



Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
February 26, 2023
First Sunday of Lent

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

- ❖ PRELUDE: Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross – James Southbridge
- ❖ OPENING HYMN: O Love, How Deep How Broad, How High
- ❖ ANTHEM: We Shall Walk Through the Valley – Undine Smith Moore
- ❖ RESPONSE HYMN: Forty Days and Forty Nights*
- ❖ OFFERTORY: The Cross of Jesus – Francis Patrick O'Brien
- ❖ CLOSING HYMN: O God Who Teaches*
- ❖ POSTLUDE: Christ lag in Todesbanden – U. Buttstedt

**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, UCC | February 26, 2023

PRELUDE

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross – James Southbridge

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: May you be at peace in mind, peace in body, and peace with your neighbors, family and friends. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Beloved children of God, come to worship our creator and friend!

All: Here we are, from the soles of our feet to the souls within us. We are here to worship.

One: Come, siblings in Christ, and attend this gathering with your body, mind, and spirit. Be fully present with us today.

All: From head to toe, inside and out, from our prayers to our thoughts to our dreams, we are present to worship.

One: And if our minds wander, our bodies fidget, or our spirits grow drowsy, what shall we do?

All: We shall worship in wandering, fidgeting, and drowsiness, for we can find God in our very breath. Come now, let us worship!

*OPENING HYMN

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High - Red Hymnal 150

Latin: 15th century
Tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819-1885, alt.

First Tune

DEUS TUORUM MILITUM L.M.
Grenoble Church Melody

In unison

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, How pass - ing
2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore His ho - ly
3 For us he prayed, for us he taught, For us his
4 For us to wick - ed men be - trayed, Scourged, mocked, in

thought and fan - ta - sy, That God, the Son of God, should
fast, and hun - gered sore; For us temp - ta - tions sharp he
dai - ly works he wrought, By words and signs and ac - tions,
pur - ple robe ar - rayed, He bore the shame - ful cross and

take Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.
knew; For us the temp - ter o - ver - threw.
thus Still seek - ing not him - self, but us.
death; For us gave up his dy - ing breath. A - men.

5 For us he rose from death again,
For us he went on high to reign;
For us he sent his Spirit here
To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

6 All glory to our Lord and God
For love so deep, so high, so broad;
The Trinity whom we adore
For ever and for evermore.

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
How passing thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take
Our mortal form for mortals' sake!

2 For us baptized, for us he bore
His holy fast, and hungered sore;
For us temptation sharp he knew;
For us the tempter overthrew.

3 For us he prayed, for us he taught,
For us his daily works he wrought,
By words and signs and actions, thus
Still seeking not himself, but us.

4 For us to wicked men betrayed,
Scourged, mocked in purple robe arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death;
For us gave up his dying breath.

OPENING PRAYER

God of transcendence and incarnation, you sent Jesus to experience life in spirit and life in a human body; to become God-in-flesh so we could relate to one another in suffering, compassion, life, and death.

Therefore, we find you in both our seen and unseen realities.

We find you in our regular human activities of sleeping, eating, and drinking, and also in the deeply spiritual experience of living a conscious life on earth.

Today we gather so we might worship and encounter you both in flesh and spirit.

You care about us, from our cells and tissue to our mystical moments of connection and community.

Meet us here, in body and spirit. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:41-52

⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him. ⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover.

⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.

⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to

him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' ⁴⁹He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

We Shall Walk Through the Valley – Undine Smith Moore

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

SERMON

Rev. Reebee Girash

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Like child Jesus, the children of the world have needs, yet today they are in crisis. Let us confess our sins and the sins of our times, so we might partner with God to bring heaven to earth.

One: Holy and righteous God, you have heard the cries of the children growing up without food, water, shelter, and care. We confess we have been complicit in systems that exploit children and perpetuate these grave sins.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: We have bought items manufactured by children.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: We have turned our attention from the physical and mental health care needs of children and youth.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: We have participated in systems that provide excellent education to some children and very little to others.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: We have mocked, belittled, posted, shared, and chastised the behavior of children and youth instead of cherishing their individual development and milestones.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: We have excluded children, segregating them from the community and privileging the voices and presence of adults.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: You sent Jesus to us as a child, and you continue to call us to attend to the needs of children. In our exclusion of children, we have missed out on Jesus. Forgive us, God, and call us back to a place where we will always “let the children come.” Amen.

