



**Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Sunday Worship – March 26, 2023**

**MUSIC IN TODAY'S SERVICE LICENSED
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- ❖ PRELUDE: Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee – Eleanor Whitsett
- ❖ OPENING HYMN: Morning Has Broken
- ❖ ANTHEM: I Have Felt the Hand of God – Craig Courtney
- ❖ RESPONSE HYMN: We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky*
- ❖ OFFERTORY: With the Lord There is Mercy – Marty Haugen
- ❖ CLOSING HYMN: Praise to the Living God*
- ❖ POSTLUDE: Prelude and Fugue in D minor – JS Bach

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Today's service will be recorded.

**Welcome to Pilgrim Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
A Welcoming, Open and Affirming Congregation**

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.

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.*

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
March 26, 2023

PRELUDE

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee – Eleanor Whitsett

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Deven Amaravadi

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

Deven Amaravadi

(From Psalm 19)

One: The heavens tell the glory of God.

All: And the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

One: Day to day pours forth speech.

All: And night to night declares knowledge.

One: There is no speech, nor are their words - their voice is not heard.

All: Yet their voice goes out through all the earth,

One: And their words to the end of the world.

All: Heaven and earth tell the glory of God!

*OPENING HYMN

Morning Has Broken

38

Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-

BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4.D.

Gaelic Melody

Harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948

In unison

1 Morn-ing has bro - ken Like the first morn - ing, Black-bird has
2 Sweet the rain's new fall Sun - lit from heav - en, Like the first
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing Born of the

spo - ken Like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing!
dew - fall On the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion,

Praise for the morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing Fresh from the Word!
Of the wet gar - den, Sprung in com - plete - ness Where his feet pass.
Praise ev - ery morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion Of the new day!

MORNING

Morning Has Broken – Red Hymnal 38

1 Morning has broken Like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken Like the first bird.

Praise for the singing!

Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing

Fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall Sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall On the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness

Of the wet garden,

Sprung in completeness

Where his feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play!

Praise with elation,

Praise every morning,

God's recreation

Of the new day!

OPENING PRAYER

(Adapted from Psalm 8)

Creator God, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens, and on this earth. When we look upon the work of your hands, the moon and stars, the mountains and seas, what are humans that you are mindful of us, that you care for us? You have given care of the earth to us: are we worthy? Teach us to care for the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea – and most especially, teach us to care for our siblings, every one of your children. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Deven Amaravadi

Acts 7:30-34

³⁰“Now when forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in the flame of a burning bush. ³¹When Moses saw it, he was amazed at the sight, and as he approached to look, there came the voice of the Lord: ³²‘I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.’ Moses began to tremble and did not dare to look. ³³Then the Lord said to him, ‘Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. ³⁴I have surely seen the mistreatment of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their groaning, and I have come down to rescue them. Come now, I will send you to Egypt.’

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

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

I Have Felt the Hand of God – Craig Courtney

*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

Rev. Reebee Girash

Creator God, for every way in which we have harmed creation, the body of the earth, we confess. For every way in which we have allowed creation to be harmed, we confess. For every way in which our neighbors have been hurt by the harm we have done to creation, we grieve. Forgive us, O God, and move us to care for the body of the earth - your beautiful and beloved creation. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Rev. Reebee Girash

*RESPONSE HYMN

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky – Black Hymnal 563
(next page)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Reebee Girash

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Reebee Girash

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rev. Reebee Girash

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

John 10:10

Ruth Duck, 1984; rev. 1989

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.

1 We cannot own the sunlit sky,
 the moon, the wildflowers growing,
 for we are part of all that is within life's river flowing.
 With open hands receive 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 creating
 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.

OFFERTORY

Psalm 130: With the Lord There is Mercy – Marty Haugen

*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

Rev. Reebee Girash

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth.

*CLOSING HYMN

Praise to the Living God – Black Hymnal 8
(next page)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in D minor – JS Bach

A special Thank You to our Zoom hosts, Madeleine Clark and Sydney Stevens and our Liturgist, Deven Amaravadi.

1 Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, Whose
 2 Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, Whose
 3 Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, Who
 4 Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, Be -

word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.

Whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, Per -
 Who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, Till
 God toils wher - e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; And
 In these tu - mul - tuous days, so full of hope and strife, May

vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.
 hu - man-kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

Curtis Beach, born into a family of several generations of ministers, was educated at Harvard University, the Boston University School of Theology, and the University of Southern California. A minister in the United Church of Christ, Beach authored *The Gospel of Mark: Its Making and Meaning*.

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.
 George J. Elvey, 1868

1 Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

2 Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused them to evolve, unwitting, toward God's goal,
Till human-kind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls.

3 Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.
God toils wher-e're we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.

4 Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but who we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

SOURCE NOTES

The Prayer of Dedication is from Season of Creation.

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC
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Pastor's cell (for urgent matters): 781-475-3741

Music Director: Dot.Bowe@pilgrimcongregational.org

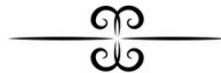
Choir Director: Max.Evrard@pilgrimcongregational.org

Director of Educational Ministries:

Sarah.Fuller@pilgrimcongregational.org

www.PilgrimCongregational.org

Sunday Worship 10:30 am



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

Care - Marge Saradjian, chair

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 - Stephanie Shore, chair