\*CAROL**

O Come, All Ye Faithful – Red Hymnal 132

WELCOME AND GREETING

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Julia Johnston and Fiona McClave

One: May the love that breathes life into all humanity and all of creation

**All: Be born in us tonight.**

One: May the love that brings us healing

**All: Be born in us tonight.**

One: May the love that overcomes hatred

**All: Be born in us tonight.**

One: May the love that forgives and renews

**All: Be born in us tonight.**

One: May the love that brings the blessing of peace

**All: Be born in us tonight!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

O Holy Night Soloist: Daon Drisdorn

## LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

One: Tonight, we relight the four candles of Advent. These candles remind us of God's light, which came to live in the world in Jesus, and still shines in our world today.

**All: O God, let your light shine in our hearts tonight and always.**

One: We remember that these candles symbolize the hope we find in faith, God's peace which passes all understanding, the joy of Jesus' birth, and the love God has for each and every one of us.

**All: God, you bless us with these gifts of hope, peace, joy and love.**

One: This evening we light the final candle. It stands in the center of all the others. This is the Christ candle. It reminds us that Jesus is God's greatest gift to us.

**All: Thanks and praise and glory be to God in the highest!**

## \*CAROL

The First Nowell

(verse 1,2 and refrain) Red Hymnal 141

**1 The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

**Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

**2 They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]**

A MOMENT FOR ALL AGES

Sarah Jane Fuller

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY, IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG

Luke 1:28–33

Izzy Leginsky

And the angel came to Mary and said, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by these words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’

Luke 2:2–7

Julia Clark

Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**\*CAROL**

Away in a Manger

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed  
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.  
The stars in the Sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.  
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

Luke 2:8-14

Julia Johnston

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:  
unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all people!'



**\*CAROL**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in your dark streets shines forth the everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.  
For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing and voices ring with peace to all on earth.

**\*CAROL**

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"  
Christ by highest heav'n adored Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come. Offspring of a Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see. Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel  
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"

ANTHEM

O Little Town of Bethlehem arr Stanley Pethel  
with John and Zac Girash

MEDITATION

## A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

### SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise ones from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet. Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the place, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Reebee Girash



## OFFERTORY

We Three Kings  
with Nancy Fuller on violin,  
Daon Drisdorn and the Three Magi

## \*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

**No offering is adequate to express our thanks, loving God, but what we give, we bring with joy. May the good tidings live in these gifts and in our lives. May the ends of the earth know the steadfast love of God. Grant comfort to those who mourn, peace to those who face the world's turmoil, and joy to all who serve in Christ's name. Amen**

## SCRIPTURE READING

John 1

## \*THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT

**\*CAROL**

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child. Holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in  
heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar. Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face with dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth. Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child. Holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in  
heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

(Please extinguish your candle at the end of the hymn.)

**\*BENEDICTION**

**We are all meant to be mothers of God.  
For God is always needing to be born. —Meister Eckhart**

**\*CAROL**

Joy to the World – Red Hymnal 130

**1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**

**Let earth receive her King;**

**let every heart prepare him room**

**and heaven and nature sing,**

**and heaven and nature sing,**

**and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!**

**Let men their songs employ,**

**while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,**

**repeat the sounding joy,**

**repeat the sounding joy,**

**repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3 He rules the world with truth and grace**

**and makes the nations prove**

**the glories of his righteousness**

**and wonders of his love,**

**and wonders of his love,**

**and wonders, wonders of his love.**

**The Work of Christmas**  
*By the Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman*

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
    To find the lost,  
    To heal the broken,  
    To feed the hungry,  
    To release the prisoner,  
    To rebuild the nations,  
    To bring peace among people,  
    To make music in the heart.

## CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

Our Christmas Eve offering this year will be split between two wonderful organizations, Shriners Hospital for Children and Cambodian Cocoon.

Shriners Hospital for Children - Boston specializes in world-class pediatric burn care, reconstructive plastic surgery, and cleft lip and palate care. They provide services to all children, regardless of a family's ability to pay or insurance status.

Our Cambodian Cocoon friends have fully resumed their wonderful work in Cambodia feeding the poor and providing clean water wells. Mareoun Heng (who spoke at Pilgrim last December) continued serving needy families during the trying CoVid years, and founder Janis Lindblom returned to Cambodia last month to help meet pent-up demand.

## POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

★ Michael Scott Morton

Celebration of Mary and her love for the Pilgrim family

★ Fran and Bruce Nickerson

In honor of Cathy Roka;  
In memory of Peg and Lou Hamburger

★ Marge Saradjian

In memory of Nerses and Zarouhi Saradjian and Dr. and Mrs. JF Ludloff

★ Mary and Peter Mackie

In memory of Paul Mackie

★ Mary K and Chris Reaske

In gratitude for our children and grandchildren

★ Elizabeth Garbarino

In memory of David Garbarino

★ Kimberly Provo

In loving memory of my parents, Gail and James Romano

★ Jennifer Snipe

In memory of Joseph Berthiaume and in Honor of Lily's birthday

★ Reebee and John Girash

★ Bob Beckwith

In memory of Carolyn Beckwith

★ The Moffitt-Clarks

★ Duncan Todd and Sarah Carothers

In memory of Thomas, Virginia, and Dana Todd nd  
In memory of Charlie and Bootsie Carothers

★ The Morrison Family

In memory of Jill Morrison and Mary Scott-Morton

\*If you requested to take a poinsettia home with you tonight,  
wrapping paper and boxes are available in the mailroom.



A special thank you to our Greeters, Bob Beckwith and Sarah Jane Fuller; our Readers, Julia Johnston, Fiona McClave, Julia Clark, and Izzy Leginsky; our Candle Lighters, David McClave, Stephanie Shore and Fiona McClave; and our Zoom Host, Mike Stevens.

We are grateful to our musicians, Daon Drisdorn, Ana Morel, Nancy Fuller, Zac Girash and John Girash.



## SOURCE NOTES

Cover photo: Vogeler, Heinrich, 1872-1942. Annunciation to the Shepherds, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56750> [retrieved December 20, 2022]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Heinrich\\_Vogeler\\_Verk%C3%BCndigung\\_an\\_die\\_Hirten\\_1902.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Heinrich_Vogeler_Verk%C3%BCndigung_an_die_Hirten_1902.jpg).

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