*RESPONSE HYMN

Forty Days and Forty Nights Days – Black Hymnal 205

George Hunt Smyttan, 1856; alt.

Matt. 4:1-11; Heb. 2:18

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Tenor parts. The lyrics are arranged in two systems, with five lines of text per system. The first system of lyrics is: 1 For - ty days and for - ty nights - you were fast - ing in the wild; 2 Shall we not your sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain, 3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, flesh or spir - it to as - sail, 4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be; 5 Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, ev - er con - stant by your side; The second system of lyrics is: For - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed. Fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with you to suf - fer pain? Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant that we not faint or fail! 'Round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as served you faith - ful - ly. That with you we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

The son of a doctor in Bombay, George Hunt Smyttan became a priest in the Church of England. He published several collections of verse. This hymn was one of three Lenten hymns that appeared in The Penny Post (1856).

Tune: HEINLEIN 7.7.7.7.
Attrib. to Martin Herbst, 1676

1 Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.

2 Shall not we your sorrow share and from worldly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with you to suffer pain?

3 Then if Satan on us press, flesh or spirit to assail,
Victor in the wilderness, grant we not faint nor fail!

4 So shall we have peace divine: holier gladness ours shall be;
'Round us, too, shall angels shine, such as served You faithfully.

5 Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by your side;
That with you we may appear At the eternal Eastertide.

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 OFFERING

Rev. Reebee Girash

OFFERTORY

The Cross of Jesus – Francis Patrick O'Brien

*DOXOLOGY

Red Hymnal 515

**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**

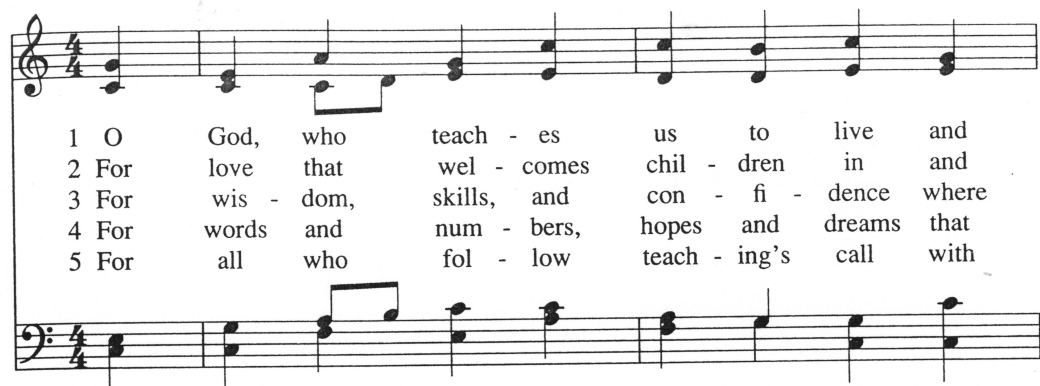
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Great and righteous God, we bring these gifts together as a tangible representation of our commitment to your work here on earth. We know you are interested in the flourishing of life and creation, and we are a part of this creation project when we work together. So take these gifts and offerings and multiply them so love and justice might expand among us and in our community. Thank you for the abundance you already share with us each day because you are a faithful God. Amen.

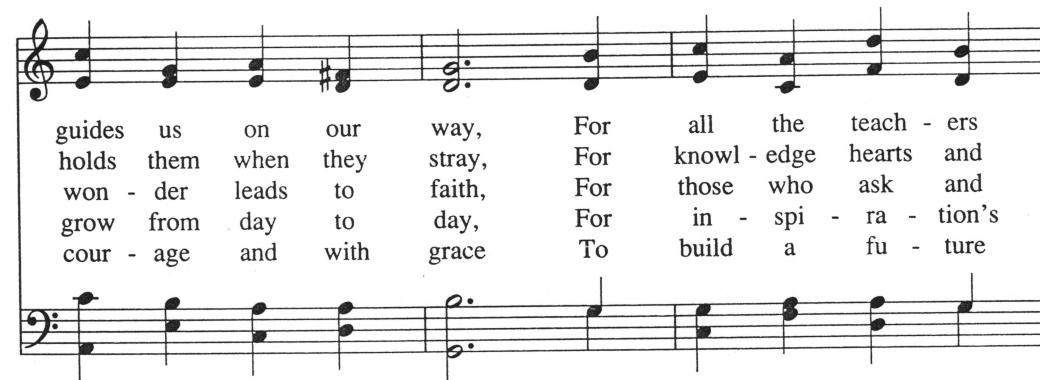
*CLOSING HYMN

O God, Who Teaches Us to Live – Black Hymnal 359

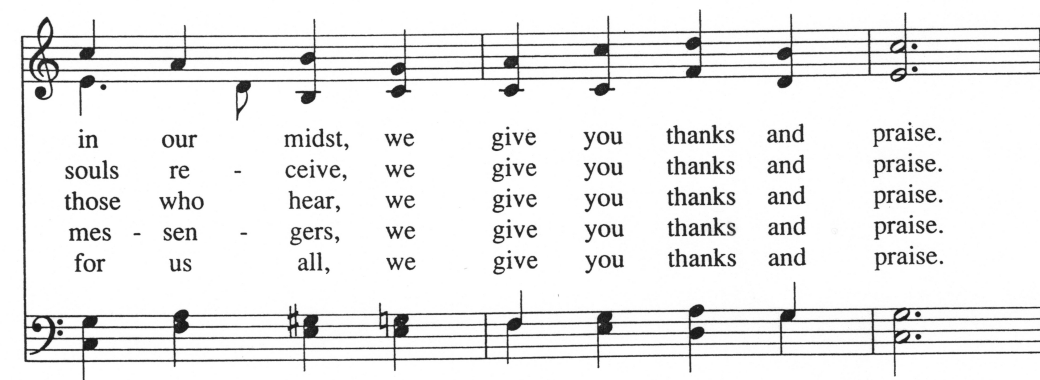
Tom Hunter, 1992



1 O God, who teach - es us to live and
 2 For love that wel - comes chil - dren in and
 3 For wis - dom, skills, and con - fi - dence where
 4 For words and num - bers, hopes and dreams that
 5 For all who fol - low teach - ing's call with



guides us on our way, For all the teach - ers
 holds them when they stray, For knowl - edge hearts and
 won - der leads to faith, For those who ask and
 grow from day to day, For in - spi - ra - tion's
 cour - age and with grace To build a fu - ture



in our midst, we give you thanks and praise.
 souls re - ceive, we give you thanks and praise.
 those who hear, we give you thanks and praise.
 mes - sen - gers, we give you thanks and praise.
 for us all, we give you thanks and praise.

United Church of Christ minister Tom Hunter describes himself as a "minstrel" for schools and churches across the United States. This hymn was written "to celebrate and thank teachers in both Sunday and weekday schools because their work shapes the future for us all."

Tune: ST. ANNE C.M.
 William Croft, 1708

1 O god, who teaches us to live
 and guides us on our way,

For all the teachers in our midst,
 we give you thanks and praise.

2 For love that welcomes children in and
 holds them when they stray,

For knowledge hearts and souls receive,
 we give you thanks and praise.

3 For wisdom, skills, and confidence
 where wonder leads to faith,

For those who ask and those who hear,
 we give you thanks and praise.

4 For words and numbers, hopes and dreams
 that grow from day to day,

For inspiration's messengers,
 we give you thanks and praise.

5 For all who follow teaching's call
 with courage and with grace

To build a future for us all,
 we give you thanks and praise.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SOURCE NOTES

Our Theme for Lent 2023 is based on *An Illustrated Lent for Families: This is My Body* which explores how Jesus lived in his body on earth and invites us to take care of— and embrace the goodness of— our own bodies. The liturgy and devotional materials from *Illustrated Ministry* are used with license permission through purchase from *Illustrated Ministry*.

A special Thank You to our Zoom host, Nick Zorn.

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC
55 Coolidge Avenue, Lexington, MA 02420 | 781-862-0357
www.PilgrimCongregational.org

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

